



# *the* **REACT** *GI*

**July-August, 2001**



## ***REACT* Teams Train To Serve Their Communities**

**Page 8**

## ***'Pete' Kreer, REACT Founder, Dies***

**Page 15**

*Listening is only half the fun...*

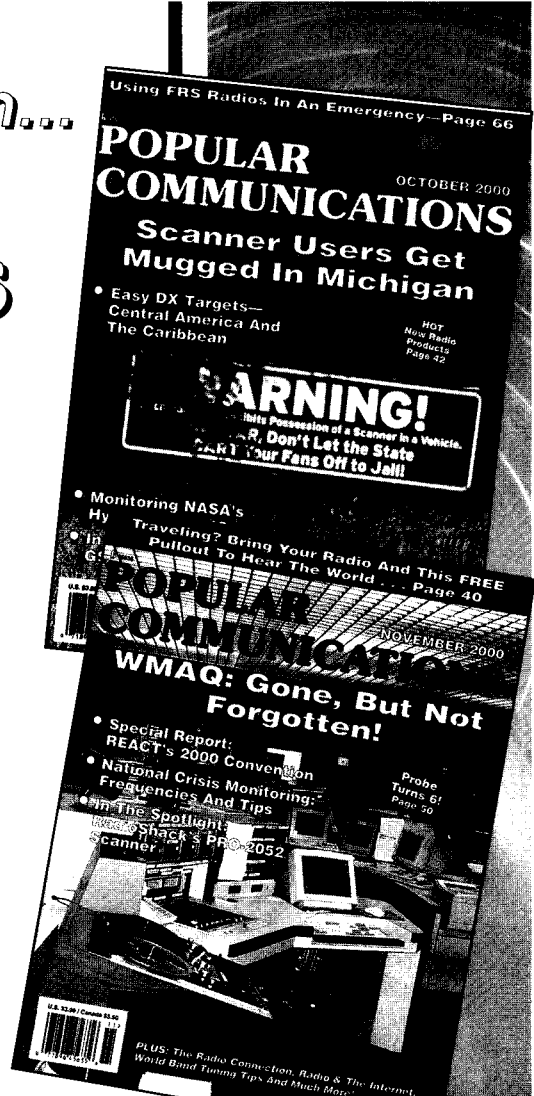
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# The REACTer

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**On the Cover:** Bill Durbin, Tri-County (Mo.) REACT, directs traffic for Creve Coeur Days

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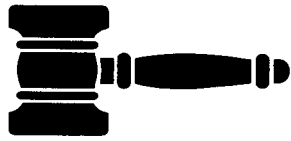
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## From the President by Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson

# Paying for Insurance: A Change is Coming!

Aside from membership itself, the most important benefit of belonging to *REACT* is the protection afforded each Team and individual Team member by the *REACT* general liability insurance program. Beginning with the next Team registrations, for 2002, the cost of the general liability insurance will be apportioned differently from previous years.

In the past, each Team, regardless of size, was assessed a forty dollar insurance fee. This meant that a four-member Team would pay ten dollars per member, while a forty-member Team would pay only one dollar per member. The new procedure will be much more equitable – it will be based on four dollars per individual member (all categories).

This plan was presented to the Convention in Kissimmee, Florida, in July 2000, and was approved by a majority of the delegates. The Board took final action at the Winter 2001 meeting in Suitland.

The cost of the insurance to *REACT* International is based on the number of individual members registered each year. In 2001, that amounted to approximately six

dollars per member. *REACT* International paid for about one-third of the premium, and the Teams paid (at forty dollars per Team) about two-thirds of the premium. That ratio won't change very much – in 2002, *REACT* International still will pay about one-third of the premium.

Your Board of Directors believes that this procedure is much fairer than the old fixed-fee assessment.

Incidentally, my Team (Dallas County *REACT*) is one of *REACT*'s largest Teams. With approximately 60 members, we will pay about \$240 for our insurance. When the Team was presented with this proposal last fall, it was the unanimous view of the members that it was reasonable and fair. You also might be interested in knowing that Amateur radio clubs affiliated with the ARRL can get a similar policy through the League – for more than \$300 per club.

Speaking of the ARRL: As you know, the Memorandum of Understanding between the ARRL and *REACT* International was approved by both Boards in July 2000 and signed in May 2001. I've seen just a few comments on the Internet from hams complaining about

the MOU. Most of those complaints commented on what they perceived to be a lack of professionalism in *REACT*. But I also saw a number of messages (also from hams) that told a different story. The point here is that *REACT* Teams must make a conscious effort at all times to conduct themselves and their operations in a competent, professional manner. Our reputation depends on it.

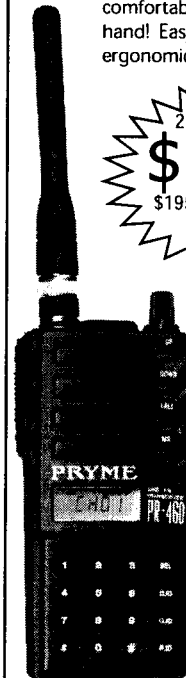
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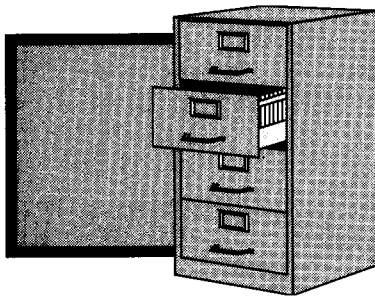


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## *From the Executive Director*

*by John Gavin, MSW*

# Growth, Change Aren't New

A Frenchman, Alexis de Toqueville, came to America in 1831 to study our criminal justice and prison system. The result of his study was a huge volume called *Democracy in America* that assessed the promises and pitfalls of democracy. He wrote in very positive and glowing tones about American life, causing some to doubt the accuracy of his observations. Nevertheless he touched on a quality of compassion worth noting: *"It may be readily supposed that they (Americans) will lend assistance to one another whenever it is needed. When an American asks for the cooperation of his fellow citizen it is seldom refused, and I have often seen it afforded spontaneously with great good will. If an accident happens on the highway, everybody hastens to help the sufferer; if some great calamity befalls a family, the purses of a thousand strangers are at once willingly opened, and small, but numerous donations pour in to relieve their distress..."*

We all know that the qualities he observed can be found in every country. I am certain, however, that *REACT* members display the same compassion, citizenship, and responsibility that twenty-six-year-old de Toqueville observed more than 150 years ago. These forces do

not go out of style, and when applied within the current context and using the best that technology can offer, our efforts are both meaningful and worthwhile.

De Toqueville's visit long ago stemmed from a need or desire for growth. The *REACT* leadership and the members I have interacted with have expressed the desire to grow -- in numbers and in capacity to better serve. That's important because successful organizations are growing. Growing organizations are learning. Learning organizations are changing, but not for change's sake. They are changing because the context and tools are changing -- rapidly changing. It's a growth process.

Consider the way that radio transmissions through a repeater are trunked to allow users to share frequencies with the help of a computer. This accommodates many more users at a given time, yet makes coordination with another organization at an event slightly more difficult. So we adapt. We loan the other group one of our radios and borrow one of theirs so that our systems are linked. This is just one example of how an advancement in technology requires a change (minor in this case perhaps) in the way we do things.

Working together *REACT* will grow as we embrace and effect thoughtful change. I am committed to the growth process.

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# Publicizing REACT

by Ron McCracken

## Tools to Use

Check out the Supply List from HQ. If you don't have one, request one. There are a number of excellent tools listed there. Try the note cards. They are multi-purpose, and the newest addition to the Supply List. They are blank, so they can serve as thank-you's, get-wells, etc. The REACT logo appears on the front and gives the card a very distinguished, professional look.

How is your stock of "Getting Help by CB Radio"? It can help save lives. Remember, the safety information it contains applies to all radio services, not just CB. Keep a good supply on hand always.

## Respect Earned

The Florida REACT Council has recently been added to the state web site for Emergency Preparedness. REACT Teams in Florida proved their worth in the wildfire disaster two years ago and now their effectiveness has earned them this recognition. Well done.

Oklahoma County (Okla.) REACT has earned similar distinction in its state. Its service during the 1995 bombing and in severe weather situations has not gone unnoticed.

Congratulations to both Teams for being a resource that their communities depend on!

## Mega Safety Breaks

REACT Teams in North Carolina and in Oklahoma both reported just under 3000 visitors each at their Memorial Day weekend Safety Breaks. It is one more important way Teams contribute to highway safety. (See the "Safety Break Round-up" on pages 10-11.)

In North Carolina, several Teams pitched in together to accomplish the job. 'Mutual aid' is not only for times of disaster.

## Terms Matter

"Safety Break" is the term Teams should use when seeking approval from authorities. Words matter. DOT and police perk up their ears when they hear that key word, "safety." Use it as often as you can. It will get you a lot more attention from authorities, sponsors, donors, etc.

## 40th Anniversary

2002 is our 40th! Start planning now how your Team and Council will celebrate. Share your ideas with all of us. Send them to <pr@reactintl.org> and we will pass them along here and on the REACT-L list. Watch this column for information from HQ to help your Team celebrate, too.

## Keep Informed

Much happens between issues of *The REACTer* that your Team needs to know. Be sure at

least one member subscribes to REACT-L, the REACT group e-mail service.

It's easy! Send an e-mail to <react-l@gibbousmoon.com> and type the word "subscribe" on the subject line.

## 'Fess Up

We know many Teams are doing great things out there. Please drop us a note to let us know. You can use the <pr@reactintl.org> address or snail mail to: PR Committee, at the HQ street address in Suitland, MD. We want to recognize your good work for your community, but we need your help to do it. Thanks.

## Photos

Take photos at every event your Team assists with. Take lots. Have people talking or doing something, not lined up like jailbirds. You want action photos that tell a story.

Start a 40th Anniversary photo album. Order two sets of prints and send some of the best ones to *The REACTer* to brighten up our pages.

## Monitoring Matters

Please monitor CB-9 as much as possible. Many thousands of people continue to rely on CB for safety and REACT for response in emergencies. Be there for them. Thanks!



# **REACT** Team Helps the

# **GREAT RACERS**



**Article and Photos by Jack Murrell**

*Cable television's History Channel sponsors the annual Great Race, a cross-country parade of antique vehicles that begins in Georgia and ends in California. Vanderburgh Co. (Ind.) REACT volunteered to provide traffic control and communications when the Racers came through Evansville, a lunch stop on the course.*

We all arrived at the Mall

Vanderburgh Co. REACT, to help with traffic control, and George's Team members were assigned to several locations.

From a REACT perspective, it wasn't a difficult event. Vanderburgh Co. only had three people available for traffic control but that was enough.

As the racers began to arrive, things got very busy. Lunch was served under tents on a mall parking lot; REACT members were responsible for directing traffic from the highway to the mall, then back to the highway afterward.

After the drivers and their crews finished lunch, they were sent on their way to Illinois, their overnight stop.

If more extensive communications support had been needed, Vanderburgh Co. REACT would have been hard pressed to provide it. The main problem is that the event took place on a weekday, when most REACT members have to work. Other than that, it's a simple, routine traffic control operation like many others that REACT Teams carry out in their communities. And it's a lot of fun!



**LEFT: Vanderburgh's Larry Schonabaum directs traffic.**

**BELOW: Lunch is served to some hungry racers!**



around 9 a.m. The History Channel people were already there and busily getting things out of trailers and setting up for the day. I wandered around looking for possible pictures.

The Great Race people asked George Lynn, president of July-August, 2001

# Radio Hero Award Honors Indiana Deputy

by Bob Leef



On June 1, 2001, the first-ever "Radio Hero Award" was given to Sgt. Bill Ward of the Henry County, Indiana, Sheriff's Department in recognition of his use of Citizens Band radio in the capture of two suspected murderers.

On January 27, husband and wife professors at Dartmouth College were found murdered in their New Hampshire home. Two Vermont high school students were suspected of the crime and, several weeks later, were believed to be traveling west. Slightly before 4 a.m. on February 19, a truck driver at a Spiceland, Ind., truck stop used his CB radio to broadcast that he had just dropped off two teenage hitchhikers. He asked if any other drivers were willing to take them further west.

Sgt. Ward, who had been concerned that the suspects might be traveling through Indiana, was monitoring the airwaves using his Cobra CB. When he heard the trucker's broadcast, his suspicions were immediately aroused. Without identifying himself, he radioed back that the teens should wait at the truck stop's fuel desk and that someone would pick them up in a few minutes. He and two fellow officers then confronted the teens and, after receiving questionable responses to several of their inquiries, arrested them. The teens remain in custody in New Hampshire.

This incident, which received nationwide attention, also got the attention of Cobra Electronics, Popular Communications magazine, and *REACT* International, Inc. These three organizations had been discussing plans to establish a continuing program to recognize individuals who use two-way radios (CB, FRS, and GMRS) to save a life, prevent major injury or property damage, or give direct assistance in the apprehension of wanted criminals. It was decided that Sgt. Ward would be the ideal first recipient of this award.

The program is open to U.S. and Canadian citizens 18 years and older. There is also a junior category for ages 5 through 17. The latter category was established in response to numerous cases of help rendered by young people using FRS radios.

According to Jim Bazet, President and CEO of Cobra Electronics, "We pride ourselves on the ability of our products to enhance the quality of life of our loyal customers, and we take particular pride in the fact that Sgt. Ward used one of our radios in this most heroic act."

Harold Ort, Editor of Popular Communications, comments, "Public safety professionals and ordinary citizens across North America use radio to save lives every day. We intend to give others like Sgt. Ward the national recognition and thanks they deserve. His professionalism and quick thinking put an end to further violence."

Chuck Thompson, President of *REACT* International, Inc., adds, "This is an idea that is overdue, and *REACT* is very happy for the acceptance and generous support of our concept by the co-sponsors."

Sgt. Ward was presented a plaque from *REACT* International; a new CB radio, microphone, and antenna from Cobra; and a free subscription from Popular Communications. Cobra also presented CB radios to the two officers who assisted Sgt. Ward in the arrest. *(Continued on Page 16)*



### All Points Bulletin

Keep your eyes and ears peeled! You are looking for a worthy candidate in your Team's area to receive the next *REACT* Radio Hero Award this fall.

Qualifications are that the person has used CB, FRS, or GMRS radio to help in saving a life, preventing serious injury, aiding in the apprehension of a criminal, or preventing major property damage.

There are two age divisions: adult and youth (17 or under). Any U.S. or Canadian resident is eligible, but this award is intended to recognize members of the public, not *REACT* members (who are eligible for other awards).

We hope to make the next award November 1, so time is critical. Simply send a letter to describe what happened, with news clippings or a letter from local officials documenting the incident. Be sure to include your own name, Team name, address, and phone number so we can contact you for more information. Mail or e-mail the information to Radio Hero Award at RI headquarters.

## E-Comm: A Few Changes

In the May-June issue of *The REACTer*, we announced the availability of the E-Comm Emergency Communications Training program, and said that it could be downloaded free from the RI Web site, < [www.reactintl.org](http://www.reactintl.org) > . Some people may have had problems in finding the program there.

The reason is that when the program was uploaded to the Web site, an early, unedited version was inadvertently used. When the error was discovered, the material was removed from the Web site. But before the final, edited version could be uploaded, other problems were found.

The E-Comm program was developed jointly by *REACT* and the ARRL, but each organization developed its own version to meet its members' specific needs and interests. Each organization also adopted its own procedure for the distribution of the program and the testing and certification of members who complete the training. Representatives of both organizations understood that they were expected to serve primarily their own members.

However, when the *REACTE*-Comm program was established, no procedure was adopted to ensure that only *REACT* mem-

bers could access the training material. Instead, the material was offered freely to members and nonmembers alike.

Unfortunately, that created a problem. We are relying on our local *REACT* Teams and Councils to support the training program by organizing study groups, monitoring tests, and validating certification. We can't provide those services in areas where we don't have Teams.

Consequently, only *REACT* members will be able to download the program from the RI Web site, or obtain the course materials on computer disks or paper, and only *REACT* members will be able to obtain the test materials and certification.

The entire course is still available on the Web site and there is no charge to *REACT* members for downloading it. Test materials must be ordered from Tom Currie, E-Comm Coordinator, at 7001 Ethan Allen Way, Valley Station, KY 40272; ordering information is also on the Web site, < [www.reactintl.org/trng-ecomm-download.htm](http://www.reactintl.org/trng-ecomm-download.htm) > .

Nonmembers who have already begun the program are being allowed to complete the course, including the optional tests if they wish.

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## Juniors Reach Milestone

Two Junior *REACT* members in Texas graduated from high school this summer – and both have now “graduated” to regular membership in *REACT*. David Besing, son of RI Secretary Lee Besing, is a member of Bexar Co. (Tex.) *REACT*. Racey Pape is a member of Comal Co. (Tex.) *REACT*.



Above: David Besing;  
Right: Racey Pape.

## **REACT Teams Train To Serve Their Communities**

# **Lost & Found: Search & Rescue Exercise Shows Value of Training**

Article and Photos by Lee W. Besing

Canyon Lake, TX - Sunday, June 10, 2001 was the date of Comal County *REACT*'s second annual full scale missing person search exercise. The event was sponsored by Comal County *REACT* and the Heidi Search Center (HSC) of San Antonio. Members of five Texas *REACT* Teams participated.

The exercise took place at Canham Ranch, a new subdivision being developed west of Garden Ridge, a suburb of San Antonio. The scenario for this year's search involved three missing children, two girls aged 2 1/2 and 4, and a boy age 7. The children were played by the actual daughters of Comal Co. member Cheryl Wittler and the son of Bexar Co. members Pat Knight and Lee Besing.

The scenario given to searchers was that an elderly Alzheimer's patient had driven off in a car, unaware that his three grandchildren were in the back seat. The car was later found abandoned near the Canham Ranch, but there was no sign of the children. The grandfather was later found wandering along a country road with no knowledge of where he had left the children.

The comm center is a busy place. Jim Luker (seated) keeps track of volunteer searchers; Alf Fronefield (at right) checks for the latest info, along with a HSC member. Dieter Belletz (partly hidden at left-center) keeps in touch with the ultra-light aircraft pilot.



Comal Co. *REACT* set up their communications trailer in a central area. Jim Luker (Comal) and Dieter Belletz (Bexar) coordinated communications with ground search teams via GMRS and FRS, plus using GMRS for the ultra-light pilot.

Searchers were briefed by the search leaders from HSC and *REACT* and then sent out to search for clues. They were shown on the map and told where the car had been found and where the driver had been picked up. The search area was rough hill country terrain with brush, trees, and plenty of sticker bushes.

The ground search team with Stuart DeLuca (Travis Co. *REACT*) was the first to find most of the clues leading up to the discovery of the two sisters, Emily and Ellen Wittler. Jerry Jennison (San Angelo *REACT*) was on the team that eventually discovered and "rescued" the boy, John Goates.

*REACT* members from Comal, Bexar, Travis, and Bell Counties, and San Angelo, participated in this exercise. The non-*REACT* groups participating included the HSC, New Braunfels Emergency Communications Club (NBECC), San Antonio's Blacksun Search & Rescue Dog Team, Chris Reed & dog, Larry Lindgren in his ultra-light aircraft, Bracken Volunteer Fire Department, Sgt. Poindexter of the Comal County Sheriff's department, and Comal County Judge Danny Scheel. Omer Bangs, president of Comal Co. *REACT*, is also president of the Heidi Search Center.

# Montgomery Co.:

## Getting Ready for Stormy Weather

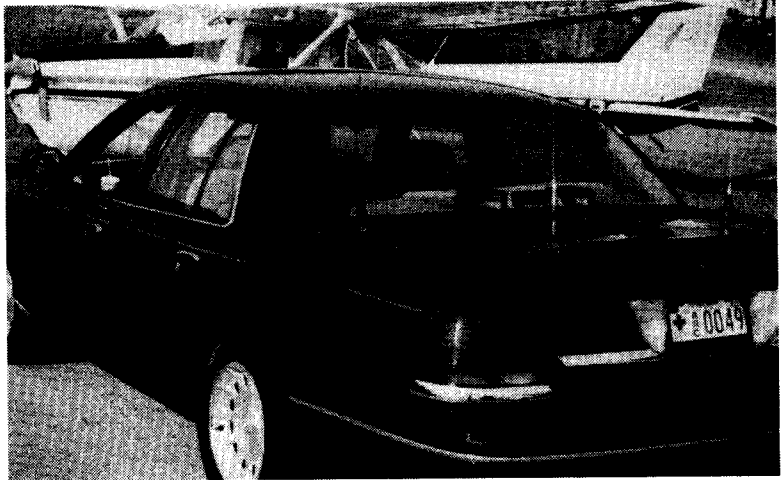
by Michael Harvey, Communications Officer  
Montgomery Co. (Md.) *REACT*

The evening of June 5, 2001, found Montgomery County (Md.) *REACT* members on alert and positioned in every sector of the county for a hurricane exercise. Each Team member was given instructions via e-mail that day directing them to proceed to a location and stand by for further instructions. Locations included city hall, a recreation park, a senior living center, the county government center, the detention center, a high school, and the local Red Cross chapter. All participants were on station and at their assigned positions well in advance of the exercise.

A briefcase, 5-watt UHF repeater was placed aboard an aircraft. The Cessna 172 was provided by The Congressional Flying Club, part of Montgomery Senior Squadron, Maryland Wing, Civil Air Patrol. Our pilot was Andy Smith.

Team members Ken Knopp and Pat Brown and a RACES operator staffed EMC-1, a retired county ambulance that was converted to a communications vehicle. On board EMC-1 are radios for all major Montgomery Co. government frequencies

This briefcase repeater was airborne for the hurricane drill.



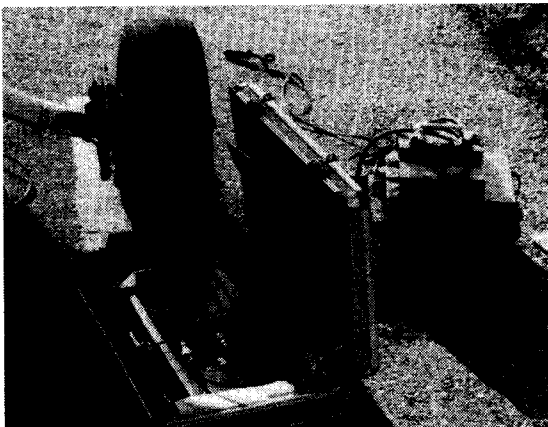
A Civil Air Patrol aircraft provided "high ground" for Montgomery Co.'s repeater during their hurricane exercise.

and the ability to monitor local news media. Other radio equipment includes a fax machine and equipment to support *REACT*, RACES, and the American Red Cross. During the exercise EMC-1 responded to several "emergencies" including a collapsed roof and injuries at the Rockville fire station.

The communications exercise was designed by the Montgomery Co. Department of Emergency Management (DEM) with assistance from county Fire and Rescue, the Civil Air Patrol, and *REACT* Team #2388. We were able to test our equipment and the team's capacity to respond quickly and effectively in an emergency. We passed the test!

The Maryland DEM and the fire and rescue communications representatives were impressed with the airborne repeater idea and happy with the results of the exercise. Team President Don Pruett, says, "This is the first time we participated in an exercise of this scale. I am very proud of our team!"

Dick Cooper, RI Regional Director, commented, "Montgomery County *REACT* is a strong team. Following their example, Teams need to participate in more of these kind of exercises."



# Safety Break Round-Up



Holiday travelers get a break, thanks to two North Carolina Teams.

end at the 177 mile marker rest stops in neighboring Davie County. Coffee and bottled water were offered from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. each day. Pamphlets and literature were available, providing information on REACT, MADD, and ARES.

On Saturday, Forsyth *REACT* was located on the eastbound rest stop, then on Sunday Burke County *REACT* came down and took the eastbound side while Forsyth set up on the westbound side. On Monday the Forsyth team returned to the eastbound side.

**T**wo Teams in North Carolina worked together to serve over 3,000 visitors at their Memorial Day Safety Break. Among the visitors were two NC state senators.

Forsyth and Burke County *REACT* Teams teamed up to provide this valuable safety service to travelers on that busy holiday weekend in the Winston-Salem area.

The Forsyth *REACT* Team 2802, assisted by Team 3420 from Burke County, held a safety break over Memorial Week-



Above: Members of Burke Co. *REACT* helped their neighbor Team on a busy holiday weekend.



Left: James Coleman, Forsyth Co. *REACT*, improvised a sign from his da-glo safety vest. Whatever it takes to get people to stop for a Safety Break!

The weather was quite cooperative during the three days, with bright sunshine coupled with moderate temperatures and a light breeze. A constant radio watch was held on Channel 19, Public Service frequencies, and Amateur 2-meter and 440 MHz frequencies. The Forsyth team provided

# Teams Help Travelers

a cookout lunch for the hungry REACTers with hamburgers and hot dogs enjoyed by all.

Next year we need to see if we can get permission from the Department of Transportation to run a 24 hour coffee break!!

-David K. Brodman

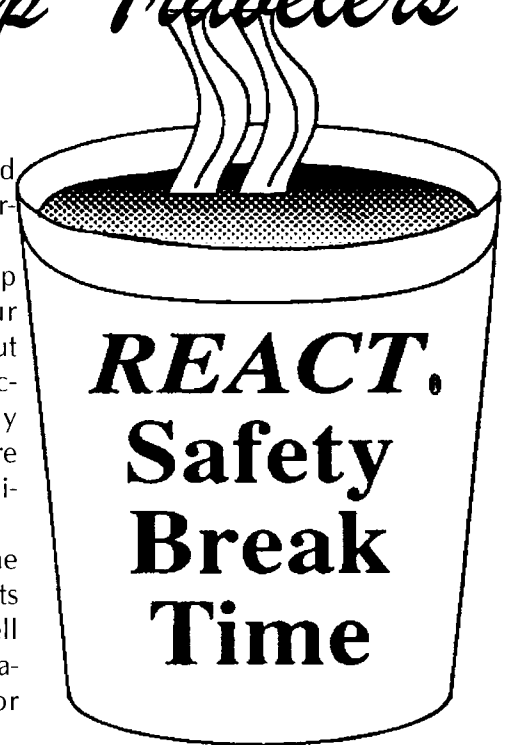
**M**clennan County (Tex.) REACT was another Team offering travelers a break over the Memorial Day weekend. Their rest stop was located on private property just off the busy IH-35. More than 1,100 visitors were served coffee, cold

drinks, and snacks.

The Team also handed out safety flyers, maps, and information about the area.

According to Rest Stop chairman Wally Smith, "Our numbers were lower this year but we still feel the event was a success." Smith said that rainy weather and high gas prices were among the factors that kept holiday travel quieter than usual.

The Team's report on the event listed nearly 60 merchants and organizations, including Bell Co. REACT and REACT International, that contributed to or helped put on the safety break.



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# REACTivities

## Tri-County REACT (Missouri)

May 17 - 21, 2001, our team directed traffic and managed parking for Creve Coeur Days in Creve Coeur, Missouri, which included a weekend fair, a mini grand prix on Saturday, a free concert Saturday night, a car show on Sunday, and a Sunday afternoon parade. Our team also performed other duties such as helping people find their vehicles in the parking lots and patrolling the parking lots looking for any suspicious activity.

On Saturday night around 11:00 p.m., at closing time, four juveniles set a fire under a giant children's slide. Someone told Tri-County's Bill Durbin, unit 220, about the fire and pointed out the suspects to him. Bill chased the suspects while calling the Creve Coeur Police over his GMRS radio (we supplied officials with a GMRS radio for direct communications) and notifying the police which way the suspects were running. He chased them onto the parking lot of a nearby grocery store just as the police caught up to them. They apprehended the suspects on the parking lot.

Bill returned to the fair grounds and started his sweep of the parking lots looking for stragglers. As he drove down a hill to a parking lot, four teenagers were standing on the road. Bill stopped and was going to ask them to leave when they took off running into the woods. Bill radioed to unit 65, Brian Fischer, to get a Creve Coeur officer to his location. Brian got three police officers into his car and drove them to Bill's location. The officers got out and ran into the woods after the teenagers. They emerged from the woods with a 15 year old and determined he was intoxicated. They later took him home and talked with his parents.

Brian resumed patrolling the lots and came upon a man walking through an empty lot. The man flagged down Brian and asked him where the grocery store was because that was where he parked his car. Brian told him to get in and he would drive him to

his car. When the man got in the car, Brian detected a strong odor of alcohol on his breath. He drove him to his car and Brian radioed to the other REACT units to get an officer to the grocery store. Brian prevented the man from driving away by talking to him and asking him questions about his car.

Within a minute, unit 53 (Danny Bundy), unit 54 (Mike Bundy), and Bill drove onto the lot. Bill had two Creve Coeur officers in the back of his truck. The officers determined right away that the man was too drunk to drive home and they called a cab for him. One of the officers thanked Brian for his quick thinking.

We've posted pictures from this event and many other events at our web site: < <http://www.tricountyreact.org> >

-Brian Fischer,  
Director of Operations

## REACT International Convention Committee

Help! We need bids for the 2003 REACT International convention. As of this writing we have no takers. Does this

mean the end of REACT International conventions? Is there any Team or Council that is interested in hosting a convention? Please contact the International headquarters office for a convention package.

-Selma Dassa  
Site Committee Chairperson



# Region, Team, & Council News

## *REACT* Lake Simcoe & *REACT* Don Valley (Canada)

Our Teams were honored recently in a collage published as the centerfold of a 36-page publication celebrating 25 years of the Easter Seals Run/Walk in Newmarket, Ontario (some 20 miles north of Toronto). Persechini Fitness Club organizes the annual event, which benefits Easter Seals, a charity for crippled

children.

*REACT* International Past President Ron McCracken is seen with *REACT*ers Ward Kennedy and Tony Duarte in the collage, surrounded by images of other people who have been involved in the Easter Seals event. *REACT* has provided safety communications for this event since the Lake Simcoe Team formed, assisting with 22 consecutive runs. The Don Valley Team later grew out of Lake Simcoe and serves the northeastern area of Toronto.

-Ron McCracken

## Emergency Medical *REACT* (New York)

On Sunday, June 3, 2001, Emergency Medical *REACT* and Nassau County (New York) *REACT* provided the medical standby, traffic control, and communications for the "Easter Seals Roll & Stroll 2001," which started at 23rd and Chelsea Piers in New York City. The various routes offered to the participants were 8, 13, and 26 miles. This event had over 1,800 participants that included inline skaters, wheelchair users, walkers, and joggers. The purpose of the event was to raise more than \$200,000 for Easter Seals. Medical coverage was also provided by: Jamaica Hospital, MetroCare Ambulance, Weehawken Ambulance, and Edgewater Ambulance. No serious injuries were reported; a few people with minor sprains and bruises were treated and released. The *REACT* teams were able to field 7 response vehicles and 13 members.

On Sunday June 10, 2001, Emergency Medical *REACT* was asked by the Latino Officers  
*(Continued on Next Page)*



## REACTivities

*(Continued from Page 13)*

Association of NYC (FOP) to be in the New York City Puerto Rican Day parade and to lead its police members. Emergency Medical REACT has been officially designated a Fraternal Order of Police chapter under the Law Officers' Association and has been officially accepted as part of their Medical Stand-By BLS-FR Unit. We are very pleased and proud of this endorsement and acceptance.

-Carlos Varon, President

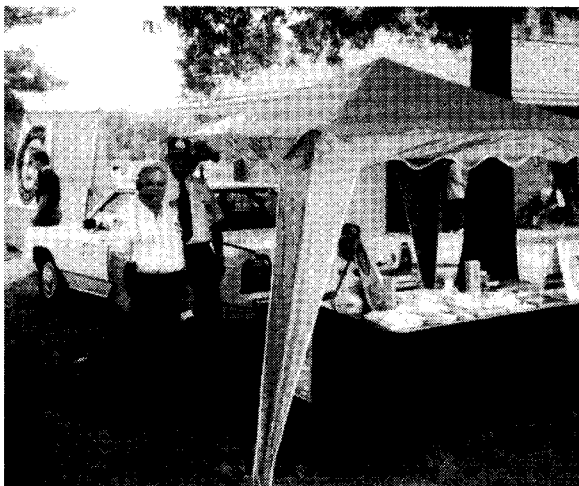
### Sentry Skywatch Patrol REACT (North Dakota)

Our Team now has GMRS on 462.675 (141.3 tone) with a repeater located about 80 miles southwest of Fargo, North Dakota.

The repeater is available for use 24 hours a day, and may be accessed by any properly licensed REACT members.

If you're going through the area and you're anywhere near Marion, give us a shout!

-James R. Jensen, LM 522

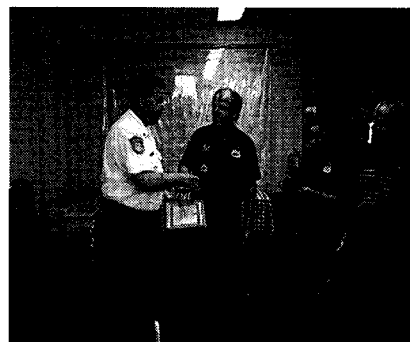


The photo shows Ed Pace and Don Anderson standing outside our booth, and Wayne Souders seated at the comm table. The white car behind the booth was Bill Riley's, and provided GMRS, 2-meter, and CB platforms.

-William M. Riley

### Ramsey County REACT (Minnesota)

On June 25, members of Ramsey Co. (Minn.) REACT presented a certificate of appreciation to Bill Feist, Emergency Disaster Services Director for the St. Paul-Minneapolis area. The award was given for arranging our use of the Salvation Army's mobile kitchen for our Memorial Day weekend Safety Break.



EDS Director Bill Feist accepts a Certificate of Appreciation from Paul Oby, Ramsey Co. REACT, as Team members look on.

### Prince Georges Co. REACT (Maryland)

Our Team provided communications for BowieFest, a community celebration held in Allen Pond Park in Bowie, Md., on June 2, 2001.

We used GMRS radios with cross-communication to the City of Bowie by means of a park ranger radio at our booth. We also monitored FRS Channel 1 for calls from other exhibitors and vendors to report any problems in the park.

## 100- Percenters!

*The following Teams renewed 100 per cent of their members for 2001:*

- 3250 Unicorn REACT (N.Y.)
- 2021 Bristol (Va./Tenn.)
- 4583 Bayshore (N. J.)
- 4743 Brevard C.A.R.E.S. (Fla.)
- 2457 Durham/Durham Co. (N.C.)
- 3135 Phillips Co. (Kan.)
- C633 Tri-County (N.C.)
- 2332 Wood Co. (Ohio)
- 4866 Don Valley (Ont.)
- C264 Lansing (Mich.)
- 3073 Pawnee (Neb.)
- 6012 REACT Response (Tenn.)
- 2804 Johnston Co. (N.C.)

## New Teams

*The following new Teams have received charters in 2001:*

- 6042 Middlesex Co. (Ont.)
- 6043 REACT Ocean State (R.I.)
- 6044 NorthStar (Duluth, Minn.)

# Silent Mics

## Henry B. 'Pete' Kreer, *REACT* Founder

**H**enry B. "Pete" Kreer, the founder of *REACT* International, died Sunday, July 15, 2001, at his home in Glenview, Ill. Pete was 77; the cause of death was cancer.

Pete was a native of Pittsburgh, a high school three-sport letterman. After serving in the Marine Corps in World War II, he completed a degree in journalism at Northwestern University. He married his college sweetheart, Irene, and settled in the Chicago area.

In 1955, he started an advertising firm that eventually became Stevens, Kirkland, Kreer Inc.

Pete was an amateur radio operator who gave the then-new Citizens Band radio a try in the late 50s. In

1961, he was driving home on Chicago's Edens Expressway in a blizzard. He came upon a car that had skidded off the road into a ditch. In the car were a young couple and a sick child. Pete used his mobile CB to contact a base station; the base operator called the police. Within minutes, a state police car arrived and took the couple and child to the hospital.

The incident suggested to Pete Kreer the possibility that an organized network of CB radio operators, both mobile and base, could save lives. He solicited one of his clients, the Hallicrafters Corp. (who had given him the radio in his car), to help him organize what became *REACT*. Through the Hallicrafters contacts, support also was ob-

tained from General Motors and Aetna Insurance Company.

Pete was instrumental in persuading the FCC to reserve CB Channel 9 for emergencies and assistance to travelers. By the late 70s, there were nearly 75,000 members in more than 1,000 local *REACT* Teams around the world. In 1982, *REACT* and Pete Kreer received President Reagan's Volunteer Action Award.

Pete resigned from *REACT* in 1983 to allow *REACT* members more authority over the organization's development.

Pete Kreer is survived by his wife, Irene; a daughter; two grandchildren; and a brother.

-smdl

### Other Silent Mics

John Ross, Delaware Co. *REACT*  
Wayne Alie, North Eastern

Trinidad  
Everett Stamper, Berry-Cynthiana  
Eugene Rivers, Coshocton Co.

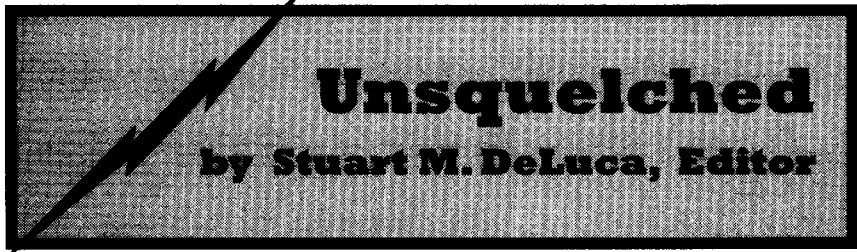
Willie H. Mack, Kankakee Valley  
Thomas Parry, Dallas Co.

Paula A. Clark, Onslow Co.  
Melvin Heath III, LM 469

David Mattox, former president of Harrison Co. (Ken.) *REACT* and former president, Kentucky State *REACT* Council.

Gerald Jarvis, president of Ohio State *REACT* Council and member of Coshocton Co. (Ohio) *REACT*.





## Do You Know Where Your Charter Is?

Besides editing *The REACTer*, my duties as chairman of the Publications Review Committee for RI include reviewing everything published by International. Everything. Even the Charter granted to new Teams.

When our committee looked at the Charter certificate that was being sent out a couple of years ago, we were not very pleased. We thought it was less attractive and dignified than it should be, and it clearly was not well written.

It took us awhile, but we have designed a new Charter certificate that was approved by the Board of Directors last February. Eric Hutchins, our printer *extraordinaire*, has done a splendid job of printing the RI logo in

color on high-quality, gold embossed certificate paper. I'd love to show you just what it looks like, but we can't afford to run color graphics in *The REACTer*, so you'll have to use your imagination. Or visit a new Team.

Every new Team that has been chartered since January 1, 2000, will soon receive a new Charter certificate. There's no charge for this; we wish we could have sent them sooner.

Furthermore, *all* Teams can obtain a new Charter, with their original name, Team number, and the date of original issue, for \$5.00 to cover the cost of the certificate and mailing. (It will be signed by our current Board Chairman and President, but you can't have everything!)

If your Team would like a new Charter certificate, just send the \$5.00 to RI headquarters with your request. Please indicate the approximate date when your original Charter was granted, and the full, official name and number of your Team. We'll send your new Charter as soon as we can.

\* \* \*

An apology to our International members. In my editorial in the last issue, I referred several times to "national," meaning RI headquarters; I know better.

## About Your Subscription

All Regular, Junior, and Affiliate members in the U.S. and Canada automatically receive a subscription to *The REACTer*; the subscription price is included in the annual RI dues.

If for any reason you do not wish to receive *The REACTer*, let us know. Send a note or e-mail to RI headquarters. However, your dues will not be reduced.

All Life Members also automatically receive a subscription to *The REACTer* but may discontinue their subscription if they wish.

Members outside of the U.S. and Canada may subscribe to *The REACTer* but the subscription fee (U.S.\$6) is not included in their dues. To subscribe, send your name, full address, and payment to RI headquarters.

Nonmembers may subscribe for \$7.50 per year.

Members may order an extra subscription for a family member at a different address, a friend, a local library, or anyone else, at the same rate as members' subscriptions: \$4 per year in the U.S., \$5 in Canada, or \$6 anywhere else.

REACT International,  
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5210 Auth Rd., Ste. 430

### Radio Hero Award

(Continued from Page 6)

At this time, the "Radio Hero Award" will be presented every six months. Judging will be based on an application form and accompanying documentation to verify the event. Information will be posted on the websites of the co-sponsors <[www.cobra.com](http://www.cobra.com)>, <[www.popularcommunications.com](http://www.popularcommunications.com)>, and <[www.reactintl.org](http://www.reactintl.org)>.

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