



# The REACTer

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July-August, 2002

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**Is our pride showing?  
 It should be, as REACT  
 celebrates 40 years of  
 service!  
 (40th anniversary logo design  
 by Dale Ellis)**

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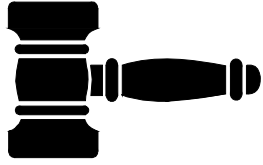
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# From the Chairman

**B. F. "Frank" Jennings**

Got my tickets, registration, and reservations for Lynn and me, and we're ready to get moving and leave for the 2002 Annual Convention at Des Moines, Iowa. We are looking forward to renewing memories with old friends and making new ones. If you get this in time and haven't been to a *REACT* convention, I encourage you to try to make it. We all learn from each other, by sharing experiences and knowledge. Hope we see you there and exchange ideas as to how, ALL of US, Members, Teams, Council, RI Officers, and the RI Board of Directors, can make *REACT* grow. It requires all of us working together toward that common goal.

Your officers, active committees, and the Board of Directors have emphasized improving communications with the membership at all levels. We have individuals contributing to this improvement. For example, David Moore (Kentucky) shares his personal computer equipment and hosts the *REACT-L* list. This is a good way for *REACT* Members, Teams, and Councils to exchange e-mail with other *REACTers* discussing, questioning, and receiving ideas.

Your officers and the Board of Directors want to be able to pass along official correspondence, policies, announcements, etc., to the Councils, Teams, and Members in the fastest means possible. We have made a good start on this by providing *The REACTer*, Board meeting minutes, forms, and other information on the *REACT* International Web site.

Our Goal is for every Team and Council to have an e-mail address.

If this were in effect, we could reduce the time lag and costs we experience in communicating in both directions. My Granddad used to say, "Frank, the road goes both ways." How right he was. You do not have to own a computer or have one in your home; almost every library has one (including your school library). With the proper approach, I am sure you could use theirs at no cost. Better yet, I bet that at least one of your members has a computer or has access to one your Team could use. I challenge all of you to research this and let us know of your results at the convention.

-B. F. "Frank" Jennings

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***\*A summary of Board actions!***  
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## From the President by Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson

### Putting the 'T' in *REACT*

*REACT* is in a state of change.

This isn't really news, as *REACT* has been changing for many years. We've been changing from a Citizens Band Channel 9 monitoring organization to a multi-faceted public service communications organization, using a variety of communications modes. Today, our Teams use GMRS, MURS, business band, Amateur, FRS, and yes, we still use Citizens Band.

As an indicator of how things have changed, consider that today the president of *REACT* International is an amateur radio operator, and the president of the ARRL is also a member of *REACT*.

The problem is that we may not have come to terms with our new image. Old timers look back fondly on the days when *REACT* had monitors nationwide. Newer members may not understand why monitoring is still important to many.

As a product of this change, though, the fundamental nature of many, perhaps most, *REACT* Teams has changed. Monitoring CB 9



***Tennis players and soccer players are both athletes... but only the soccer player depends on teamwork for success!***

(or any frequency) is primarily an individual activity; no one else is necessary to do this job. Today's missions of community communications support and disaster communications support often involve the entire

Team, working as a team. Indeed, while *REACT* has always referred to its member organizations as "Teams," rather than "clubs," today it's more likely that the term is truly descriptive.

These changes influence the attractiveness of being a *REACT* member for those who enjoy group activities, as opposed to the solitary activity of a monitor. And, where monitoring can be done on an individual's schedule, Team activities more often require that members all be available at the same time.

We've been working to grow *REACT* for several years now. Is your Team working to recruit people whose interests match the Team's current activities? Does your Team lose members whose interest fades when their schedules don't permit participation in group projects? The success of your Team, perhaps its very existence, depends upon finding new, interested, participating members.

And the future of *REACT* depends upon the success of its Teams.



# Publicizing *REACT*

by Ron McCracken, Chairman, PR Committee

## 40th Logo Contest

If you joined *REACT-L*, as we've been urging all members to do, you will know that we conducted a contest there to choose a fitting 40th Anniversary logo. For those not subscribed to *REACT-L*, the winner is: Dale Ellis, Oklahoma County *REACT*. Dale will have his 40th Anniversary dues to *REACT* International, Inc. reimbursed as his reward. Thanks to all who participated.

## Join *REACT-L*

Do yourself a favor. Subscribe to *REACT-L* to keep up to the minute on *REACT* developments of all kinds. *REACT-L* supplements your bi-monthly *REACTer* with news flashes, discussions, opportunities of all kinds. And it's FREE. Just send an e-mail to: [REACT-L@gibbousmoon.com](mailto:REACT-L@gibbousmoon.com). On the subject line, just type the word, SUBSCRIBE. That's it! Do it now, before you forget. You'll be glad you did.

## First Joint Safety Break?

Fayette County *REACT* (Va.) may have made *REACT* history this *REACT* Month. The Team linked up with Fayette County ARES/RACES amateurs to co-host a Memorial Day weekend Safety Break. What a great way to mark *REACT*'s 40th Anniversary. A tip o' the PR hat to those who had the foresight to pull off that neat PR coup. Is this a first? Let us know if your Team did it earlier.

## New '*REACT* Month' Team

Tobacco Valley *REACT* (Conn.) used *REACT* Month to launch Pioneer Valley *REACT*, a new Team in nearby Mass. How's that for 'hands across the border'? The new Team already has a meeting place/office in a former radio station with a 150' tower and all the trimmings. How about your Team helping to launch a new Team in your area? It's our 40th year, so let's go for 40 new Teams. Thanks for the challenge, Tobacco Valley. We just need 39 more now. Let's go gang.

**40th Anniversary Decals** Decals sporting the 40th Anniversary logo will be available by the time you receive this *REACTer*. Pick some up at the convention, or contact HQ to order by mail. You may have seen the logo on the cover of this issue, or you will

next issue. Slap those decals on anything that moves, even stuff that doesn't. Get the word out that *REACT* is celebrating another milestone in its history. **60m Band** Thanks to those who wrote the FCC to support this ARRL initiative. The Comment Period will open soon. Watch for it, and write again. This time will count even more. The new band will benefit *REACT* Teams that use the amateur radio service in weather emergencies particularly. Write even if your Team isn't affected. Let's give FCC a huge pile of mail from *REACT* Teams to open on this. They need to know your Team is out there. Let them hear from you. Individual members can write too, by all means.

**Generic PR Goodies** Planning to order a PR item? Make it 'generic' so smaller Teams can buy some from you. Just put '*REACT*' on it. Use [www.REACTintl.org](http://www.REACTintl.org) for the address. Now your item will work for any Team. People can check the *REACT* International Web site to locate any Team in the Team Directory. They will also learn more about *REACT* from the Web site. Everyone wins.

Oklahoma County *REACT* has done just that. The Team is offering lanyards to other Teams and to individuals at \$6.50 each. Only the word *REACT* appears on the lanyard so it will work for any Team. Pick one up at the convention, or contact the Team via the Web site to order by mail. Great idea, OK. Let's all pick up on their generosity to help one another.

## CB-9 Decal Sheets

Stock of these is almost out. They have been very popular, but will not be re-ordered. Send your Team's order to HQ fast or you will miss out. When they're gone, they're gone. You've been warned.

## *REACT* Litter Bags

This amazingly enduring PR tool also serves as a HELP sign. Check your supply. Be sure to have a good number on hand for your upcoming Safety Break, mall display, etc. Put safety leaflets from police, railways, USCG, etc., in them and pass them out to people. They will thank you, and it could save their lives.



# REACT Team Takes Charge of Communications

by Lt. Ronald A. Bomstad,  
Benton County (Minn.)  
Emergency Management

St. Cloud (Minn.) REACT member Charlie Reichensperger explains to a TV reporter the Team's role in disaster communications. (Photo: Benton County Emergency Mgt.)

St. Cloud (Minn.) REACT has a very special relationship with the Benton County Emergency Management agency – and a very special role to play when disaster strikes the community.

Two years ago, Benton County was offered two 8x30-foot trailers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The county was eager to accept the gift, but wasn't so sure what to do with them.

Charlie Reichensperger, a member of St. Cloud REACT, had an idea, and thus began a relationship between REACT and the county emergency management agency that promises a great deal of good for both.

With the help of numerous REACT team members, through donated time and expertise, a plain camping trailer was transformed into a one-of-a-kind mobile communications center for use throughout Central Minnesota. Donations paid for eight portable multi-channel

police radios, two multi-channel police base stations, a ham radio, a Citizens Band radio, an 800 MHz police and fire radio, a generator, three cell phones, two computers and monitors, a fax machine, a copier, numerous standard antennas, a combination TV-VCR, jackstands, and – best of all! – a 50-foot crank-up tower antenna.

Members of St. Cloud REACT are the only people authorized to operate the command and communications trailer.

REACT has proven to mean teamwork to benefit all citizens of the St. Cloud area. Volunteerism and donations can go a very long way in a small county or community when we all work together. Thanks, REACT!

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# *A Brief History*

## *It All Began in a Snowstorm...*

I was driving home on the Edens Expressway [in Chicago] in an absolutely blinding snowstorm. I saw a car along the side of the road with its hood up and flashers flashing. I stopped to see if I could be of any help. I found a very young couple with a very sick child. I didn't know what to do, so I got on the CB and someone answered me. In about ten minutes a State Patrol car showed up and took the baby to the hospital.

I spent several days thinking, 'Wouldn't it be great if there was some organized scheme for us civilians to talk to each other, strictly to help people in trouble?'

-Henry B. "Pete" Kreer, Founder of *REACT*

Pete Kreer was, at the time, an advertising and public relations executive and an avid amateur radio operator. Like some other hams, he was willing to experiment with the 11-meter service, Citizens Band, established by the FCC in 1956.

The incident in the snowstorm took place in 1962. Within days, Kreer had enlisted the support of Hallicrafters, then a manufacturer of CB and other two-way radios; soon he also had support from General Motors, Aetna Insurance, and other large companies with an interest in highway safety – and *REACT* was born.



*REACT* Teams quickly found their services needed for more than highway safety. Mike Reese of Herndon (Va.) *REACT* mans the base station for his Team as they provide communications support for the 12th Annual Reston International Soccer Tournament, involving 76 youth soccer teams from across the country.

(From *The REACTer*, 1987)

# of REACT

## *The Birth of Channel 9*

1964 – In a letter to *REACT* Teams, founder Pete Kreer suggests that CB Channel 9 be used for all emergency communications. The word spread through other media and by CB operators themselves; at the time, there were only 560,000 licensed CB operators in the US. *REACT* had grown to 800 Teams.

1967 – *REACT* petitions the FCC to officially designate CB Channel 9 as reserved for emergency communications.

1969 – *REACT*, General Motors, and the Ohio State Police carried out a research project to show the effectiveness of CB radio for highway safety. Ohio troopers had CB's installed in their patrol cars for direct communication with the public.

1970 – The FCC establishes official rules, reserving CB Channel 9 for "emergencies and assistance to travelers."



As *REACT* Teams' role expanded, so did their need for sophisticated communications equipment. Here, members of Gateway (Mo.) *REACT* are outfitting their "new" communications van.  
(From RI files, undated)

**By the Numbers**  
Originally, *REACT* Teams had no numbers. And members paid no dues. Both changed in 1970, when RI began charging \$1 annual dues plus a \$5 fee to newly-chartered Teams. Existing Teams didn't have to pay the fee, and they were given a number beginning with "C-" to indicate that they were "Charter Teams."

## **Team's Quick Report of Copter Crash Helps Save Building Residents**

December 27 [1977] started out much like any other day for Jon Verdun, president of Braintree (Mass.) *REACT*. At 7:30 a.m. he was monitoring Channel 19 to see what he could learn about the traffic situation before going to work....

Suddenly, something happened that broke the routine. Through the interference he could hear a "Mayday!" call. Immediately, Verdun made contact and told the caller to transfer to Channel 9.

The caller, a commuter traveling on the South East Expressway out of Boston, had just seen a radio station traffic helicopter crash into an apartment building near an expressway in Quincy. When the motorist described the location, Jim Koopman, another member of the Braintree Team, broke in to say that he would contact [the police.]

The copter had crashed upside down, breaking through the roof at one corner of the building. The nearly-full gas tank exploded on impact, setting off a three-alarm blaze that seriously burned three of the [building's] occupants....The copter pilot and radio reporter...were killed in the crash.

Through its speedy reporting on the crash, the Braintree *REACT*ers were credited with saving many lives among the building's occupants.  
(From Jan-Feb, 1978, *REACT*er)

# 40 Years of

## A Team History: Oklahoma County

Oklahoma County REACT #2620 was chartered on November 20, 1974. Roy Allen was elected President, a position he served in for many years. He was also elected President of the Oklahoma State Council. Roy and his wife; Pete, are still members today. During the past 28 years, Oklahoma County REACT has been involved with many events from finding lost children to terrorist events to natural disasters. Members of Oklahoma County REACT and the team itself have been recognized by local, state, federal agencies and by the President of the United States for their efforts during disasters. They have provided support after the crash of an Air Force plane in Midwest City, the terrorist bombing of the Murrah building, the tornados of May 3, 2002, along with the daily support to the public. They have continually been requested to provide support to local agencies. Their professionalism has been recognized many times. It is because of their professionalism that they have been tasked to directly support Presidential Motorcades during visits to Oklahoma. They continue to serve the public today.



Unquestionably, the darkest day in the history of Oklahoma Co. REACT was the day the Murrah Federal Building was destroyed. But most of the Team's events have been happier ones, such as the Oklahoma Balloon Festival, where Paul Deaver seems to be having trouble keeping the traffic on the ground!



### 20 Largest Teams in North America (in 1989)

TEAM	COUNCIL #	MEMBRS	% CHG*
Southwestern REACT	S.CA	25	+22
REACT of Golden Gate	N.CA	82	-2
Dallas County REACT	TX	66	-13
Richmond County REACT	S.NY	63	+4
Mabuhay REACT	S.CA	60	+23
Hagerstown REACT	MD	59	+13
Rockwall County REACT	TX	58	+4
Sedgwick County REACT	KS	56	+7
Action Emergency Comms.	NJ	53	+21
Spokane County REACT	WA	53	+11
Seattle REACT	WA	53	-4
Bay Area Emergency Radio	N.CA	49	+9
Logan REACT & Rescue	W.VA	48	-4
Rainier REACT Radio Watch	WA	47	-3
Three Rivers REACT	MO	46	+14
Suburban REACT	PA	46	N/C
Oklahoma County REACT	OK	45	+4
Herndon REACT	VA	45	-a
Michigan Patrol	MI	45	+2
Louisville Metro REACT	KY	44	+30

\* % Change from 1988

### 1989 REACT Total Membership

	1989	1988	1987
Total Teams	687	718	751
Total Members	11,301	11,960	12,670
REACT Affiliates*	400	47	n/a

\*Note: The Affiliate program began in 1988 to enable individuals to continue their membership if they moved to an area where there was no Team, or their Team disbanded.



# Public Service

## Getting Organized

*REACT* began as a loose coalition of independent local Teams, many of which existed as CB clubs before affiliating with *REACT*. The *REACT* staff consisted of Pete Kreer and, sometimes, his secretary.

In 1969, General Motors formally agreed to sponsor *REACT*; Gerald Reese was hired as Managing Director, with Kreer continuing as Executive Director.

A year later, *REACT* began to charge dues for the first time: \$1 a year, plus a \$5 annual fee. Half the members promptly quit. Also for the first time, Teams were assigned charter numbers. Those that were already in operation were given a letter "C" (for "charter") before the number.

In 1975, General Motors discontinued its sponsorship of *REACT*. The organization was incorporated in Illinois and a Board of Directors was appointed by Pete Kreer. *REACT* applied for tax-exempt nonprofit status under U.S. Internal Revenue Service rules, Section 501(c)(3), and the exemption was granted.

The first national convention was held in Deerfield, Illinois, in July 1976. The first Councils were established to provide a means for local Teams to collaborate.

At the second convention, in Dallas in 1977, members expressed a desire for more involvement in *REACT*'s governing body, the Board of Directors. The *REACT* Forum was established, a system of committees on which members could participate. In addition, Teams would elect four Field Directors to serve on the Board of Directors with seven Directors-at-Large chosen by the Board itself.

*REACT*'s membership peaked in 1978, with 74,000 members in the U.S., Canada, and more than half a dozen other countries.

In 1981, two At-large Directors resigned, and the by-laws were amended to provide for four Field Directors elected by the Teams, four At-large Directors elected by the Board, and the Executive Director (at that time, Gerald Reese).

Reese resigned in 1986. The *REACT* headquarters office was moved from Northbrook, Ill., to Wichita, Kan., and Ron Mayes became Executive Director. Mayes continued until 1990; when he resigned to focus on his business, Deanne Earwood was hired -- but given the title of Office Manager.

At the International Convention in Toronto, in 1997, members again demanded a stronger voice in decisionmaking, and called for the rewriting of *REACT* International's By-laws. The new By-laws were adopted by the members in 1998; they provided for nine Regional Directors to be elected by the Teams and two At-large Directors (the latter positions never have been filled). The headquarters office moved again, this time to Suitland, Md. A few months later, Dora Wilbanks was hired as Office Manager.

Through all these changes, there has been one constant: *REACT* is an organization composed of autonomous, self-governing, local Teams. Team participation in Councils is voluntary. Membership in *REACT* is available (with some exceptions) only through a local Team.

## Getting Together: 26 Years of Conventions

1976 -- Deerfield, Ill.	1984 -- Daytona Beach, Fla.	1993 -- San Diego, Calif.
1977 -- Irving (Dallas), Tex.	1985 -- Chicago, Ill.	1994 -- Somerset, N.J.
1978 -- Beria, Ohio	1986 -- Calgary, Alta., Canada	1995 -- Omaha, Neb.
1979 -- Beaver, Penn.	1987 -- San Antonio, Tex.	1996 -- Silverdale, Wash.
1980 -- Atlanta, Ga.	1988 -- Roanoke, Va.	1997 -- Toronto, Ont., Canada
1981 -- Indianapolis, Ind. (also Suffolk, U.K.)	1989 -- Madison, Wis.	1998 -- Janesville, Wis.
1982 -- Las Vegas, Nev.	1990 -- Spokane, Wash.	1999 -- Grand Island, Neb.
1983 -- Wichita, Kan.	1991 -- Melbourne, Fla.	2000 -- Orlando, Fla.
	1992 -- Anderson, Ind.	2001 -- Port of Spain, Trinidad

# 40 Years of

## *Some Things Take Time...*

...the Board of Directors of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has approved a resolution "to facilitate effective disaster communications...[and to] effect a memorandum of understanding with *REACT* International."

...According to [Gerald] Reese [RI Executive Director], the way has now been cleared for finalization on a statement of agreement. [between *REACT* and the ARRL].

(From May-June, 1993, *REACTer*)

(Note: The actual "finalization" took another eight years!)

## A Team History: Ramsey County (Minn.)

Ramsey County *REACT*, serving the seven-county Twin Cities area of Minnesota, was chartered on May 10, 1974, and became incorporated in June of 1976. The Charter Members were Larry Andrele, Jim Brown, Jim Southworth and E L Esherich and Bill Mc Keon, none of whom are still with the team. Present members are Paul Oby, Gene Hess, Rick Link, Joyce Reed and Paul Munns.

We started doing communications for special events with the Roseville, Minn., Police Reserve as they had no communications training at the time and were unfamiliar with most any two-way radio service. Eventually their training included communications so we started doing Safety Breaks and communications for March of Dimes events as well as monitoring CB channel 9. Currently, we monitor CB channel 9, do three Safety Breaks each year, communications for the Rice Street Parade in late July, answer phones for our local Public Television's four Membership Drives yearly, attend the International Convention, attend State Council meetings, belong to Minnesota VOAD, have a display at two Hamfests each year, have a display at the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers, and participate in a disaster scene communications class annually, as well as any other events that we are asked to do whenever possible.



Mary and Gene Hess are about to show Team President Paul Oby how good their coffee is, as the Ramsey County Team sets up for a Safety Break. (Photo by Rick Link)



# *Saving Lives*



In 1982, *REACT* International was one of the first recipients of the President's Award for Volunteer Action, created and presented by Pres. Ronald Reagan.

## The San Francisco Earthquake II

*REACT* wasn't around during the first, devastating earthquake in San Francisco, in 1906. But when another massive quake shook the Bay Area in 1989, *REACT* was there.

Kendrick Cochran, a member of *REACT* of the Golden Gate, was at work at a warehouse in Oakland when the quake struck. He first checked to be sure his coworkers were safe. Next, he checked to be sure the gas main outside the warehouse was intact. Someone told him that IH-880, a double-decked freeway, had collapsed. Cochran ran to the scene, and found that it was worse than he could have imagined. When support columns buckled, the upper deck pancaked onto the lower deck, smashing trucks, cars, and people trapped below. Cochran first helped a California Highway Patrol officer rescue people who were trapped in wrecked cars on the upper deck. He later wrote, "We came upon a group of cars that were badly entangled. A van had collided with a portion of the collapsed freeway. It was hit in a chain reaction by two other cars. The van...contained five people. Three survivors were rescued. We could not help the remaining two. It took me a minute to realize there was nothing that could be done, and I left. This was the most devastating sight I have ever seen and I felt so helpless leaving them there."

Meanwhile, across the bay, members of Bay Area Emergency *REACT* (BAER), were already on the air, relaying damage reports to the authorities and helping to calm frightened and confused citizens. At times, when telephone service was cut or overloaded, the *REACT* Teams provided the only organized communications in the area. Thanks to a GMRS repeater network, the four Teams were able to exchange information and pass along reports of gas leaks, downed power lines, and other emergencies.

For several days after the quake, members of BAER and Golden Gate continued to work with local agencies and Red Cross shelters, providing communications and transportation wherever needed. Blackberry *REACT* and Mission Valley *REACT*, two other Teams in the area, also helped to bring emergency supplies to the disaster areas.

# 40 Years of

## A Team History: Dallas County (Tex.)

REACT's largest Team, Dallas County REACT C622, was created in August 1967, gaining members and impetus from providing support to Dallas' relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Beulah in September, and received its REACT charter in October.

In its formative years, DCR members operated weekend courtesy patrols on major Dallas freeways and monitored CB Channel 9 from home and mobile stations, and from Team stations. In October 1979, the Team established a permanent station (REACT Central) in a downtown office building and operated there until building remodeling forced its closure in July 1995.

The Team supported various community events from its beginning, using both CB and GMRS (begun in 1977), but the tempo began to pick up in the early 1980s, as CB radio began to fade out in the Dallas area. In 1989, the Team adopted amateur radio as one of its communications modes, and in December was the first REACT Team to affiliate with the ARRL. DCR became an ARRL "Special Service Club" in 1991. Today, the Team supports a variety of community events, and is manager of the Dallas Area Red Cross communications center.

The Team's first mobile communications facility was built in the early 1980s, and was a strange contraption consisting of a pickup camper mounted on a boat trailer. It is still in use transporting DCR's two portable generators and area lighting equipment. In 1986, the Team acquired a used mini-motor home from the Dallas Area Red Cross. Using proceeds from charitable bingo, in 1992 the Team designed and had built a 32-foot neckover trailer as its Mobile Communications Center, and purchased a one-ton duallie pickup to pull it. DCR bought a used 27-foot step van in December 1994 and donated the motor home to a nearby REACT Team. The Team also has a 50-foot trailer mounted crank-up antenna mast.

Membership reached as high as 400 during the "CB craze," and after years of slowly declining, Team membership stabilized at about 55 members in the early 1990s. In the past few years, membership has increased: the Team registered 66 members in 2002.

**Members of the Athens Area (Ohio) REACT Team get ready for a Safety Break. (Undated photo by Kenneth Steinhoff, from RI Headquarters collection)**



# Communicating

## Bay City Tanker Explosion

On September 16, 1990, the gasoline tanker *MS Jupiter* exploded in the Saginaw River while unloading at a refinery dock in Bay City, Michigan.

Twenty-nine members of Bay County (Mich.) *REACT* worked more than 300 hours in conjunction with local police agencies, the Emergency Services team, the American Red Cross, and local fire departments. As the *MS Jupiter* continued to blaze, the *REACT* Team set up and manned communications for the Red Cross. The Team patrolled boundary areas to keep people back to a safe distance; the Team also manned an evacuation center in case it might be needed. Team members made and served coffee to hundreds of emergency workers.

Later, the Team was presented with a \$250 donation from the owners of the tanker, Ashland Oil Company, and a \$250 donation from the owners of the refinery, Total Petroleum.

*(From the November-December, 1990, REACTer)*



One of the worst disasters in American history took place on September 11, 2001, with the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon. Nine *REACT* Teams from the New York-New Jersey area, as well as Teams from Missouri, North Carolina, and Ohio, worked for several weeks assisting the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross in the recovery effort in New York.

*(Photo by Richard Olsen)*

About this article: Most of the historical information is taken from previous articles in *The REACTer* celebrating past milestones. Thanks to the following for their help in finding and developing material: Dora Wilbanks, Bob Leef, Dale Ellis, Bob Kaster, Chuck Thompson, and Paul Oby.

# ***Carrying the Torch for Special Olympics***

by Steven Lindquist  
Rio Grande Valley (N.M.) *REACT*



**A New Mexico State Trooper hands off to a DEA Agent**

The mission of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is to raise funds for and awareness of the Special Olympics movement in the State of New Mexico. Law enforcement officers from every corner and every agency of the state carry the Flame of Hope in honor of the Special Olympics athletes in the State of New Mexico.

Rio Grande Valley (N.M.) *REACT* assisted with the Torch Run in the city of Albuquerque this year. We were asked to coordinate both the communications and tracking of the event on a statewide level. This was a massive undertaking for such a young team as ours. We relied heavily on our experience from major events in Southern California. We also requested assistance from the local Amateur radio community and we are extremely happy with the response we received. Without their assistance, this event would not have been possible.

Planning the event occurred over a period of approximately four months, with much learning and restructuring on our behalf along the way. The actual event occurred between May 28 and May 31, 2002. Some portions of this event started as early as 6 a.m. and would continue until 5 p.m. Five different areas of the state were active in the event simultaneously. We were only able to assist with four, due to the limitations of radio coverage in regards to terrain.

The final portion of the event involved runners from all points of the state coming to Albuquerque. They came from four corners of the city into downtown, converging at the Civic Center downtown, where both the Mayor and the State Attorney General made presentations. The runners then proceeded from the Civic Center to the stadium at the University of New Mexico where the participants were organized into various groups. These groups then proceeded into the stadium, with police escort, one by one. When the last group went into the stadium, they were accompanied by the New Mexico Special Olympics Athlete of the Year. Once he arrived in the stadium, he lit the Special Olympics torch, officially indicating the start of this year's games.

There are many people we need to thank. Without these individuals/organizations, this would not have been possible.

Albuquerque Police Department and New Mexico Special Olympics, for believing that we had the ability to make this successful.

Amateur Radio Caravan Club, for allowing us to have exclusive use of a repeater on the final day.

Paul Choc (WA5IHL), for allowing us access to the MegaLink repeater system, the only way we would be able to get the coverage required for an event of this magnitude.

And last but not least, the Amateur operators who donated not only their time, but also their

vehicles at their own expense: KD5NTE Suzanne Mcvinnie (North), KC5JDD David McVinnie (North), AD5CS Richard Powell (South), KB7UJU Jacob Weber (West), KC5VWT Burt Tate (East), and K5TEE Tom Ellis (for coordinating APRS for us)

We can not thank the above individuals and

organizations enough. Without their contributions, there would have been absolutely no way this would have been as successful as it was. We sincerely hope that we will be able to count on their assistance in years to come so we can continue providing this extremely important public service.

## 100 %-ers

*The following Teams have registered 100 percent of their members for 2002, since the last listing in The REACTer:*

- 4757 - Thousand Island, Ont
  - 6003 - Tri-County, St. Louis, Mo.
  - 4656 - Charles Co., LaPlata, Md.
  - 4714 - Whiteside Co., Sterling, Ill.
  - C729 - Simi Valley, Calif.
  - 2609 - Bay Area Emgy. *REACT*, San Jose, Calif.
  - C692 - Cas Co., Logansport, Ind.
  - C204 - Wayne Co., Waynesboro, Miss.
  - 4365 - Tri-City, Janesville, Wis.
  - C125 - Continela South Bay, Hawthorne, Calif.
  - 2797 - McGuire Alert Team, Browns Mills, N.J.
  - 2750 - Dodge Co., Fremont, Neb.
  - 4748 - Cedar-Loo, Waterloo, Iowa
- Additional listings will appear in the September-October REACTer.*

## Silent Mics

**Roger Jolly**, Louisville Metro (Ky.) *REACT*. Roger was an active member for over a quarter century. He will be missed by everyone on the Team and by the Louisville Chapter of the American Red Cross, where he was a Disaster Services volunteer.

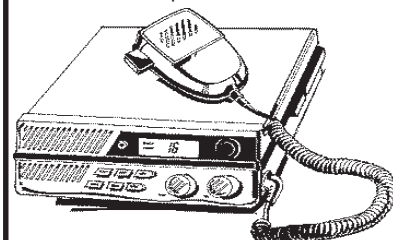
**Dave Glass**, West Suburbs *REACT*  
**Nelson S. Garling**, Cascade *REACT*

Shortly before this issue of *The REACTer* went to press, we learned that George Holmes, former Region 3 Director, and his wife were seriously injured in an auto accident. Both were expected to recover. Their Team, Onslow Co. *REACT*, has established a fund to help cover medical expenses.

*G. M. R. S. !*

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## Calendar

- July 15-18** *REACT* International Convention (Des Moines, Iowa)
- August 5** Deadline for submissions for September-October *REACTer*
- October 1** Team Registration/Renewal for 2003 begins
- 7** Deadline for submissions for November-December *REACTer*
- December 2** Deadline for submissions for January-February *REACTer*
- January 1** Deadline for proposed changes to RI Bylaws (to be submitted to Bylaws Committee)
- February 1** Deadline for committee reports to Board of Directors
- 3** Deadline for submissions for March-April *REACTer*
- 15** Deadline for nominations for Regional Director (Regions 2, 4, and 7)
- 22** (Date tentative) Annual Meeting of Board of Directors, *REACT* International



# Unsquelched

by Stuart M. DeLuca, Editor

## Who's Counting on You?

Chuck Thompson makes an interesting point in his column on Page 3 of this issue. With the evolution of *REACT* Teams from a total commitment to monitoring CB channel 9, to greater emphasis on community service and disaster relief as the primary mission, there is also a change in the very nature of a *REACT* Team.

As Chuck correctly says, monitoring is an inherently solitary activity: anyone can do it, anytime, all by themselves. But providing communications and related services for community events, or helping with disaster recovery, requires teamwork. Not everyone is prepared, by temperament and attitude, to be a member of a team.

Looking over the roster of my Team, I see about two dozen names. Some have been members for more than two decades; others have been members for less than a year. In fairness to the newest members, I'll assume that they knew what they were getting into when they joined the Team, and that they fully intend to be active members.

Of the twenty or more "experienced" members (those who have been with us two years or more), I see six names of people who can be counted on to help with nearly every community event, who attend most if not all Team meetings, who willingly accept some of the responsibility

for the Team's operations.

I also see half a dozen names of people I would barely recognize if I ran into them on the street. They pay their dues – and that's all. In a few cases, I know they have other commitments that keep them from Team meetings and make it difficult to join in events. I suppose, as long as they do pay their dues, they're making a contribution.

It's the other eight or ten that really concern me. Sometimes they're there, sometimes they're not. Sometimes they volunteer for an event – and then don't show up. Sometimes they *don't* sign up for an event but they show up anyway!

I've always maintained that, "Nobody can do everything but everybody can do something." I don't expect anyone to work every event and attend every meeting. But the very essence of being a member of a Team is being *dependable*, being there when you say you will be, doing what you say you'll do.

I've never really understood the attitude I've heard people express: "I'm a volunteer, I don't *have* to do it!" True, no one can force you to do anything – but if you've agreed to do something and people are counting on you, what does it say about *you* when you don't show up?

Simple idea, isn't it? *Team* means people can count on you.

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