



The REACTer

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November-December, 2003

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(including those who celebrate
Thanksgiving on another day)

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From the President

by Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson

Directors Wanted -- Apply Within!

REACTION International has been very fortunate in recent years to have had a fine group of Directors to guide REACT's destiny. Each year, terms of three of the nine elected positions expire, and the incumbent Directors may decide to stand for reelection, or not.

Because of the financial condition of REACT International, our Directors (and officers as well) have since 1998 borne most, if not all, of the expenses of their offices (including travel expenses to two Board meetings each year). This past year we were able to offer a partial reimbursement to those who requested it, but service on REACT's Board remains substantially a contribution of both time and funds. As a result, and perhaps because of other factors, since 1999, we've had no contested elections – indeed, in several cases there were no candidates and the Board has had to appoint a Region's Director. Fortunately, we've always been able to find a "volunteer."

Should we continue the practice of electing Directors? Is it likely that because of the time and expense involved, we're always going to be lucky to have even one candidate? Should we simply do away with the elective process, and just have the Board select Directors as vacancies occur?

Clearly, we've done well with uncontested elections and a few appointed Directors. And, having the election process may serve a very useful purpose – that is, if the Teams in a Region do become dissatisfied with their Director, they can nominate someone else every three years.

I don't know the answer. I'd like to have input from those who have opinions on the subject. Individually, or Teams or councils, write to me at the Suitland office, or send e-mail to: cthompson@reactintl.org.

We announce with regret that Executive Vice President Bob Leef has resigned, and the position is vacant. He didn't give any reasons, but I know he was impatient with the slow, sometimes glacially slow, process of decision making and implementation at REACT International. Bob had many good ideas, and we'll miss his leadership.

One of the changes made to the Bylaws this past summer was to change the wording of Section 9.9 from "An annual Certified Audit" to "An annual audit" – leaving undisturbed the requirement that the audit is to be prepared by a certified public accountant. One Team has filed an official objection, as provided in the Bylaws, and others might also do so. It needs to be clarified that no actual change in procedure is intended – an annual audit by a CPA is still required. It's just that no one is sure what a "Certified Audit" consists of, and removing that wording simply confirms that the formal CPA audit that we've had for many years complies with the Bylaws.

We're in the midst of our annual Team registration. In 2003, we had our first net loss of individual members in four years, dropping about 300. This is a matter of considerable concern, since dues constitute the majority of REACT International's annual revenue, and since any volunteer organization requires a constant inflow of new members. Every Member, every Team, and every council should emphasize recruitment and retention of members. We must, if we're to survive.

It's Time To Renew!
Has Your Team Received Its Renewal Package Yet? If Not, Contact RI Headquarters Immediately!



From the Chairman of the Board

by Dick Cooper

I would like to thank those of you that called and sent e-mail with congratulations on my election as Chairman of the Board of *REACT* International.

We are in the beginning of the holiday season. These are the times when families re-unite in the spirit of the season. I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season in celebration of your respective holidays.

REACT Teams need to furnish the Team information requested by RI in a timely manner. Among the various bits of Team information requested upon renewal, please pay special attention to the e-mail address and website address. Not everyone has e-mail, but if you do, it is vital for RI to have your address on file. If your Team or Council has a website, please notify RI so that information also can be put on file. Please notify RI when either address changes. Contact the Computer Committee if you have any questions about e-mail or websites.

We are in the 21st Century where more and more information is relayed via e-mail and the Internet. The Board does not intend to eliminate the USPS mail service as a method to distribute information, but in many instances e-mail can be used by members, Teams, RI office, Board and officers as a faster, more efficient method to communicate with each other. There is a potential financial benefit to RI also, and

all members should be concerned about that.

Teams also must realize the importance of the request for monitoring and event hours. This information goes into the RI database and is used to show other emergency organizations how we perform our communications functions. When this information is available at the time of the event (disaster, emergency, etc.) it can be used in public relations for *REACT* International. The information on an annual basis can be used to seek grants and other assistance from various organizations. Our members, officers and directors can tell grant-making agencies that *REACT* does a lot of monitoring and communications work in their local communities during emergencies and other times of need, but we must have the facts and figures to support those claims.

In my article as RI Chairman of the Board in the September-October issue of *the REACTer*, I stated "If I am re-elected to this position or any other officer position, I will need to relinquish my position as Region 2 Director...". I was in error when I made that statement. In order to continue as RI Chairman of the Board, I would have to remain as the Region 2 Director. However, if I am elected to any officer position, the Region Director would not be a requirement; as a matter of fact it is preferred that a RI officer not be a Region

Director at the same time.

I would like to repeat that the Region 2 Director position is up for re-election in 2004 and any qualified *REACT* member from Delaware, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland or New Jersey is encouraged to run for the director position. To get director nomination forms, look for the "E-Pubs (Downloads)" link on the RI website at www.reactintl.org or call the RI office.

Happy Holidays!



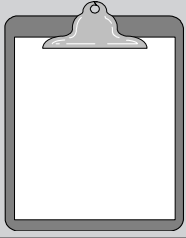
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Report from Headquarters

by Norman Kaplan,
Treasurer, *REACT* International

As Dear Abby would say, twenty lashes with a wet noodle.

First, my apologies to the two Teams in Nevada. I know that you are there and monitor in excess of 18,000 hours with agreements with police and fire, among others. I was looking at a map and both Nevada and Utah names were printed adjacent to each other. I saw Utah and typed Nevada. Problems with reading American style left to right.

Second, I know that the first FRS frequency is 462.625. My mind slipped to the lowest GMRS frequency. I want to thank those who actually read the column and called me on my errors.

As I write this, the renewal packages have not yet gone out. As you read this, I hope that your Team has received their renewal packet. Last year, *REACT* International, Inc., received five renewals in October, fifteen renewals in November, twenty-five renewals in December, thirty renewals in the first two weeks of January and *eighty* renewals in the last two weeks of January.

Dora and I are the two people who check in the renewals and make sure that all of the proper addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses get updated for each member. I know that this is the holiday season, but *please* try to get your Team renewal in earlier and not wait until the last minute. Spreading the re-

newals out over the full three months makes our job easier and helps get your renewal package back to the Teams quicker.

As part of the package of new member ID cards, *REACT* International will be sending out a monitoring report form. Please fill out the form. RI uses the information in trying to get grants. We also compile the information and report back to the membership. Last year, we received just thirty-seven Team reports. The few we did receive showed that you, our membership, worked and monitored more than 250,000 hours. This is a savings of more than \$1,000,000 to local agencies spread over the country.

Teams worked with local, county and state police, fire, emer-

gency medical services (EMS), Red Cross chapters and Salvation Army chapters as well as with local school districts, various walk-a-thons and fund raisers.

I realize no one likes doing paperwork. But, if you have done your logs and accumulated them each month, filling in the monitoring report should be relatively easy. I know of at least two cases in which proper logs were used in defending police and EMS in trials on their response to accidents and their aid to stranded motorists. Monitoring logs are useful at the local level. They can be used to show your work to local police, fire, emergency management agencies and government executives.

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A Message from Mt. Sinai Hospital

We have received the following letter from Diane Stein, Outreach Director of the World Trade Center Worker and Volunteer Medical Screening Program of Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York:

Dear Friend:

As we approach the second anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our country, we are again reminded not just of the horror, but also of the spirit that prevailed in the days, weeks and months after that awful day. Thousands of people came to New York City to help us recover from the destruction of the World Trade Center.

Sadly, many of those who gave of themselves so bravely are now suffering from both health and emotional problems as a result of their work. And, many of those that are not currently suffering are harboring anxiety over what may happen in years to come.

The World Trade Center Worker and Volunteer Medical Screening Program is a federally-funded program that provides free, confidential medical screening examinations to those that conducted rescue, recovery or clean-up work, or worked to restore essential services at the site. Many of the volunteers working through your organization will qualify for this program.

I have enclosed a flyer for your information, and there is further information on our website, www.wtcexams.org.

Please note that these examinations are being conducted at many locations across the coun-

try. I have enclosed a list of those locations.

Anyone who is interested in getting more information or registering for an examination should call 1-888-702-0630.

*

Editor's Note:

Space does not permit publishing the complete list of locations where these exams can be obtained. However, the list includes the following cities:

Little Rock, Ark.
Irvine and San Francisco, Calif.
Denver, Colo.
New Haven, Conn.
Tampa, Fla.
Atlanta, Ga.
Chicago, Ill.
Kansas City, Kan.
Lexington, Ky.
Baltimore, Md.
Waltham, Mass.
East Lansing, Mich.
St. Paul, Minn.
Piscataway, N. J.
Albuquerque, N.Mex.
Albany, Buffalo, Long Island, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers, N.Y.
Durham, N.C.
Cincinnati and Lorain/Elyria, Ohio
Philadelphia, Pa.
Providence, R.I.
Tyler, Tex.
Salt Lake City, Utah
Roanoke, Va.
Seattle, Wash.
Washington, D.C.
Huntington and Morgantown, W. Va.

Any REACT member who was involved in the aftermath of the WTC disaster is urged to contact the Mt. Sinai program and, if

qualified, to participate in the screening.

As far as we know at this time, there is no similar program for volunteers who were involved in the Pentagon disaster scene.

New Membership Brochure available now from REACT International!



Not Just
Another
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**This new full-color,
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the REACT story - who
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BLACKOUT!

BY ERIC GROSS, STAFF REPORTER
PUTNAM COUNTY COURIER

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Where were you when the lights went out?

Richard Marks of Mahopac was stranded in an elevator on the fourth floor of an office building in Manhattan's garment district.

Antonia Geena of Paterson had just concluded a rigorous afternoon exercise and was in the supermarket when electricity was lost.

Kim Tkacz of Carmel was behind her desk when everything went black. "I really thought terrorists had hit us again," said the young woman. "It was scary and I was frightened. I got through to my father on the phone and he explained what was happening," said Ms. Tkacz.

Mr. Marks was stranded in the elevator for an hour until a co-worker managed to slide a metal pole through the elevator door which allowed the Putnam man to break an elevator seal so that the door would open.

Ms. Geena placed her credit card in the computer at the market. "Just as I was about to push the button, the store turned dark. I didn't panic but I wanted to get home with my groceries. On the way to my residence, I noticed heavier than normal traffic and when I got home, my ga-

rage door wouldn't open. It then hit me: NO POWER!"

Shortly after the enormity of the blackout became apparent, Putnam County government opened its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the basement of the Putnam Office Building.

From 6 p.m. Thursday until the following afternoon, two dozen volunteers manned the EOC fielding calls from concerned residents and assisting with a variety of services provided by representatives from the New York State Electric and Gas Company, Health Department, Red Cross, Office for the Aging, Department of Social Services, Sheriff's Dept., State Police, Kent Police, Bureau of Emergency Services, Youth Bureau, Highways and Facilities Dept. and the amateur radio organization, Dutchess-Putnam Co. REACT.

County Executive Robert Bondi marveled at the



Asst. Chief Wayne Rudolph and Secretary Barbara Deitz, both of Dutchess-Putnam Co. REACT, manned two-way radios at the EOC to broadcast emergency messages to fellow REACT members in the field. (Photo by Eric Gross.)

volunteerism. "Putnam County is truly an exceptional place. Whenever the chips are down, our volunteers come to the forefront to assist residents in a variety of ways," he said. Putnam Commissioner of Emergency Services Robert McMahon ordered that each of the county's 13 fire departments and four independent ambulance corps be manned throughout the crisis.

During the hours of the blackout, the Putnam 911 Dispatch Center answered 129 emergency calls that included 26 ambulance requests, 30 fire calls along with numerous police emergencies.



Oklahoma County REACT president Paul Wood is on the radio with the MediFlight helicopter as it lands.

Incoming!

Medevac Helicopter Landing Zone Training

Story & Photos by Dale Ellis
Oklahoma Co. (Okla.) REACT

Medical evacuation (medevac) helicopters can save lives – but first they have to get to the patient. Usually that means they need guidance and assistance on the ground. Some Teams are learning how to assist in landing zone preparation.

“MediFlight 1, you are cleared for landing in the marked LZ.”

With those words to Pilot Johnny Burns from Oklahoma County REACT President Paul Wood, Landing Zone training hosted by Oklahoma County REACT started. This was the first

training class held since the new medical response helicopter had just been placed in service the previous Monday.

Oklahoma County REACT opened the training session to all the area agencies. Several agencies turned out to view the new helicopter. In addition, the Oklahoma City Police helicopter made a surprise appearance at the session. MediFlight Pilot Johnny Burns, Nurse/Paramedic Diane Gardner, and Paramedic Kevin Earnest conducted the training session and provided tours and capabilities demonstrations.

Class members were taught what to look for in setting up a Landing Zone (LZ), how to



Sgt Brent Shetley, Oklahoma City Police helicopter pilot (in hat) explains parts of the police helicopter to Oklahoma Co. REACT president Paul Wood (white shirt).

communicate with the approaching helicopter, and even when to call for helicopter medical response. Discussion was held on types of radio communications and non-verbal communications.

MediFlight now has REACT frequencies programmed into their radio system and several of our members have the MediFlight frequencies programmed into their radios. The training was an outstanding example of free training available in the local area. All members present enjoyed the training and are now better prepared to serve the community.

OCR member Scott Meyer looks at the layout of the new MediFlight helicopter while MediFlight Paramedic Kevin Earnest looks on. The only two medical response helicopters configured on this airframe are here in Oklahoma City.





When Hurricane Isabel roared ashore in North Carolina on Sept. 18, after wandering about in the Atlantic for more than a week, Johnston Co. (N.C.) REACT was ready and waiting.

The storm had declined from Category 5 to a still-healthy Category 2 when it swept over the Outer Banks along the Carolina Coast, then swung north. Johnston County, about a hundred miles inland, was spared the brunt of the storm, but still received frog-strangling rains and winds of fifty miles an hour and more.

More importantly, Johnston County prepared to receive refugees from the storm-lashed coast.

Johnston Co. REACT also is the American Disaster Reserve (ADR) III Division, and operates a mobile communications and com-

mand post for both organizations. Team president Dave Tuttle brought the trailer to Smithfield-Selma High School in Smithfield, where the Harnett-Johnston Chapter of the American Red Cross set up the first of two emergency shelters.

The trailer was in place by one o'clock on the afternoon of Sept. 18 as the hurricane, already over land, passed by to the east.

Tuttle operated the command post's multiple radio systems for eleven straight hours that day. Meanwhile, other JCR members assisted at the shelters. The Team provided radio equipment to the shelter management, enabling them to con-

Photo courtesy NHC/NOAA.

tact the trailer to request supplies and to give and get information. The JCR trailer served as the central communication facility among the shelters, the county EOC, and other agencies. Despite several localized power outages, the comm trailer was able to operate continuously as long as it was needed – and was ready for use the next day if needed.



Mud Slingin' in California

No, we're not talkin' politics here --
just good, clean fun --
with help from **REACT**

**Story & Photos
by Ed Greany**



Mud splashes as a tractor hits one of the two mud pits on each lap.

The CREST *REACT* Team in Southern California assisted with the 27th Annual Great Tractor Race in Temecula October 3-5. Tractors of all sorts compete on a dirt track with two mud pits just to liven up the fun. Yes, they must traverse through the mud pits on each lap of a two-lap race. "Tractors" are defined as any vehicle that is designed to work on a farm or ranch and should be equipped to tow a farm implement. Many are remakes of old cars that were popular back in the 30s.

CREST provides track safety spotters for the starter, and assists with gate control for proper access to the pit and areas by drivers, volunteers, VIPs, and patrons. Members also assist with other duties such as enforcing no-smoking in the hay-bale bleachers, making grocery runs for hamburger supplies, assembling and collecting trash boxes, operating the race timing clock, and generally coordinating activi-

ties throughout the three-day event. A CREST member also operates a tractor that tows tractors out of the mud and back to the pit area when they get stuck or can't run under their own power.

The action includes a large tent for a beer concession, a climbing rock, trampoline slide, pony rides, and vendors displaying their goods. Antique tractors are on display as are riding lawnmower tractors.

CREST started assisting the Tractor Race in 1980. In 1977, two guys found two old Model A Ford and Dodge Touring cars rusting in a field where they had been for a long time. One bet the other he could get his running and would win a race from his town to the next town before his friend. That started the whole thing and it has brought lots of fun and money to the community of Temecula, CA.

This year, the event was improved with a trac-

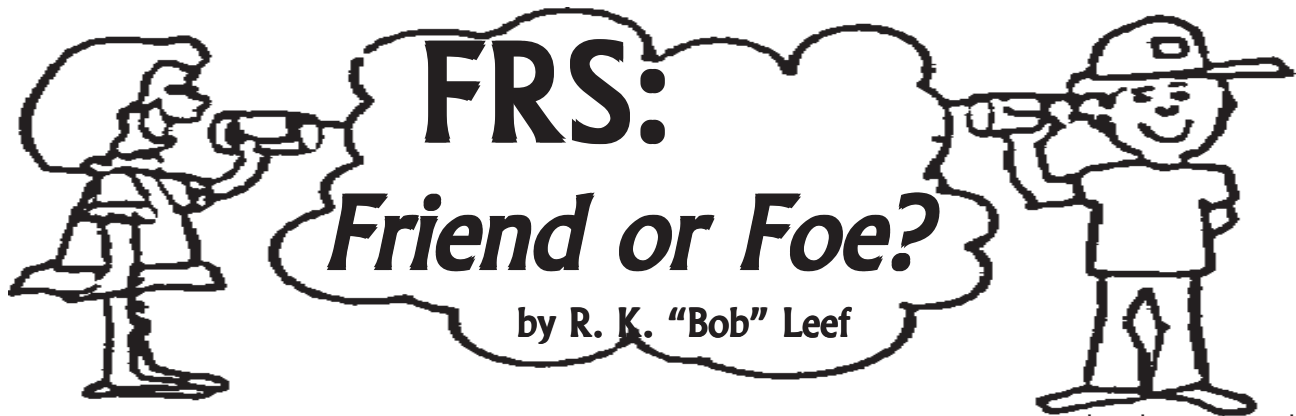
tor pull for small garden tractors and a tug-of-war contest at the first mud pit between the drivers and the volunteers. The drivers won but the volunteers won a rematch, so it ended in an even draw, one to one.

15-year old Melanie Perez, the daughter of CREST members Monika and Jeff Staub, was sponsored by CREST in the Teen Mud Queen contest. She won and, as the winner, was tossed into the 12" deep mud pit in all her beautiful new outfit. She knew that was coming when she entered the competition. Just think what the losers receive.

The Great Tractor Race is a non-profit event and proceeds go toward a child-care facility.

CREST member Dean Chambers, on tractor at rear, is ready to help pull "racers" out of the mud.





When the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decided to allow manufacturers to make and sell two-way radios with limited range on the “interstitial” frequencies of the existing General Mobile Radio Service, cries of impending doom were heard from existing GMRS users – many of whom were members of *REACT* Teams. The concern was that the FRS “shared service” would produce unacceptable levels of interference with the licensed GMRS operators.

So far, at least, the Family Radio Service (FRS) has not been the demon that many feared. An estimated thirteen million FRS handholds have been sold each year, but to our knowledge they have not made GMRS unusable.

Maybe we need to rethink our approach to FRS. After all, FRS is really nothing but an updated, more technically sophisticated form of Citizens’ Band radio – which is where *REACT* began more than forty years ago.

My Team, Saddleback *REACT* in southern California, has begun to explore ways to make FRS work to our advantage.

For several years, we have sent a letter to everyone in our ZIP Code areas who obtained a GMRS or Amateur license in the last month, inviting them to our

Team meeting. Since FRS is an unlicensed service, we can’t do the same thing. But we can find other ways to reach them.

Our idea is to reach the potential member who already has a radio. Some of them are likely to be people who are interested in serving the community – exactly the *REACT* type we need.

Last May, Team members took advantage of an unusual opportunity when a local electronics store offered FRS radios with a \$25 rebate off the price – which was \$25. In short, we got the radios for nothing more than the sales tax; we wound up with fifty radios. At two recent community events, we had a table with information about *REACT* and a drawing for a free pair of FRS radios. We could easily continue such giveaways for a year or more.

Meanwhile, we’re exploring other ways to use FRS in our community. We’ve launched a project called “Facilitating Radio-Equipped Schools” (F.R.S.). The object is to establish a “pool” of FRS radios that can be dispatched quickly to any school where there is an emergency.

Many schools have one or two handheld two-way radios for use by the campus administrators and security staff, but they’re usually in VHF or UHF bands that are not accessible to the public.

Whenever there is an

emergency, school personnel need a way to communicate quickly and effectively with parents and the public in their immediate vicinity. FRS radios, *because* of their limited range, are ideal for this purpose. They can be used to let parents know when and where to pick up their children, helping to reduce congestion and confusion in the parking lot and surrounding streets. And, of course, they can be used to provide accurate information to the public as quickly as possible.

The pool or cache of FRS radios also can be distributed to the numerous agencies that would appear for an emergency such as police, fire, streets, Red Cross, ambulance, etc. As we know, the subject of interoperability is very important, and may not be adequately provided for by those agencies themselves.

Making the FRS radios available to the schools is only part of the project; we also will publicize the concept and encourage people to keep an FRS radio handy, perhaps in their car, and to expect to get information and instructions on one of the FRS channels (probably Channel 1).

The point is to stop treating FRS as the enemy, and find creative ways to make it part of our service arsenal – and a way to attract many potential new members to *REACT*.

The REACTer

When Your Number Is Your Own

by Charles D. Land

A change is planned for November, 2003, in cellular phone service to allow customers to change cellular providers but to keep their old cellular telephone number. At first glance it doesn't seem like much of a change, but it will have long-lasting impacts on cell phone users.

About five years ago, number portability was introduced for wireline telephones. This change allowed customers to change telephone service providers without changing telephone numbers.

Number portability sounds like a simple concept (since you can say it in two words), but it involves a huge change in the technology behind how phone calls (and soon cellular calls) are completed.

Previously, a phone number was itself the routing instruction that switches used to figure out where to route a call. The first six digits of a ten-digit number (area code plus the seven-digit number), which the phone industry calls the NPA/NXX, were unique to each switch (one of the codes for downtown Austin was 512-476, for example).

Now, numbers can be "ported" to other switches, so every time a call is made, the telephone switch where the call originates must query a national database to find the Local Routing Number (LRN), another ten-digit number, that tells the switch serving the originating phone line which switch the dialed number is located in.

November-December, 2003



Processes are in place in the phone business for number re-routing to be a five-day process, but it can happen within about five minutes from the time that the new provider hits the "go" button on the fifth day when the transition to the new provider is completed.

Number portability for cell phones may well happen this November. Customers will be able to change cellular providers and keep the cellular number that they had on the old cell phone. The cellular companies have procrastinated about three years from the date originally ordered by the FCC, claiming that there would be a lot more customers switching providers (Now, which rocket scientist figured that out?). Congratulate our FCC for holding their feet to the fire!!

There already has been a noticeable increase in marketing activity and maybe some new plans and price reductions as the cellular carriers elbow each other to see who can pick up more new customers than they lose. Some providers (Verizon, for example) are also announcing that they will let customers "port" a home

phone number to a cell phone. I suspect we will see more innovative ideas roll out.

And although wireline companies worked the bugs out of number porting several years ago, there could be some hiccups in service as the cellulars get their systems adapted to work with the portability database. The number portability system works great, but is susceptible to human error, and since its participants are a bunch of companies who are in a life-and-death struggle for each other's customers, they do bizarre things to each other.

The most common dirty trick is that the losing carrier disconnects the customer at 10:00 pm even if they know the move of service to the new provider did not happen as scheduled; this effectively leaves the customer without phone service. However, the fact that cellular is simpler to set up may minimize these problems.

Most people are unaware that their cell phones transmit an electronic serial number (ESN) every time they make a call. The purpose is to prevent unauthorized users (that is, non-customers) from accessing the cellular service. ESNs already involve number portability — information that is validated with a database to verify that the user is authorized. When you change cell phones and keep the old number (and old provider up to now) it is the ESN that must trickle down from the cellular provider's central database to the various cellular switches so that they recognize your new phone as authorized.

REACTivities Team, Council, & Region News

Oklahoma University (Okla.) REACT

For the past several years, members of Oklahoma University REACT have supported the Oklahoma City Police Dept. during the Oklahoma State Fair, usually without incident.

But on Tuesday night, Sept. 23, that changed for REACT member Jim Grant as he patrolled the parking lots. Jim noticed four cars that had been broken into. As he continued on his rounds, he observed an individual who appeared to be intoxicated and was trying to break into a car.

Jim called for police assistance, and officers at the fairgrounds responded immediately. They questioned the individual and checked his vehicle, where they found property that had been taken from the four other cars. The suspect was taken into custody and those whose cars were broken into got their property back.

-Dale Ellis

Florida Council

The Florida Council of REACT Teams recently conducted a meeting online, using the Council website's chat room. Representatives of the Florida Teams and the Board were able to participate from the comfort of their own

Lake Simcoe (Ont.) REACT

Lake Simcoe volunteers were startled. The statistics they tallied up after the annual Ontario Ministry of Transportation "Seat Belt Challenge" were disappointing – and how!

REACTers checked seat belt usage at three main Keswick intersections as part of the Ministry's safety campaign. One-quarter of drivers wore no seat belts. This is a two percent drop from last year.

"We were looking for a marked improvement," president Ron McCracken commented, "so to actually lose ground this year really hurt."

"Of the drivers observed, 75.9 percent were buckled up," REACTer Art Heath (a retired Toronto police officer) noted.

According to Transport Canada, one-third of drivers killed in accidents were *not* wearing seat belts.

The Seat Belt Challenge will be back next year, and we hope to see a lot better results.

homes. The online session even included some "guests" from out of the state.

The meeting was so successful that the Council has decided to use the medium for all coordination and midyear Board meetings. Only the main biennial meeting will be held at a physical location.

-Bob Pickering

Tri-County (N.C.) REACT

Tri-County REACT held a coffee Safety Break over the Labor Day weekend. The Safety Break was held at a rest stop on I-26 about fifteen miles from Asheville, N.C.

We started on Friday, Aug. 31, at 6 pm and ended Monday afternoon at 4 pm. Besides free coffee, we gave information from different community organizations about the services they offer.

We met a lot of people from different states. Some signed our guest book, but others didn't care to sign. We also met a family from another county; they were interested in REACT and we encouraged them to start a Team in their community.

We hope to do another Safety Break at the same location in the future.

Henry County (Ohio) REACT

We held our Safety Break again this year along heavily travelled US24 in northwest Ohio. With the Ohio Turnpike rates so high, we are getting much more truck and car traffic through our area. We are assisting the Dept. of Transportation by keeping a count of the number of vehicles that pass through this weekend. We will use the data to apply for a grant, too.

Silent Mics

Dr. Jerome Bricker, N3IOU, a valued member of Prince Georges County (Md.) *REACT*, passed away Aug. 27 at Southern Maryland Hospital.

Jerry Bricker, PhD, was a retired USAF Colonel and a longtime active member of *REACT*. He was past president of the Maryland Council and held several other offices. He was also active in other disaster response organizations, and worked with the National Weather Service to develop and promote the Skywarn program. In fact, he designed the Skywarn patch, sold by the Maryland *REACT* Council and proudly worn on the uniforms of *REACT* members across the country.

Allan Jackson, former member and President of Unity *REACT* in Illinois, passed away Sept. 6. He was a handicapped veteran who spent most of his time at home, monitoring CB.

Calendar

- November 11** Veterans' Day (U.S.);
Remembrance Day (Canada)
- November 27** Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)
- December 5** Deadline for submissions for
January-February, 2004, *REACTer*
- December 12** Guadalupe Day (Mexico)
- December 25** Christmas
- December 26** Boxing Day (Canada, U.K.)
- January 1** New Year's Day
- February 5** Constitution Day (Mexico)
- February 6** Deadline for submissions for
March-April *REACTer*
- February 21-22** Annual Meeting, *REACT* Board
of Directors, Suitland, Md.
- March 13** Commonwealth Day (Canada)
- April 2** Deadline for submissions for
May-June *REACTer*

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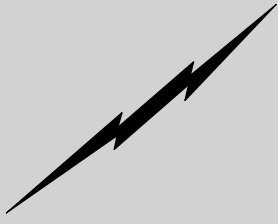


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Unsquelched

by Stuart M. DeLuca,
Editor

10-9?

How To Get Yours Free

In our never-ending quest to drive everyone crazy, the Publications Review Committee had adopted a new policy for complimentary copies of *the REACTer*.

Nobody asked us to do this. We just decided that there ought to be a policy. Not because we had a huge problem with complimentary copies – in the past year or so, we’ve only sent free copies to four or five people. But, well, *just because*.

So, here’s the policy in a nutshell:

If you want to have *the REACTer* sent free to someone, you must send a letter to the President of *REACT* International, stating who should get the complimentary copy, why, and for how long. If the President approves, the information will be entered into the database from which the mailing list for each issue is compiled, and the person you designate will get the free copies (beginning with the next issue).

That’s it. Okay, there’s not much to it, but it’s a *policy*!

A couple of other requirements:

In order to request free copies for anyone, you must be a Team or Council officer, an officer in RI, or a Regional Director. If you’re not any of those, of course, you can ask someone who *is* one of those to submit the request on

your behalf.

Some people will get free copies automatically. Each Regional Director and RI Officer gets five extra copies to use as he or she wishes. Advertisers get one free copy of each issue in which their ad appears.

People who contact RI’s office inquiring about membership or forming a new Team will receive one copy of the next issue. After that, we hope they’ll join and get their member copies.

Why should anyone get a free copy, anyway? After all, you and all other members pay for your copies through your dues.

But maybe your Team works closely with a local or state emergency management official, and you want him or her to know about all the great things that are going on in *REACT*. Or maybe your Team is mounting a major membership drive and you’d like a copy of *the REACTer* sent to the officers of the local ham clubs.

We can do that. Just ask.

There is a limit to the number of free copies we can send. Not only are there costs involved for printing and mailing, but our nonprofit periodicals mailing permit requires that at least ninety percent of all copies go to members, subscribers, or people who have requested copies. So we may not be able to honor every

A few errors somehow crept into the September-October issue of *The REACTer*.

On page 3, in Dick Cooper’s column, he states that he will have to resign from the office of Regional Director now that he is Chairman of the Board of Directors. In fact, in order to be Chairman he *must* be a Regional Director.

On page 4, the Report from Headquarters mentions Midland Radio’s “Midland-1 Listens” program, but contains a mistaken statement about using “GMRS Channel 1, 462.550.” In fact, Midland proposes that *REACT* members monitor 462.5625, which is Channel 1 for FRS and is also the lowest interstitial channel for GMRS.

On page 6, the caption at the bottom of the page has a line missing; the name of the Malaybalay Police Chief is Fidel Bolanio, Jr.

On page 12, the two representatives of the Homeland Security Agency were Ron Castleman, Chief Operating Officer of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate (FEMA), and Liz DiGregorio, Citizen Corps Liaison to the White House. We apologize for not getting their names earlier.

request. But if you know of someone who ought to get a free copy, just ask.

Just be sure you follow the policy.

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August, 2003

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