



# The **REACT** er

September-October, 2004



**Summer Board Meeting** Page 9

**Who Ya Gonna Call?**

Special Numbers for Travelers! Page 6

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# the REACTer

**Volume 38, No. 5 September-October, 2004**

2	From the President.....Dick Cooper
3	From the Executive Vice-President.....Ed Greany Meet Rob Clark, Region 8 Director.....Ed Greany
4	<b>Report from Headquarters.....Norm Kaplan</b> <b>\$\$\$Help\$\$\$Wanted\$\$\$.....Frank Jennings</b>
5	<b>Disaster at Sea.....Kurt Barnhart</b>
6	<b>Who Ya Gonna Call?.....Stuart DeLuca</b>
8	<b>California Teams Fighting Fires.....Wayne Barringer</b>
9	<b>Minutes of the Summer Board Meeting.....</b> .....Lee W. Besing & Charles A. Thompson
13	Silent Mics/10-9?
14	<b>REACTivities: Team &amp; Council News/New Teams</b>
16	Unsnatched.....Stuart M. DeLuca

**On the Cover:**

**REACT International Secretary Lee W. Besing with Bob (W2IK) and Brian (NB5R) help "H-E-Buddy," the HEB Grocery Stores mascot, at the ham special event station set up by REACT Teams and local hams for Texas Special Olympics in May.**

*(Photo: David Besing)*

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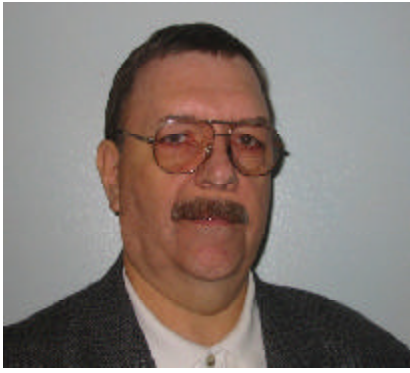
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# From the President

by Dick Cooper

The summer meeting of the REACT International Board of Directors is history. I want to thank Chuck Thompson for arranging the facilities and handling most of the shuttle service from the airport. Maybe we should get a magnetic sign for Chuck's car that reads "Texas Taxi"!! Thank you also to other members of Dallas County REACT for your hospitality.

Although every board meeting contains subjects concerning the future of REACT, this time there was a specific agenda item entitled The Future of REACT. Nearly every organization has committees such as public relations, membership, ways and means (financial) and others to perform the many tasks required by the organization and it has often been said that an organization is only as strong as its committees.

If you have gone to the REACT web site lately or if you remember some of the past articles in the REACTer from Ed Greany and others, you will recall that most of the committees do not have chairmen or any other members, therefore they are 100% inactive. For this reason, I felt that it was necessary to use a different approach for establishing committees. The board approved the plan in an attempt to fill at least the three most important committees that are currently vacant.

The plan is for three Re-

gional Directors to be responsible for the vacant committees. Bob Kaster (Region 7) was appointed to Public Relations, Paul Jackson (Region 4) to Membership Development and Retention, and Frank Jennings (Region 6) to Ways and Means. Each of these directors will be soliciting the assistance of several members that may have expertise in their various areas. If you are interested in helping, you can contact them by e-mail or call them.

I know that I and other REACT officers and directors sound like broken records here, but REACT International needs your support. Three of the nine RI director positions come up for election every year (on an alternating basis), and there are officer positions that do not require being a director first, and we always have great difficulty in finding qualified members willing to serve in these important positions. It has been said many times that REACT needs your participation to get stronger and better and it's true. Remember that this is your organization and it is only as strong as its members want it to be. If you want REACT to thrive and prosper then members like you must help with various parts of REACT International operations too. When you are part of a strong organization there are more benefits for the members.

The Board also reviewed the premium cost of the recently acquired personal liability insurance and determined that the annual Insurance Fee for members

should be increased to \$6.00 per person per year due to a premium increase in 2005. The board realizes that members never like to see an increase in the amount of annual dues and fees paid to RI, but we believe that all members realize the value and importance of our full coverage personal liability insurance, especially after being without this valuable coverage for nearly four months. Most Teams found out that they need this coverage for event, meeting, and equipment liability coverage, and where else can you get coverage for all of this and more for only \$6.00 per year?

Team renewal packages will be sent very soon. You will note that there is a new form, one that explains the new membership structure. The concept is very simple: One member pays Regular Dues; the second member at the same address pays Family Dues; and each additional member at the same address pays only \$5.00. Regardless of the dues paid, each person that registers must pay the Insurance Fee. The board hopes that this new structure will allow more junior members to register as REACT members thereby bringing more young blood into the Teams and grow REACT. This change was announced earlier but as of this renewal it will be put into action, and will apply to new members as well.

Please remember that the bylaws require that all REACT Teams register all of their members to get the full benefit from RE-

*The REACTer*

ACT membership. In the US, Canada, and Puerto Rico, members are covered by RI liability insurance only if they are registered members of RI. If an unregistered member is involved in a liability situation, he/she will be without insurance coverage, and the Team may become liable as well. In addition, only registered REACT members can legally wear REACT identification (patches, etc.) and identify themselves as REACT members. All Teams have a legal responsibility to register all of their members as stated in the RI bylaws. REACT is the same as any other organization in that if you don't pay the dues you aren't a member and can't identify yourself as such.

**If an unregistered member is involved in a liability situation, he/she will be without insurance coverage, and the Team may become liable as well.**

## From the Executive Vice-President

by Ed Greany

**N**ow that our liability insurance crisis is past, more work is still needed to improve our organization. We need some good middle-management positions filled. We have several committee chair positions available. These are important positions to keep our REACT wheels greased and engine running smooth. Please review the various committees on the REACT website by going to the home page, < [www.reactintl.org](http://www.reactintl.org) >, and click REACT Committees in the menu column on the left side of the page. If you do not wish to be a chairperson we would welcome your help on a committee as a member. These positions are not elected positions but rather volunteer positions. Why not give one a try? Call me.

Meanwhile, have you checked out the REACT International website lately? The front page has "What's New and

What's News," which includes lots of information to help you as a member or your Team. The answers to many questions are right there on the website. For those of you who do not have access to a computer, I will always attempt to answer your questions on the phone. Simply call me at (951) 279-9358. If I'm not in, leave your name and number and I'll return your call.

One brand new item on the Home Page of our website is a new document called, "Talking About Disaster: Guide for Standard Messages," produced by the National Disaster Education Coalition (NDEC). It is a must-have document for all members and may be downloaded from our website.

Have you brought a friend into the REACT family lately? Why not ask your neighbor, co-worker, or relative to join today?

---

### Meet Rob Clark, RI Director, Region 8

Eric Hutchins, Director of Region 8, recently moved from San Diego to Boise, Idaho. Since Idaho is not in the Region, he had to resign from the Regional Director position.

Rob Clark of Las Vegas was appointed by the RI Board of Directors to fill the vacancy. Rob

has been a member of REACT for about ten years; until recently, he lived in Southern California, where he was an active member of CREST REACT. He was the chairman of the Repeater Users Group (composed of REACT Teams in Southern and Central California, and portions of Arizona and Nevada), and recently managed the fireworks sales stand for the Team (gross sales over \$20,000 in five nights of sales!). Previously he was Communica-

tions Officer for CREST and managed several Team events.

According to Ed Greany, "Rob Clark was a mentor to many new members and Teams. One in particular was the late Frank Burt, President of the San Gabriel REACT Team who was recently involved in a terrible auto accident. Rob drove to El Monte, Calif., from Las Vegas to assist the Burt family and is assisting in liquidating some of Frank's radio equipment to other members."

## \$\$\$HELP\$\$\$WANTED\$\$\$

by Frank Jennings,  
Director, Region 6

**D**uring our Summer Board of Directors meeting in Dallas, I was asked to serve on the Corporate Finance Committee along with the Treasurer and Chairman of the Board. During the discussion of RI's financial status it was agreed by the members that a Board member should serve on each committee. Since I had volunteered for the Finance Committee, I felt that I should serve as a member of the Ways and Means committee as well.

The Ways and Means committee has been dormant for the past several years. We need a chairperson and several members with experience in raising funds to help provide the resources REACT needs to survive and grow. These members would elect a chairperson to serve with me. Our duties would be to identify ways and means that Teams and the Corporation raise funds.

Anyone interested and with fund-raising experience is asked to e-mail me at <fjennings11@comcast.net> or call me at 360-779-4125. I have been asked to make a progress report to the President and the Board by September 8, 2004. Please let me know of your interest as soon as possible so that I may make a timely report.

---

A new Membership Committee is being formed. This Committee is for Membership Retention and Recruitment. One position has been filled and four more volunteers are needed. Any member who wants to volunteer can contact Paul Jackson at 614-891-2357.

## From Headquarters

by Norman Kaplan,  
REACT International Treasurer

**A**t Headquarters, a couple of items have arisen that I thought should be passed on to the membership. They are potential problems with the IRS 501(c)(3) and changes due to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

The United States Congress has requested that I.R.S. review all 501(c) approvals once every three to five years. Since REACT falls under the 501(C)(3) tax section, this means that REACT will have to justify our 501(c)(3) tax status on a regular basis. The way that we do this requires each of the individual Teams to file their monitoring report yearly, so that we can show to I.R.S. our activities in support of each of our communities.

From the filed 2003 reports, REACT Teams monitored in excess of 350,000 hours. As an organization we have supported March of Dimes; Juvenile Diabetes; the Diabetes Society of America; local and national bike-a-thons; local, county and state police and local and county fire departments; Red Cross; Salvation Army and various VOADs. Showing reasons for continuing the 501(c)(3) exemption will be fairly easy with the aggregated monitoring report.

Additionally, there is the audit questionnaire, which each Team should fill out. If your Team is covered under the REACT International 501(c)(3) exemption, an audit of the Team financials is required each year. Depending on the size of the Team's treasury, this can be anything from an au-

dit committee through a CPA audit.

Also, all I.R.S. 501(c)(3) organizations must have a proper dissolution clause in their Bylaws. This clause must follow the following example:

"Upon the dissolution of the Team, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Team, dispose of all the assets of the Team in such manner or to such organization or organizations organized or operated exclusively for purposes substantially similar to the purpose of this Team as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) as the Board of Directors shall determine."

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act now covers only for-profit organizations. Several state Attorneys General are working to include coverage over non-profit organizations. The annual audit of each of the Teams, plus a copy of the Team's and Council's Constitution and Bylaws, will cover the additional requirements. During the audit of the Team's finances, the audit committee should look at any financial dealings between the Team and either a member of their Board of Directors or officers. The form will be changed to have the President and Treasurer sign instead of the Secretary to be consistent with the Act.



## REACT Listens In...

# Disaster at Sea

by Kurt Barnhart  
Palomar (Calif.) REACT

The official on-air activities of San Diego Skywarn are normally limited to spotting and reporting serious weather conditions over Amateur Radio and GMRS repeaters situated near the 5,600-foot peak of Mount Palomar in Northern San Diego County, close to the world-famous Mount Palomar Observatory.

In 1934, Mount Palomar was selected by Astronomer George Ellery Hale as the site of CalTech's then-revolutionary 200-inch telescope because of the mountain's ideal southwestern location, majestic overviews of the Pacific, year-round Mediterranean climate and easy access by road from Los Angeles and San Diego. These same factors, it was thought, would make Mount Palomar one of the best locations in the west to participate in ARRL Field Day 2004 on June 26 and 27. San Diego Skywarn and Palomar REACT of Northern San Diego County made special arrangements to expand our horizons from regional VHF/UHF communications into the world of global HF operations at a private campground a few miles from the observatory.

This was the first-ever

Field Day for San Diego Skywarn as a group and the first time that several of our technician-class operators had used an HF rig (under the supervision of an extra-class member). Two small dipoles, a 20-year old HF transceiver and a five-watt GOTA (Get On The Air) station put us at a disadvantage to larger California Field Day sites with portable towers, 10-element beams and as many as 14 operating positions participating in a contest to log as many contacts as possible. But we were determined nonetheless to have fun and learn more about the Amateur Radio HF bands.

We didn't expect to have "ringside seats" for a dramatic rescue at sea.

After a day of successful communications with New England, Hawaii, and many points in between, most members of our group had tired and crawled into their sleeping bags by midnight Saturday night. The temperature held steady around 62 degrees with no wind, and it became an extraordinary summer night that you experience only in special places such as Mount Palomar. The skies were so clear and the Milky Way so bright that we could almost write our logbook entries with the starlight alone.

The nighttime HF bands piled up with repetitious automated transmissions of "CQ Field Day" and "CQ Contest" on both SSB and CW. It was hard for us to

find an open frequency to send our own CQ, and when we did we were rarely answered. Our night shift decided to do less talking and focus instead on listening and stargazing.

Shortly after 1:00 am local time we began hearing emergency traffic in the top portion of the 20-meter band (14 MHz) indicating that a small craft in the South Pacific was slowly sinking 680 miles from land. Over the next few hours, we listened to the drama unfold as the sailboat skipper rationed himself to one or two

*Continued on Page 13*



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# Who Ya Gonna Call?

by **Stuart M. DeLuca**

**B**y now, just about everyone who hasn't been living in a cave for several decades knows that the universal emergency telephone number in North America is 911. Millions of people have bought cellular telephones primarily to ensure that they can call for help in an emergency – and they've heard that 911 is always a free call, even if you haven't paid your phone bill for a couple of months. All of that is true enough.

But what if you're traveling somewhere far from home? Is 911 the best number to use in an emergency no matter where you are? Maybe – but not always.

A number of states have established special numbers for highway travelers using cell phones. These numbers may give you a direct connection to the nearest highway patrol dispatcher, possibly saving several minutes of response time, and avoiding confusion over where you are. If you dial 911 on a cellular phone, you might be calling the wireless service provider's own operators – or the 911 center in your home community – or who-knows-where?

The following list is compiled from several sources; we can't guarantee that all of the information is completely up-to-date. We have not been able to find any reference with a similar list for Canada. The + after the state name indicates that 911 should work in most areas, as well as the specific numbers listed.

Alabama	*HP	Louisiana+	*LSP or *24	North Dakota+	*2121
Alaska+	*273 or 907-287-200		(Coast Guard only)	Ohio+	*DUI or 877-7PATROL
Arizona+	602-223-2000	Maine+	*77	Oklahoma+	*55
California	911	Maryland+	*77 or #77	Oregon	911
Colorado+	*CSP or *DUI		(*555 in Prince George's or Montgomery County, park police)	Pennsylvania+	*12 or *11 (turnpike only)
Connecticut	911	Massachusetts+	*SP	Rhode Island+	*77
Delaware+	*77	Michigan	911	South Carolina+	*HP
Florida+	*FHP	Minnesota	911	South Dakota	911
Georgia+	*GHP or *GSP	Mississippi+	*HP	Tennessee+	*THP
Hawaii	911	Missouri+	*55	Texas+	800-525-5555
Idaho+	*ISP	Montana+	800-525-5555	Utah	911
Illinois+	511 or *999 (tollway only)	Nebraska+	*55 or 800-525-5555	Vermont+	802-244-8727
Indiana+	*11 (toll road only)	Nevada+	*NHP	Virginia+	*77
Iowa+	800-525-5555	New Hampshire+	*NH	Washington (state)+	800-695 ROAD
Kansas+	*47 or *HP or *KTA (on turnpike only)	New Jersey+	*77	West Virginia+	*SP
		New Mexico+	505-827-9300	Wisconsin	911
Kentucky+	800-222-5555 or 800-4KY-ROAD	New York	911	Wyoming+	*HELP
		North Carolina+	*HP or *47	Sources:	Iowa State Patrol, Missouri State Patrol Web sites

# Where To Call About a Train Wreck



Railroad emergencies pose special problems. Local public safety authorities may be unable to deal with such matters as a non-functioning crossing signal, a "hotbox" (overheated wheel bearings, which can set grass on fire along the tracks and can derail the train), and other potential problems. Major railroads operate along thousands of miles of trackage with few local facilities. The list that follows includes emergency phone numbers for most of the major railroads in the U.S. and Canada; the dispatchers at these numbers can respond to almost any railroad emergency, but they need to know where you are and, if possible, the identifying numbers of the crossing or the train (locomotive number) where there's a problem.

Burlington Northern & Santa Fe	800-832-5452
Canadian National	800-465-9239
Canadian Pacific	800-551-2553
Conrail	800-272-0911
CSX	800-232-0144
Norfolk Southern	800-453-2530
Union Pacific	888-877-7267
Amtrak (passenger trains)	800-331-0008

(List from <http://plaws.net/rail/emergency.shtml>, with permission)

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# California Teams Still Fighting Fires

by Wayne Barringer



**Editor's Note:** A year ago, we featured several articles about California Teams' involvement in fighting a rash of wildfires. Here is an update on this year's firefighting operations.

The Central California REACT Council (CCRC) announced that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CDF) is finalizing the plan that will deploy REACT members in support of the Department's "Red Flag Patrols" on July 4th, 2004.

The CDF Fresno-Kings Unit, headquartered in Sanger, will deploy volunteer communicators from REACT to provide field support of the CDF Volunteers In (fire) Prevention (VIP) Program. The CDF has also asked REACT to attend the pre-deployment dinner planned for early evening on July 4th.

"This is the first time in central California REACT history that we will be staffing the Emergency Communications Center and be deployed in the field using radio frequencies in the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS)," said Kurt Ervin, CCRC Chair. "We will be identified in the formal Incident Action Plan (IAP) that will be distributed to all law enforcement, fire, and health agencies that will be participating."

The primary mission of the communications volunteers will be to act as the "eyes and ears" on behalf of the CDF and report incidents of illegal fire-works and any observations of an

actual fire. They will use their radios to contact the mobile command vehicle operating in the field and also the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) where CDF will also be operating.

"CDF will be monitoring our frequencies and we will be monitoring theirs," said Ervin. "Although we will be assigned specific patrol areas for the operation, we will also supplement their primary coverage area for CDF when they respond to a local fire or other emergency."

Safety is a high priority, both for CDF and for REACT. Field units will be operating in pairs to maximize observation capability and increased safety.

"We will meet during mid-afternoon to review our operational plans and to look over both our own equipment and that belonging to the CDF," reported Ervin. "We want to conduct one last check on our equipment before our actual dinner meeting. We'll be joining all of the local area agencies and coordinate our efforts so we're all on the same sheet of music throughout the operation."

The VIP Program is an educational initiative by the CDF. The mission of the program is to provide administrative, logistical and additional communication support as directed by the CDF

during periods of high fire danger or local emergencies.

"We will be reporting directly to the Fire Information Officer for the CDF Fresno-Kings Unit," said Ervin. "This is a really huge opportunity for all of us in central California. I think everyone is excited about this unique opportunity but realize it's an important step to future deployments."

As planned, REACT Team members in the San Joaquin valley of central California joined forces with several fire and law enforcement agencies to provide "Red Flag Patrols" over the Independence Day weekend.

Team members from Kings County REACT and Central Valley REACT provided "eyes and ears" communications to the Volunteers In (fire) Prevention ("VIP") Program on July 4 along with enforcement officers from the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Fresno County Sheriff's Department (FCSO) and United States Forest Service (USFS).

Both Teams are active contributors to the Central California REACT Council (CCRC).

REACT established "net control" at the ECC to coordinate all field units as Karen Guillemain, Fire Prevention Specialist and Fire Information Officer with the CDF

**Continued on Page 13**

**Summary of the Minutes of  
A Special Meeting  
of the Board of Directors of  
REACT International, Inc.,  
Held at Irving, Texas, August 6-7, 2004**

**Directors Present.**

Paul Jackson (Ohio), Region 4  
Larry Fry (Wisc.), Chairman & Region 5  
Frank Jennings (Wash.), Region 6  
Bob Kaster (Okla.), Vice Chairman & Region 7  
Kenny Jagdeosingh (Trinidad & Tobago),  
Region 9  
Dick Cooper (N.J.), President, *ex officio*

**Directors Absent.**

Fred J. Lanshe (Pa.), Region 1  
Donald Manlove (Va.), Region 2  
John Knott (Fla.), Region 3  
Eric Hutchins (Calif.), Region 8

**Officers Present.**

Lee Besing (Tex.), Secretary  
Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson (Tex.), General  
Counsel

**Officers Absent.**

Ed Greany (Calif.), Executive Vice President  
Norman Kaplan (Md.), Treasurer

**Guests (at various times during the meeting) .**

Bob Hitch (Dallas, Tex.)  
J. L. Riley (Dallas, Tex.)  
Matt Anderson (Baton Rouge, La.)  
Justin Pauler (Baton Rouge, La.)

*Meeting called to order by Chairman Fry 8:35 a.m., Friday, August 6, 2004. He welcomed the attendees and set parameters for the meeting. President Cooper expressed appreciation to the Board for sentiments expressed on his recent personal injuries and family loss.*

**1. Establishment of Quorum; Agenda.** Secretary Besing announced there were six of ten Directors present, and there was a quorum. The President distributed copies of the agenda.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.** Motion Mr. Kaster, 2d Mr. Jackson, to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board held at the corporate office in Suitland, Maryland, in February. Unanimous.

**3. Officer Reports.**

- a. Secretary Besing – no report.
- b. Executive VP Greany submitted a written report.

c. President Cooper reported on the problems involved with the non-renewal of the general liability insurance policy, and thanked the Insurance Committee (Exec VP Greany, Treas. Kaplan, Gen. Counsel Thompson) for their efforts in obtaining new coverage.

**4. Election Results.** The President announced results of the Director Elections. Re-elected were Don Manlove (Region 2), Larry Fry (Region 5), and Eric Hutchins (Region 8). Ballots were counted by Singleton & Bardowski, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, who certified the results.

**5. 2005 Convention.** Crest REACT (Corona, Calif.) has proposed Buena Park, Calif., as the 2005 convention site, in late June. This is near Disneyland. June was selected because hotel rates triple in July and August. Original site (with meeting location across the parking lot from hotel) is now not available as meeting place is

scheduled to be demolished, but Mr. Greany is confident another location (but not so close to Disneyland) will be available. No official bid package has been received and Mr. Jennings stated concern over this. Mr. Fry will coordinate with Paul Oby (Site Selection Chair) to work out the details and confirm arrangements. Mr. Thompson recommended that offer be accepted contingent upon getting specific details worked out. Motion Mr. Kaster to approve subject to receiving bid packet and details within 30 days, 2d Mr. Jackson. Motion passed.

Mr. Jagdeosingh expressed concern about having conventions only every other year and said Trinidad & Tobago Council is willing to serve as backup to host another convention if needed.

**6. Affiliate Program.** Purpose of program discussed. Dues are \$25 per year. A few Affiliates have started Teams. Some are former

*Continued on Page 10*

Team members who stayed on after their local Teams folded. Mr. Jennings said the guidelines need to be clarified. Affiliate members are directly under REACT International without approval from local Council/Team. Proposed appropriate Director and Council be notified prior to approval as Affiliate. Mr. Fry suggested that a timeline (perhaps 30 days) be established for response from Director/Council. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Jackson, to continue the Affiliate program and a policy be formulated to establish a better procedure for approving applicants. Unanimous.

**7. Treasurer's Report as of 30 June.** Treas. Kaplan projects a deficit of up to \$10,000 because of unexpected expenses (e.g., supplies and insurance premiums). Mr. Thompson also noted that income is about 30% below budget.

**8. Director Reports.**

a. Region 1 – Mr. Lanshe reported by e-mail that a New England Council has been formed.

b. Region 2 – Mr. Cooper reported that Director Manlove was required to work on a critical project this weekend and could not attend.

c. Region 3 – Mr. Knott submitted a written report. Membership is a problem with declining members in many Teams, including loss of the DCAT Team.

d. Region 4 – Mr. Jackson tried to set up regional conference this summer but

couldn't work out details. He is working on membership retention and new team recruitment. Indiana and Ohio have pending new Teams.

e. Region 5 – Mr. Fry's region is facing same problems as others, but Teams on a whole seem to be adequately funded from previous efforts which should carry them through current lack of funds. Those Teams which are active in their communities are growing; those which aren't are failing.

f. Region 6 – Mr. Jennings reported decrease in membership in many Teams, funding problems caused by lack of holiday safety breaks, etc.

g. Region 7 – Mr. Kaster said Texas is growing with two new Teams, four inquiries are pending (two in Louisiana and two in Texas). New Mexico Team is possible loss.

h. Region 8 – Mr. Hutchins. No report.

i. Region 9 – Mr. Jagdeosingh reported on efforts to create new Teams in West Indies, and said there are good prospects. He has no report regarding status of Canadian Teams and is checking into reports of a group in Australia claiming to be REACT. He also furnished a copy of the Trinidad & Tobago VHF Radio Operational Policy.

**9. Region Problems.**

a. Mr. Kaster reported on a Louisiana application. Mr. Thompson suggested a

letter be sent to applicant addressing concerns. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Pauler discussed concerns.

b. Mr. Jackson reported problems with several Ohio Teams performing "duties" not acceptable to state Council and local law enforcement and asked if Council had authority to request the Board terminate a Team charter. Mr. Thompson advised that if properly documented, a Director, Council, or other Team could make a recommendation which the Board's Membership Committee would review.

**10. Reports of Committees of the Board.**

a. Finance. No report or action needed. It was noted that Mr. Kaplan (chair), Mr. Fry, and Mr. Cooper are members. Mr. Cooper asked to be replaced on this committee. Mr. Jennings volunteered and was appointed.

b. Membership. No report or action needed.

c. Office Review. No report or action needed.

**11. Corporate Committee Reports.** The Board reviewed written reports from three committee chairmen.

a. Training and Development. Mr. Currie reported no significant new developments. It was suggested that names of persons successfully passing the E-Comm course be published in The REACTer, and that there should be added promo-

tion in The REACTer and on the web site.

b. Convention & Site Selection. Mr. Oby reported on 2005 Convention and said that there was one prospect for the 2007 Convention.

c. Publication Review. Mr. DeLuca reported that there were no new items, and reminded that the Committee was available to assist with development of any written materials.

**12. Review of Corporate Committee Structure and Operation.**

President Cooper said Exec VP Greany shared his considerable concern about the lack of active committee chairs in seven committees. Despite several articles in REACTer asking for volunteers, nobody has. Mr. Cooper suggested reorganizing and/or combining some committees.

Meeting recessed 12 p.m. for lunch. Reconvened at 1 p.m., no change in Officers/Directors present; quorum present.

a. The performance of current corporate committee chairmen was reviewed.

b. Projects for the Ways and Means Committee were discussed.

**13. Insurance.** The President noted that the new policy added coverage for non-owned or rented vehicles. A new form to request an insurance certificate for specific applications was distributed with the announcement letter to all Teams. A better expla-

nation on what is covered and what is not covered is needed.

Currently there are 2981 covered members in the U.S. and Canada and the total policy premium is approximately \$8.70 per covered member or \$26,000 total. The current insurance fee is \$4 per member. An increase in the Team fee is clearly necessary. An increase to \$6 for 2005 would raise approximately \$16,800. It was noted that this is a Team fee, rather than an addition to dues, and should be paid by the Team. With the insurance fee set at \$6 per member, RI will still be paying one-third of the current annual insurance premium from general revenues, and a 10-15% increase is expected in 2005. Motion Mr. Jackson, 2d Mr. Kaster to set the insurance fee for 2005 at \$6. Motion passed with 1 abstention (Mr. Jennings).

#### **14. Clothing Vendor.**

Spiewak Wearables, a vendor of reflective clothing and vests, is interested in selling through RI. Pricing is not cheap. Another vendor in Mississippi was mentioned — other REACT Teams have already ordered good materials customized with “REACT” on the back. Mr. Kaster could contact that vendor to see what can be arranged. Preference would be for Teams and members to order direct, or via REACT web store to allow drop ship rather than handling reshipment from RI office. Action: Mr. Kaster will contact Mississippi supplier for possible arrangements.

rangements.

#### **15. Status of PSA.**

Mr. Kaster has been working on this project, but needs more photographs and video clips. Photos should be action type showing REACT members and, preferably, REACT emblem. He is working with a local college to put this together. Discussion about need for a PSA available through the RI office. It could be sold through the store at slightly more than cost to recoup some of the expense. Mr. Kaster also had a professional shop make a proposal. Copies would be available on multiple formats (VHS commercial/consumer grade, DVD, CD, etc.). Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Jackson to fund the production of a professional grade PSA video promoting REACT at a cost of \$2,579. Unanimous.

#### **16. Web Site Proposal.**

Discussion held about an offer to provide web hosting and e-mail services for all Teams/Councils for a fee. Proposal requires all Teams and Councils to participate. Consensus of the Board that there was no interest in the proposal.

#### **17. Board Meetings of the Future.**

Several possible methods for holding Board meetings by electronic means were considered. Most appeared to think that “in person” meetings were more productive and in the best interests of REACT, but that electronic meetings could in some situations be useful. No action was taken.

#### **18. Possible Citizens Corps Statement of Understanding (SOU).**

Mr. Thompson has made several attempts to contact the Citizens Corps action officer, Karen Marsh, with no response. Most recent attempt was early July. Mr. Jennings said there was some intern staffing available through this program that could help out at the Suitland office. Mr. Thompson will continue to try to make contact.

#### **19. Modification of Red Cross and Salvation Army SOUs.**

Mr. Thompson is working on contacting the American Red Cross and Salvation Army to modify SOUs to provide for REACT members wearing Team uniforms when Team is in support role, and to provide for insurance coverage.

#### **20. Possibility of SOU With Other Organizations.**

No progress has been made on an SOU with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). No progress in contacting them despite multiple efforts by REACT. No action has been taken on possible SOU with Neighborhood Watch.

#### **21. Midland Proposal.**

Follow-up on proposal made by Tony Lane in Des Moines was assigned to Treas. Kaplan and Bob Leef (Calif.). Negotiations continue.

#### **22. Nextel Proposal.**

Original proposal was for REACT International to have members buy 500 phones and service with RI to handle billing, and they would donate 20 phones to RI for use in emergency. RI

declined and suggested offering discount rate class as a benefit to REACT members. Still in negotiation. (See February 2004 minutes for more details.)

Meeting recessed at 5 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 8:30 a.m. Saturday; no change in Officers/Directors present; quorum present.

#### **23. Airwatch America.**

This is a traffic reporting network. On a local basis, this might be a way for REACT Teams to gain publicity by regularly calling in reports. No Board action needed.

#### **24. REACT Mission Statement.**

The President reported to the Board that he had directed change in mission statement “public safety communications” to “public service communications” on advice of the general counsel. Some insurance companies and others misinterpreted this phrase to think REACT is involved in law enforcement duties. Consensus of Board to approve. Change has already been made on web site, and will be incorporated in future publications.

#### **25. REACT Comments on FCC Petitions.**

Mr. Cooper suggested REACT should be more visible with FCC filings on matters impacting our members. Mr. Thompson noted that RI had filed a comment supporting the ARRL in opposing the BPL (broadband over power lines) initiative. He also said that in several recent

*Continued on Page 12*

matters, comments were not filed because REACT International did not support the proposals (even though REACT members were among petitioners).

**26. Future of REACT.** The President called upon Directors to join REACT corporate committees (though not as chairmen) and to recruit others to join and participate.

a. Membership. Mr. Jackson volunteered. The purpose of the committee is to build and accumulate ideas for local Teams in recruiting new members.

b. Ways and Means. Mr. Jennings volunteered. Committee is to work on ideas for grants and fund raising at the RI level; secondary purpose is to publish ideas useful at the local level. Also, the committee will search for member discounts/benefits.

c. Public Relations. Mr. Kaster volunteered. Committee is to develop materials and ideas for distribution at national, international, and local/regional areas.

**27. Ways to build REACT?** Development of a PSA has been authorized. The web site is to be updated to include more current news and releases and removal of obsolete material. Mr. Thompson reminded that the President must approve "news" items before posting by Computer Services Committee or release by the Public Relations Committee. The importance of registering every local Team member with RI should be emphasized, as well as the new dues rate for families with more than two members in the same household (first twopay normal rates, all others pay \$5). Members should be encouraged to get amateur radio licenses. Teams and individual should be encouraged to seek training with Skywarn, Incident Command System (ICS), and other areas. Working with area ham clubs and ARES groups is also recommended.

**28. Trinidad & Tobago Membership Issues.** Mr. Jagdeosingh expressed a perception of general dissatisfaction by many members in Trinidad regarding lack of "benefit" though paying TT\$90 (US\$15) REACT Dues. At present they do not get The REACTer mailed to them. He suggested that copies be made available to Teams for sharing among the members.

**29. Five Year Plan.** Copies of the RI Five Year Plan were distributed. The Plan is to be reviewed and updated each year, with major review scheduled for 2005.

**30. Change of Region 8 Director.** Eric Hutchins, having moved out of Region 8 (to Idaho) submitted his written resignation as Region 8 Director. Motion to accept Mr. Kaster, 2d Mr. Cooper. Unanimous.

Several REACTers in Region 8 had been suggested as possible replacements. After consideration, and based upon favorable reports by Exec VP Greany and outgoing Director Hutchins, motion Mr. Kaster, 2d Mr. Jackson to appoint Rob Clark (Nev.) as Region 8 Director to fill the unexpired term. Unanimous.

**31. Awards & Recognition.** Mr. Cooper said that it had been several years since recognition plaques had been provided to outgoing officers and directors. Mr. Besing checked his records and determined that the last awards were through July 2001. He will prepare a list of those who should receive awards and arrange for production and shipping in conjunction with the RI office.

**32. Updating RI Policies.** Mr. Thompson asked that an attachment specifying "Duties of Directors" be made to Policy 5.2. This listing was approved in February 1999, but not included in the 2003 revision of policies. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Jennings to approve. Unanimous. Mr. Thompson will write a policy covering Affiliate members, to include a flow chart for processing applications.

Policy will be distributed to the Directors for approval before publication.

**33. Annual Board Meeting Date.** The next Annual Meeting will be in Suitland in February. Mr. Jennings suggested holding an electronic meeting before February as practice of the proposed use of Internet communications. Discussion held about need to encourage in-person attendance at meetings. Motion Mr. Jennings, 2d Mr. Cooper to have the next meeting February 18-19, 2005, in Suitland. Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn Mr. Jackson, 2d Mr. Kaster. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned sine die at 12:15 p.m., August 7, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee W. Besing  
Secretary

(General Counsel Charles A. Thompson prepared this summary from the extensive minutes submitted by the Secretary. The complete minutes are available electronically by sending e-mail to <secretary@REACTintl.org> or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with \$0.83 U.S. postage (for U.S. delivery) to REACT International, Inc., 5210 Auth Road, Suite 403, Suitland, MD 20746-4330.)



## Fighting Fires

Continued from Page 8

Fresno-Kings Unit interfaced with various agency dispatchers at the ECC. REACT field units transmitted all observation reports back to Net Control where they were delivered to Karen for action by various agency field units.

Karen, also the VIP Coordinator for CDF Fresno-Kings, provided oversight as events unfolded and expressed her approval with the first REACT deployment in support of CDF field operations in central California history.

"This was the first time in central California REACT history that our members staffed the Emergency Communications Center and the first time any REACT member provided deployment support to a government agency," said Kurt Ervin, CCRC Chair. "I am confident this is the first of many operations in the future with CDF."

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## 10-9?

In the July-August REACTer, the article about "silent mic" Frank Burt identified Bob Leef as president of the wrong Team; he is president of Saddleback Valley (Calif.) REACT.

Also, the fax telephone number listed on Page 1 for the past two or three issues was wrong; the correct number is 302-318-2903.

## Disaster at Sea

Continued from Page 5

transmissions per hour to conserve battery power as he waited for help from a French Navy rescue ship coordinated by volunteers in the Maritime Mobile Service Net.

The sailboat owned by Australians John and Kelly Halows was enroute from Mexico to the Marquesas Islands in French Polynesia. They had been at sea for 48 days, and when John became seriously ill, a container ship attempted to provide medical assistance, but incredibly, it bumped into the sailboat causing it to lose its two masts, damaging its only lifeboat and seriously injuring Kelly. With both crew members incapacitated, the small craft was in serious trouble. (What happened to the container ship after the collision is unclear; it was not there to help rescue the people it had endangered.)

John Caine, VK4CEJ, in Queensland, Australia, relayed Lat-Lon coordinates between the small craft and the French Navy ship while a ham in Austin, Texas, (who has asked to remain any-

mous) provided phone patches among the sailboat, an emergency physician in the states, and the U.S. Coast Guard District 14 Headquarters in Honolulu. The French Navy successfully rescued John and Kelly and transported them to a hospital. The damaged sailboat was abandoned and lost.

We later computed that the sailboat was about 11,500 kilometers from our location and was probably transmitting only ten watts or so on a short antenna. Without intending to do so, our antenna team had erected a highly-efficient 20-meter copper-wire dipole and positioned it perfectly on the southwest-facing mountainside for clear reception across the open Pacific, one-third of the way around the world.

With this real-life experience under our belts, several of our REACT members are now working on license upgrades to expand their privileges to the HF bands. Our group's first ARRL Field Day demonstrated to us that HF radio could be valuable to us in fulfilling our REACT missions.

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## Silent Mics

**Agnes Drauch**, 72, secretary for many years of LEMA (Lehigh Emergency Monitoring Association), Allentown, Penn.

**Robert E. "Bob" Teeters**, past president of Las Vegas United REACT, LM 529.

**Arthur "Art" Cole**, 53, Spencer County REACT.

**Mary E. Brown**, Belmont Co. (Ohio) REACT. We lost a very important worker with our Team. She was not in the best health but she almost never refused a Team detail. She was a trustee for many years. She will be sorely missed by this Team and all of her friends and family.

-Gilbert Porter  
Trustee, Belmont Co. REACT

# REACTivities -- Team & Council News

## Blackberry (Calif.) REACT

Blackberry REACT set two records last weekend, May 15-16. We have worked with one other group at a time on a couple of events but we have never done more than two events during a weekend...until now!

On Saturday, Mountain View Parks and Recreation Department sponsored a City Wide Yard Sale at Rengstorff Park. Three members worked that event doing traffic control and assisting with parking. The Mountain View A la Carte and Art (small art and wine) filled about five blocks of Castro Street where we had seven members helping, including staying late to assist the police with traffic and security.

Sunday found Blackberry REACT successfully coordinating the American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure bicycle event (25K, 50K & 100K). This exercise was handled by Blackberry REACT, with a lot of assistance from SCARES, PAARA, MV-SPECS and Gold Wings volunteers. We ended up using twenty-four amateur radio operators and seven Gold Wings motorcycle members for this event. Sunday again found seven Blackberry members working the A la Carte and Art for a second day including shut-down security and vendor traffic control. Not bad for a Team of 20 members.

-Jon Mosby

## Chagrin Valley (Ohio) REACT

On July 4th our REACT Team celebrated our nation's independence in a different way. For the second year in a row, Bainbridge Township has thrown a party consisting of a parade, fun and games, food, clowns, music, and of course a large-scale fireworks show.

Bainbridge Township is one of our busier areas of the Chagrin Valley area and we work very closely with the police department, so it was no surprise when the police chief said, "You guys handle traffic and leave me to worry about everything else." We were expecting more than 6,000 people to come and enjoy the party and more than 2,000 cars.

Unfortunately the park is not big enough to fit all these cars. But fortunately the fields surrounding the park and the township service garage down the road from the park can help with the cramped parking. We had two members from Great Lakes REACT help us with traffic control.

By 3:45 that afternoon, we ran out of parking, had filled one side of the road with cars and had to turn cars back. Let me tell you I can't remember seeing that many cars in little old Bainbridge at one time in all my life and I have lived here for 21 years.

-Sean Davis

## New Teams

Collin Co. (Tex.) -6094  
REACT Ohio Co (Ohio) -6095  
Oxford REACT (Ont.)-6096  
Emergency Radio North Iowa  
REACT - 6097

## New Membership Brochure

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**REACT International!**



Not Just  
Another  
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## Comal County (Tex.) REACT

At the request of Comal County Emergency Management officials, **Comal County REACT** provided the radio operators to staff both the County's EOC Radio Room and the Incident Command Post (ICP) set up at the New Braunfels Municipal Building. Seven REACT members, all Amateur operators, operated these two key positions for both days of the exercise, working in shifts, providing reliable radio communications between not only those two points, but with other hams in San Antonio, Boerne, and Austin. Comal County had recently installed a fully equipped radio room in a side room off their EOC room.

This was the first time the

ham radios had been actually used in a drill or emergency since they were installed. The ICP had no permanent radio installation so they used their normal procedures to establish a temporary base at that location to cover only 2 meter and 440mhz operations, leaving HF operations to the EOC to handle.

On the second day of the exercise, the observers, who were putting on the drill for the county, tossed a monkey wrench into their plans by announcing, "Poof! your phones and computer connections are down, you must pass all your messages via the ham radio operators up there in that corner room." After a couple of dozen messages were passed in that manner, they took pity on the group to allow phone lines and computers to be restored.

-Lee W. Besing

## South Point (Conn.) REACT

South Point REACT had its first holiday highway safety break during Easter weekend, April 9-11. With the help of Tobacco Valley REACT and Pioneer Valley REACT, we provided donuts and coffee to the public at Connecticut State Police Barracks Troop E in Montville, Conn.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) provided the Team with literature to give out. South Point REACT and Eastern Connecticut Chapter of MADD have developed a cooperative agreement to work together on educating the public on the importance of safe driving. We also handed out literature about REACT and the proper use of CB Emergency Channel 9.

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# Unquelched

by **Stuart M. DeLuca,**  
**Editor**

## Where IS Everybody?

I don't know about you, but I joined REACT 28 years ago because I thought it would be cool to use my CB radio to help other people. Back then, monitoring CB and relaying messages to the proper authorities was the primary purpose of REACT.

Over the years, our purpose has expanded even as the popularity of CB radio declined. We now define REACT in terms of service to the community using all forms of two-way communications. But the basic idea, of helping other people, hasn't changed at all. If you're a member of REACT, I assume it's because you want to help people, maybe even save lives.

I think some of us need to gain a broader understanding of what it means to "help people."

The problem, you see, is that managing and operating an international all-volunteer organization is a huge task. It's feasible only if a lot of people are willing to do their share of the work – not only at the local level, but at the state, national, and international levels as well. For all of the tremendous good we do in our own communities, we really aren't doing the job at the higher levels.

At last count, there were more than three thousand REACT members worldwide. There are nine positions on the RI Board of Directors, plus four officers. Just finding people willing to fill those thirteen positions has been difficult.

In any large organization, much of the necessary work is done by committees. The RI Board has identified six or seven committees that are needed to make REACT function effectively. Unfortunately, despite frequent pleas for help, all but three of those committees have been inactive or entirely vacant for years. No one has come forward, willing to serve on the committees, much less chair one.

I find it difficult to believe that there is not one person among the three-thousand-plus REACT members who could help the Ways and Means Committee identify practical ways to raise money. I know there are people who could help on the Communications Committee, the Convention Site Selection Committee, the Awards and Recognition Committee, or the Junior Membership Committee, to name a few (some of which do have chairmen, but no members).

I don't know why people are reluctant to volunteer for these positions; the work is minimal, there is no great expense involved, and the satisfaction from working with dedicated REACT members from around the world is considerable.

So what are you waiting for? If you want a personal invitation, this is it.

### 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.

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