



Public Service Through Communications

The REACTer

May – June 2005

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The REACTer

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REACT Teams or Councils may reproduce articles in their publications if proper credit is given.

Articles and photo submissions are welcome, but cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage. We are not responsible for unsolicited materials. Please see our **Publication Guidelines** at www.REACTintl.org for more information.

For information regarding advertising, please contact the Advertising Manager at the e-mail address or the Suitland office address shown at left.

The REACTer is available on-line, in full color, at www.REACTintl.org.

Looking Ahead

What a convention! The next issue of *The REACTer* will include highlights of the Corona convention. We have new ideas for *The REACTer* to be more helpful as a training and public relations tool. We need articles from you, sharing ideas that have worked for your Teams to improve your skills, improve your community relations, and grow your Team. What are some interesting programs you have had at your meetings? What training topic can you share as an article for the rest of us? Supporting items like PowerPoint presentations could be linked at either your website or the RI website.

Remember, *REACT is YOU!* We need strong Teams with local commitment, and we also need Team members who will serve as Council and International officers, directors, committee chairpersons and

committee members. If you don't know how to get more involved, but want to be, ask! Keep asking until you get an answer that works for you. Your Team officers may have an idea, or your Council officers, or your Regional Director. If you do not know how to reach someone, send an email to <REACT@REACTintl.org>, or send a letter or fax to *REACT* International (contact information on page 1). Dora and Norm will try to direct your inquiry to the appropriate person.

Challenge from the convention: invite someone to your next Team meeting. Make it a habit! Inviting inactive members counts too! Why did you go to your first meeting – did someone ask you?

*REACT*ively,
Pat Knight AD5BR

Committees Need You!

If you can serve as a committee member, contact the chairperson listed below. If you can chair a committee or serve as a liaison, please contact Ed Greany at <EGreany@REACTintl.org>. If you want to help but need more information,

see <www.REACTintl.org> for committee descriptions, contact the chairpersons below, or contact Ed Greany. You can also contact the *REACT* International office for phone numbers and postal mail addresses.

Committee/Liaison	Chairperson/ Contact	Email address
• Awards & Recognition Committee.....	* VACANT *	awards@REACTintl.org
• Bylaws, Policy & Procedures Committee ...	Johnny Stowers	bylaws@REACTintl.org
• Communications Committee.....	William Riley	communications@REACTintl.org
• Computer Services Committee.....	Johnny Stowers	computer@REACTintl.org
• Convention & Site Selection Committee ...	Paul Oby	siteselection@REACTintl.org
• FCC Liaison	William Riley	FCC@REACTintl.org
• Five Year Planning Committee.....	Dick Cooper	planning@REACTintl.org
• Government Relations Liaison.....	* VACANT *	govrelations@REACTintl.org
• Junior REACT Committee	* VACANT *	juniors@REACTintl.org
• Membership Development &	Patricia Pierce.....	membership@REACTintl.org
Retention Committee		
• Public Relations Committee	Ron McCracken	PR@REACTintl.org
• Publications Review Committee.....	* VACANT *	review@REACTintl.org
• Emergency Response Committee	* VACANT *	
• Training & Development Committee.....	Tom Currie	training@REACTintl.org
• Voluntary Agencies Liaison	Nathan "Nat" Maryn ...	volag@REACTintl.org
• Ways & Means Committee.....	* VACANT *	waysmeans@REACTintl.org

From the President

By Dick Cooper



Well, the numbers are in and *REACT's* total membership is a lot better than I had indicated in my article in the March-April issue of *The REACTer*. As I stated in my March-April article, "...membership numbers have been dropping for a number of years." Yes, the membership numbers dropped drastically until 1999 when they started to level out and remain very consistent. Even 2005 showed only a small decrease in membership from previous years. This includes new and renewed members.

While I'm trying to remain "upbeat" concerning the membership, the fact still remains that we are at a dangerously low level. We need more membership to avoid effecting our member services. There are some exciting things happening in *REACT* that all Teams should take advantage of. Teams should use these resources to obtain additional members in their areas.

- **Regular *REACT* article in *Popular Communications* magazine written by a *REACT* member**
- **New public service announcement that is professionally created for Teams to use**
- **Coming soon – New, fresh look to the *REACT* International web site**
- **Extended Family Membership (see below)**

I hope that current *REACT* members don't forget the new class of membership established by the Board of Directors. It is called Extended Family Membership. The first 2 members of a household (family members living at the same address) are treated as Regular and Family (Life and/or Junior if applicable) and the rest of the members of the family at the same address can become Extended Family Members for just \$5 each. Please contact Dora or your region director if you have any questions. The reason for this new membership is to encourage more members of each family to register as *REACT* members. The average age of *REACT* members is getting older and older. We need to encourage young people to become members and hopefully this is one way to do it.

By the time you read this article, the *REACT* Convention in Corona, California will be history. Other Teams and/or councils should look at their own area or state and put together a proposal for a *REACT* Convention. The next convention will be in 2007 and according to rotation should be on the east coast, but that may or may not hold up

depending upon who bids for the 2007 Convention. If you have any questions about hosting a convention, you can contact Paul Oby (Convention and Site Selection Committee), talk with several of the board members who have hosted conventions themselves, or talk to one of the California members involved in the 2005 Convention. Anyone will be glad to help you and answer your questions. Remember that the reason for changing conventions from every year to every 2 years was to give the next host time to ask questions and do the appropriate preparation for the next convention, which is a very lengthy, involved process when done correctly. Speaking from experience I can tell you that workers get a very satisfied feeling of accomplishment when they are part of a successful convention. Let the past conventions help you to determine whether you should host a convention and give you information when you decide to host a convention.

You Could Be the Next REACTer Editor!

Do you have journalistic talent? Do you have a flair for photo editing? Do you have excellent English grammar and spelling skills? Can you persuade/inspire/cajole others to contribute interesting articles and photos? Are you fired up about *REACT*?

If so, *REACT* International may have an opportunity for you to put those talents to use. The Board would like to see resumes and writing samples as they consider hiring a permanent editor for this magazine. You would be the editorial staff, propelling *The REACTer* to be the news, training, and public relations tool we can all be proud to call OUR magazine. We have an advertising manager, Ron McCracken, who works to get (and keep) advertisers. You would be responsible for the layout and content of the electronic document we deliver to the printing company and the version that appears at our website.

Submit your qualifications and samples of your work to *REACT* International, 5210 Auth Rd., Ste. 403, Suitland, MD 20746-4393. There is no fixed deadline; the board will decide when they think they have the right candidate.



From the Executive Vice-President

By Ed Greany

"RETURN TO SENDER; Addressee unknown!" Unfortunately, when the convention host team sent a mass mailing to

all members, many were returned stamped "Return to Sender" due to incorrect addresses, members moved without notifying REACT International, or unknown addressee. This prevents us from keeping our members informed with *The REACTer* or other important information that may be mailed from time to time. It also creates an unnecessary expense for postage and supplies. This is easily corrected if everyone would just keep REACT International informed of your current data. This also includes email addresses and phone numbers where appropriate.

When REACTer mail is returned, that address is deleted from the future mailings to save the wasted postage. This means you will no longer receive a REACTer. Keeping data of our members, teams, and councils is easy. It may be done via the internet going to the <www.REACTintl.org> website or sending the information in the mail to Dora at our

office in Suitland. Each year, a complete team roster is mailed to every team in order that the data may be verified and updated. Many simply do not review this data and assume everything is still the same. Usually, something is different from the prior year. It might be an Internet provider resulting in a different email address or perhaps a phone area code change but the most important item is the correct address including any apartment number and zip code.

This mailing was sent to inform everyone of the convention in Corona, CA on June 22-24. Unfortunately, over 50 mailings were returned undeliverable. Perhaps yours was one of them if you didn't receive one. Those REACTers that attended had a great time and the CREST REACT team wishes to thank those who attended and participated in the various workshops and lectures. Much was learned and can be brought back to the various teams and councils to improve operations.. Quite a few also passed their ham radio testing and are either new hams or upgraded their amateur privileges. Congratulations to all. Now it is time to prepare and plan for the next convention.

Change of Address/Information Update Forms Online!

Have you or a fellow Team member moved recently? If your address has changed, you can access the update forms (for individuals, Teams and Councils) at <www.REACTintl.org/forms>, or email the updated information to <REACT@REACTintl.org>. If you prefer, you may mail the correct information to REACT International, 5210 Auth Road, Suite 403, Suitland, MD 20746-4393.

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REACT Mission Statement

We will provide public service communications to individuals, organizations, and government agencies to save lives, prevent injuries, and give assistance wherever and whenever needed.

We will strive to establish a monitoring network of trained volunteer citizen-based communicators using any and all available means to deliver the message.

From Headquarters

By Norman Kaplan, *REACT* International Treasurer

At the end of December, there were 270 *REACT* Teams in *REACT* International, Inc. As of the middle of April, 229 Teams had renewed, 4 Teams had dissolved, 1 Team had merged with another and there were 6 new Teams. Also, 35 Teams had not been heard from. From the renewing 229 Teams there are 2,659 members in *REACT*, down 448 members who dropped off at the end of 2004. 382 new members had joined in 2005, leaving a net drop off of 66 members. At the end of 2004, the total *REACT* membership was 3,250.

Many of the members who did not renew have passed on. *REACT* membership is increasingly getting older. **As an organization we need to recruit Junior *REACT* members to 1) lower the age of membership, 2) look to long-term membership, 3) interest youth in helping in the community, and 4) bring in new ideas to keep our work fresh.** Members who renewed from 2004: Regular 1707, Family 302, Junior 38, Additional Family Members 64 and Life 166. New members for 2005: Regular 271, Family 57, Junior 18, Additional Family 29 and Life 7.

At the end of 2004, Teams reported their monitoring and event hours for a total of 255,000 hours. Of the 229 Teams that renewed, 18 Teams sent in their monitoring and event hours report form. Those Teams had: 117,278 CB monitoring hours, 68,343 GMRS monitoring hours, 16,977 Amateur monitoring hours and 14,176 Other Frequency monitoring hours for a total of 216,775 monitoring hours. The monitoring report forms showed that *REACT*ers worked 9,843 event hours, 48 disaster hours, 13,481 group activity hours and 3,695 meeting hours for a grand total of 243,843 hours spent in *REACT* activities. The numbers do not balance due to rounding. The Teams reported 138 non-injury accident, 166 personal injury accident, 98 accidents with a fatality, 39 reckless driver, 137 stalled vehicle, 61 road hazard, 62 traffic, 9 traffic control malfunction, 436 information request, 34

vehicle fire, 1 boating, 25 crime, 62 weather, 30 flood, 6 medical assistance, 18 non-road fire, 4 missing person, 5 vandalism, 60 relay of personal calls and 143 other calls for a total of 1,534 calls. Yes, this averages .0071 calls per hour or one call per 141 hours of monitoring. If that call is for a personal injury or fatal accident or a missing child, the hours spent listening and not getting a call is worth the time spent.

Obviously, I would like to hear from the non-renewed 37 Teams and the 211 Teams who have not filed their monitoring reports. Last summer, Congress asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO, formerly General Accounting Office) to review some of the larger 501(c)(3) organizations. **After the GAO report, Congress attempted to write legislation requiring the IRS to review all 501(c)(3) organizations. It does not appear as if the request is going to go away.** Fortunately, we have a means of measuring our charitable contributions to the communities we are in: the Team Monitoring and Event Report Form that is sent with each of the renewed membership forms. **It is vitally important that all Teams fill in and return the annual Team Monitoring and Event form to Headquarters. As an organization, we need to show that our member Teams are actively tracking their community support. We need much more than 18 Team reports to show that.** If your Team has misplaced the form, let us know and another form will be sent to the Team. This implies that you as a member have been handing in your monitoring hours and calls taken to your Communication Officer, since this is what he or she is aggregating to report to International.

Phil Tregelia has made a donation based upon *REACT* age, his length of membership and two dollars for continuance and growth of the organization. He is challenging the other members to do the same. For the record, *REACT* is 43 years old.

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Life Membership

Did you know that *REACT* life membership is a great way to honor a member who has served your Team or Council with great dedication? Life membership applications can be downloaded at <<http://www.REACTintl.org/pubs/lifeapp.PDF>>, or you may request one from the RI office.

Welcome New Membership Chairperson, Patricia Pierce

To All REACTers,

It gives me pleasure to announce the appointment of a new Chairperson for the Membership Development & Retention Committee. This was enacted at the recent 2005 Convention held in Corona, California last month and has now been confirmed by REACT International management.

Please welcome Chairwoman Patricia Pierce. Pat hails from Yucaipa, California – the zero target for a recent California earthquake a few weeks ago. Perhaps it was Pat clenching her muscles getting ready for a great membership drive. Anyway, things have settled down under ground and she is ready to go to work.

Pat is a member of the Southwestern REACT of San Diego County Team (San Diego, California) and was the Convention Chairperson for the 1993 REACT International Convention hosted by her San Diego Team. She has held other management offices over her many years of REACT service.

We are lucky and pleased to have her at the helm and I ask you to give her all the support you can. If you are interested in serving on her committee with others who have agreed to help her just write to her or me. Her email is <Membership@REACTintl.org>.

Congratulations, Pat.

Ed Greany, Executive Vice-president
REACT International, Inc.
<EGreany@REACTintl.org>

To All Teams and Councils

I am looking for people to assist me in achieving a goal for new members in REACT teams and new Teams in REACT Councils. I will send out ideas and information to all those that are willing to work with me, for their Teams and Councils. (Hope to have a long list.) All I ask is that you be able to spend one evening a month sending email or writing letters.

PLEASE HELP!!

Contact Patricia Pierce at
<membership@REACTintl.org>,
or
13333 Penny Drive, Yucaipa,
CA 92399

Does Your Team Need a Computer?

Your Membership Chairperson has some older computers that can be donated to Teams that do not currently have Internet access. She wants you to have email and access to the REACT website.

"I have some computers that I will donate to any REACT Team that requests one (while they last). The computer will have Windows 98 and Microsoft Word, Excel, Access database, and PowerPoint for presentations. Word can also be used for publishing a Team newsletter."

Contact Patricia Pierce at
<membership@REACTintl.org>, or
13333 Penny Drive, Yucaipa, CA 92399



Sparks Flew!

Barbara Jennison

By Barbara Jennison

Sparks fly between a rancher and a REACT female dispatcher as they battle grassfires consuming his land south of San Angelo, Texas. Based on actual events and composites of people and equipment, a love story ignites. The novel is dedicated to individuals who volunteer during times of disaster, especially to the late Hon. Jerry Jennison.

Available at:

www.authorhouse.com

also at Hastings and
www.BarnesandNoble.com

REACT members may purchase
this directly from the author
for \$10 (regular price \$13.95) at:
barbij@wconline.net
Fundraiser/bulk pricing available



Barbara autographs book at Texas
State REACT Council meeting

Membership: How to Get and Keep Members

By Patricia R. Pierce, Membership Chairperson

At the *REACT* International Convention held in Corona, California, there were many small group meetings resulting in ideas passed around about membership. I know that some of them may not fit all *REACT* Teams. However, here are some of the key topics mentioned that your team may choose to consider.

Where and how do you attract new members?

Some local schools will support programs in the area. CB radios are not as expensive as they were a long time ago and some folks may still have one just sitting on a shelf. If you have ham operators you could do this as well. You might consider having team members installing an antenna and radio in the local school, then going down to the school and teaching the children how to operate the radio. Getting children interested, and making them a part of your Team as Juniors will be a little work, but in the long run, when parents see what their kids can do, they will join in. Then some of the friends will want to get involved when they find out how much fun there is in *REACT*.

One-on-One: If you don't ask, they won't join.

One-on-one seems to work well. Talk up *REACT* on the radio, check into the area nets if you have them, including GMRS (especially in Southern California) and Amateur Radio. Hams have traffic nets and club nets on 2 meters or 440mHz. When you sign in, mention *REACT*. If you are on the way to a *REACT* Team meeting, say so, and invite anyone listening to come join you at the meeting. If you need operators to help at an event, issue an open invitation on the air, and then next net, be sure to thank all the operators who responded, whether you had any or not. Just don't mention all their names and soon folks may start volunteering because they think everyone else is doing it.

Is there a senior community center or mobile home park in your area? Most senior centers and mobile home parks do have a clubhouse or recreation building in the common areas. Contact the president or park manager to ask to speak at one of their meetings. The same could apply to your neighborhood association. Offer again to install a radio and antenna and have a member go in and teach them how to do calls. Consider holding your team meeting in their meeting place at least every other month. This way they can be involved. If you have a membership chairperson in your team they can set up a schedule for classes in both the schools and senior centers or mobile home park so that it is not always just the same person doing all the training, If some of the seniors do not drive, members can rotate picking them up for meetings.

Meeting Time/Location If evenings are not a good time for some members, consider changing your

meeting to a Saturday or Sunday morning or afternoon to allow them to be a part of the Team.

How to keep new members? If they join your Team how do you keep them? First you need to make them feel welcome and ask them to come out to events. Oh, you don't have events? Does your local Chamber of Commerce or Lions/Rotary/Optimist Club type organization do any community events like parades, special holiday gatherings, or fund raisers? If so, approach their leaders and ask if you could help by providing the communications at their event. If you are into parking cars, why not offer to use your radios to help coordinate parking or directing traffic?

Get more involved in your community.

If you live in a small town with few law enforcement officers, ask one of them to hold a training session for the Team and show you how to be a parking or traffic controller. [Ed. – *There are some restrictions on insurance coverage when involved with traffic control on public streets.*] Remember to volunteer ahead of time, so when something major happens in your town, the officials can place *REACT* members at certain locations to perform these duties safely, as trained. Approach your fire department, even if they are volunteers. They also hold fund-raisers. Become a active part of your community.

Give Certificates of Appreciation. When a new member joins, give them a certificate thanking them for becoming a member. If the Team doesn't have someone that can make the certificate, send me their name and the date of the meeting that they will be given their membership card from International. I will make the certificate and send it off to you. Also send me the names of the president and membership chairman to put on the certificate so that it can be signed by these members. I would like to have the new member's address so that I as International membership chairperson can send them a welcome letter from us.

If the team can afford it, come up with some incentives for being active, such as refunding their dues for the first year if they stay in, or better yet, apply it toward the next year's dues. Hit up your local business owners for donations to be used as a gift for joining after they pass their probation period. Banks do it to get new patrons. Set up a phone tree to call and remind new members of the upcoming meeting and location. Make sure they have transportation to get there. Hold a Team get together for a picnic or ice-cream social. It doesn't have to be long or expensive.

Write me or send e-mail with any questions or suggestions. Send email to <membership@REACTintl.org> or mail your letters to the RI office so they can forward them.

Congratulations New Regional Directors

John Knott of Florida was appointed to be Director of **Region 3**, which includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Teams in **Region 6**, which includes Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming, elected **Crichton C. "Rob" Roberts** of Hawaii as Director.

Teams outside the U.S.A. re-elected **Kenny Jagdeosingh** of Trinidad and Tobago as the International Director for **Region 9**.

Two Regional Director Vacancies

Region 1 and Region 4 have open Director positions. If you are a member of a Team in either of these regions, please contact Larry Fry via email <LFry@REACTintl.org> or fax (608) 757-2379 with your suggestions for Director. Don't be shy – **you can nominate yourself!**

Region 1 includes Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, and Pennsylvania. Region 4 includes Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.

Welcome New Teams!

Desert Hot Springs Quake S.A.F.E. REACT, Team 6100
(Desert Hot Springs, California)

Flag City REACT, Team 6101 (Vaniue, Ohio)

London REACT, Team 6102 (London, Ontario Canada)

REACT Emergency Services, Team 6103 (Owego, New York)

Chatham-Kent Golden Angels REACT, Team 6104
(Chatham, Ontario Canada)

Brandywine Search & Rescue REACT, Team 6105
(Claymont, Delaware)

REACT Squid Group, Team 6106, Philippines

REACT of Alamance County, Team 6107
(Graham, North Carolina)

Clinton County Emergency REACT, Team 6108 (Kentucky)

What Do Regional Directors Do?

Regional Directors are involved in the development of membership within their respective regions. The regional directors' roles on the RI Board of Directors are limited to such subjects as corporation finances, personnel, policy, procedure and other similar roles. The officers (President, Exec. VP, Treasurer, and Secretary) conduct the day-to-day business of the corporation.

Let your regional Director know what is going on with your Team and your Council. Ask what you can do to help them. Thank them for attending Board meetings and serving as your Region's Director.

REACT Directory Updates

Region 6 Director

Crichton C. "Rob" Roberts

410 Magellan Avenue #1003

Honolulu, HI 96813-1857

(808) 864-2828

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<CRoberts@REACTintl.org>

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REACT Council

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(804) 439-3017

<DManlove@REACTintl.org>

The *REACT* International and *REACT* Council directories are kept updated and available at <www.REACTintl.org>. They also were published in the November-December 2004 *REACTer*. All RI Directors and officers have email addresses with FirstInitialLastName@REACTintl.org, like LFry@REACTintl.org for Larry Fry. If you don't know how to contact someone, call *REACT* International at (301) 316-2900 or send email to <REACT@REACTintl.org> and Dora or Norm can put you in touch.



Welcome **REACT** Squid Team 6106 (Philippines)

By Eric Conrad C. Epie, DU9GVU, **REACT** Kaamulan (Philippines)

On May 12, 2005, **REACT** Squid, from Oroquieta City, became the 6106th Team, and the second Team from the Philippines to affiliate with **REACT** International. It has actively served the constituents of Oroquieta City and neighboring towns and municipalities since May of 1984 with 19 regular members, 3 honorary, 6 fire volunteers and 1 full time radio operator.

Oroquieta, pronounced as (Oh-rok-e-ta), is a lovely coastal city with almost 75,000 population, 47 barangays and land area of 26,393.464 hectares [Ed. - 101.9 square miles]. The early inhabitants found gold along the river, and the city derived its name from the words "ORO," meaning "gold," and "QUITA" or "KITA," meaning "to find." Oroquieta is the provincial capital of Misamis Occidental. Visit <www.oroquieta.net> for more information about the city.

The group known as **REACT** Squid Group is duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Philippines and has been accredited with different government agencies and councils. Squid was specially chosen as their group name because of its abundance and common marine stock in the region aside from being exported abroad.

The group decided to join **REACT** International initially with 3 charter members, Alice B. Romer is the charter Team President, a retired Policewoman from Los Angeles Police Department and has gone back to



Photo: Eric Conrad C. Epie
Alice Romer, Romy Tan and Alvin Angay with fellow members from **REACT Squid Group posing before the majestic Maria Cristina Falls in Iligan City, Philippines.**

the Philippines along with her husband Larry, a retired Fireman also from Los Angeles Fire Department; Alvin B. Angay is the Charter Secretary and Romy A. Tan as the Charter Treasurer. Both are professionals and businessmen in the city respectively.

At present, **REACT** Squid group utilizes 2 meter radios and mobile phones for their emergency communication with linkage from the city police, fire station and the city government of Oroquieta. What makes them more unique is that they have organized the **REACT** Squid Volunteer Fire Brigade equipped with 2 fire trucks and an emergency utility vehicle. Their office address is 4th floor, City Hall Annex building, Independence St., Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental, Philippines.

For the time being, the group plans to acquire more equipment to augment their capability, hopeful enough through its affiliation with **REACT** International, can find potential sponsors for portable/mobile radios and similar emergency gear. Fellow **REACT**ers, it is my privilege to welcome and introduce **REACT** Squid Group to the world.



Photo: Eric Conrad C. Epie

One of the two fire trucks being maintained by the **REACT Squid Group.**

When the Law Calls

By Ronald W. McCracken, *REACT* Lake Simcoe (Canada)

When you pick up the phone and it's the Law calling, you wonder all kinds of things.

REACT Lake Simcoe (Ontario, Canada) got "the call" recently. Once over the surprise, the news was great. York Regional Police (YRP) were observing "Crime Prevention Week." They were inviting *REACT* to be part of the program they had planned.

Another first for the Team! "We considered it a great honour to be asked," Team V-P Art Heath commented. "Police here usually work independently on such events. Thus, their request came as a bit of a shock. A very nice one."

Police were mounting a display at one of the large malls in the area. They wondered if *REACT* would like to work the display with them, and display *REACT* safety materials alongside theirs. On the day selected, *REACT*ers Art Heath and Ron McCracken met police at the designated spot in the mall.

For several hours, *REACT* and police teamed up to answer questions or provide safety materials to mall shoppers. Art is a retired Toronto Police officer, so he hit it right off with the YRP officers. They swapped "war stories" when business at the booth was

slow. It was a day to remember. *REACT*ers were glad that their Team uniforms measured up respectably to their police counterparts, giving them a professional appearance. Their crisp uniforms had once before earned them a police request to assist with traffic control for a weekend military parade when police officers were stretched to the limit. Those *REACT* uniforms are far more important than many realize. You never know when police may "come calling." Be ready.



Photo: Ron McCracken

Art Heath works joint crime prevention display with York Regional Police.

Calendar 2005 – 2006

August 15	Deadline for September - October <i>REACT</i> er
September 5	Labor Day (US), Labour Day (Canada)
October 1	Deadline for November - December <i>REACT</i> er
October 10	Columbus Day (US), Thanksgiving Day (Canada)
October 22	Fall Board Meeting (Electronic) * NEW *
November 11	Veterans Day
November 24	Thanksgiving Day (US)
December 1	Deadline for January - February <i>REACT</i> er
December 25	Christmas
Dec. 26 - Jan. 2	Hanukkah
January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 31	Team Renewals and Monitoring Reports Due at <i>REACT</i> International
March 3-4	Winter Board Meeting, Suitland, Maryland

Living the Served Agency Relationship

By Lawson "Smitty" Smith, Mark Twain *REACT* (Missouri)

We received a special award a few months ago that made volunteering worth it. The Waynesville-St. Robert Area Chamber of Commerce voted Mark Twain *REACT* as Organization of the Year in assisting our community. Each of us works full time and volunteers full time as police officers, EMT, first responders, fire fighters, and soldiers on call ups for the Gulf. It just depends on the hat that day.

Our Team has been here since 1962 with Reyno Feltner, Unit 34, as our oldest member and historian. Reyno has been a Team member and Council officer since day one. We have learned that you have to continue to build a Team to be an effective Team. When folks train together, work together, and have fun at what we do, it is great for the community and for the Team.

When cell phones changed the need for *REACT* Teams to monitor CB channel 9, we had to look to other ways to assist and carry our *REACT* name. To get into a community and be part of an incident, one has to be known in advance and be part of the community. Our county is all volunteer and we have our day jobs. I am retired active army of 20 years, and carry knowledge of many tasks that the Team shares on many events. Being appointed as the Emergency Management Director for our Pulaski County has been a great honor for me. My day job is an online computer tech with workstations and networking. Being the state MOVOAD secretary and treasurer for the last five years has opened many doors to several agencies within the state of Missouri.



Photo: Lawson Smith

Team members provide support during 4 hours moving a big house up historic Route 66.

JB King has been a long time member of *REACT* and retired Missouri Highway Patrol of 30 plus years. Since he retired, we now have JB as our County Sheriff. Another member of the Team, Eric Price, is Richland City Police Chief and the Assistant Fire Chief of Hazelgreen Fire. Eric is retired active army also of 20 years, and has hobbies of search and rescue, dive rescue, and rappel rescue to contribute to the team.

The many different agencies we belong to are an asset. For any mission, we have the training and individual backgrounds that give us the ability to accomplish it easily. We use the Teamwork slogan: "WE or US, and not ME or I." This statement works. Our Team leader, Bill Miller, is a prior EMD for Pulaski, and with our links with the Highway Patrol, we network great in our county. This usually generates volunteers for the Team from the many events we work each month.

In closing, our State effort is only three Teams now. Gateway and Tri-County (St. Louis) members make the two-hour drive to hang out with us down here in Pulaski. The network of the three Teams makes a great effort to help each other. When the Teams drove to New York to help over there (responding right after 9/11), the satisfaction of working with new friends and *REACT*ers there was the same that we have here in Missouri. Whatever help is needed, *REACT* is an already made CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), and is ready to support in any disaster.



Photo: Lawson Smith

Team members spent 10 hours assisting in recovery after an 18 wheeler accident on I-44.

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Silent Mics

Compiled by Dora Wilbanks

Elwin Crandall, Eldred Instate *REACT*, Team C576 (Pennsylvania).

Kenneth Conner, Mountain *REACT*, Team 6060 (California).

Ramdass Bhola, *REACT* St. Andrews/St. David, Team 6008 (Trinidad and Tobago).

Daniel J. Markham, Empire Central *REACT*, Team 3030 (New York).

Harold Miller, Sr., Reading *REACT*, Inc., Team C604 (Pennsylvania).

Robert I. Johnson, Bay Area Emergency Radio *REACT*, Team 2609 (California).

Bob Clark, Prince William *REACT*, Inc., Team C109 (Virginia), passed away April 30 peacefully. Bob was a founding member of Prince William and was instrumental in the start of *REACT* International back in the 60s.

Joseph Garcia, Honolulu *REACT*, Team C010 (HI), was nicknamed "Joe Joe" by the team and was one of the most dedicated and valuable members of Honolulu *REACT* as well as being a wonderful friend and father who will be missed by all who knew him. He could always be counted upon to respond with both dedication and enthusiasm no matter what time of day or night he was called. He passed away after a stroke in May 2005.

Xavier M. "Marty" Martin, Honolulu *REACT* Team Unit 8, became a "Silent Key" as he passed away Monday evening, May 16 at 2010 hours, at home with his family. Marty was our Team Treasurer for more years than most of us can recall. He was one of the most dedicated and valuable members of Honolulu *REACT* as well as being a wonderful friend and a father who will be missed by all who knew him.

Jim Coker Remembered

By Lee Besing

Jim Coker, KB5EHP, became a silent mic May 11, 2005. He was one of the more active members of *REACT* in Texas since he joined Travis County *REACT*, way, way back in the beginning. In the photo shown, Jim Coker loans his Net Control microphone to actor Robin Williams who was riding in the Lance Armstrong's Ride for the Roses Bicycle Tour. As Robin Williams used to say when he played the role of Mork in "Mork and Mindy" in the late 70's, Na no, na no, Jim. We'll all miss you.

Jim was a former member of the United States Air Force. He was a member of the San Marcos Chapter and Council of Masons and Commandery #4 in Austin. He earned several ARRL awards, such as Worked All States, using amateur radio callsign KB5EHP. He was also active in ARES.

He and his wife Paula were always the first to volunteer to help or take charge if need be, even when the activity was across the state with another Team. They were frequent helpers to the Teams south of them at Canyon Lake and San Antonio, as well as north to Waco. They were often net control for the Trail of Lights in Austin, working for two to three weeks every night until nearly midnight or later as control operator to organize the event. Texas Special Olympic Area Games just didn't happen in Austin without the Cokers being there to provide communications.



Jim shares his radio with actor Robin Williams at the Lance Armstrong Ride for the Roses in Austin, Texas.

Jim served his Team in most of the officer positions as well as on the Texas State *REACT* Council, most recently as Sergeant at Arms. About six years back, due to an accident, one foot was removed from his leg below the knee. Confined to a wheelchair, Jim remained in high spirits saying he "still had a leg to stand on". Various operations ensued over the years, including heart bypass surgery. The doctors ended up removing his other leg, causing Jim to joke "I'm now down to my ideal weight, but the problem is I'm two feet shorter than I ought to be." Jim had a great sense of humor and he always looked for the good in everybody.

Farewell, Jim.

Don Perry, Silent Mic

By Rick McCann



Don Perry (right) serves breakfast from the comvan.

Don Perry, founder and president of Salem Area *REACT* (Oregon), became a silent mic on April 9, 2005. He was a Team leader and a friend, and will greatly be missed for his 4 AM coffee. He served his community and the sheriff office countless hours. Don taught me how to build fires and make hotcake batter so we could feed searchers, *REACT* members, and community. Thank you Don for the memories. Most of all you taught me what public service was and is today. Thank you *REACT* International for that time.

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Emergency Communications Training

The Level I *REACT* Emergency Communications training manual is available online for members to download free of charge. This program is similar to that offered by ARRL to its members, but has been expanded to include additional materials regarding other radio services (including GMRS, CB, FRS, and MURS, in addition to Amateur Radio) due to the wide variety of radio services often used by *REACT* Teams.

The *REACT* EComm program is available only to *REACT* members. See the EComm Flyer at <<http://www.reactintl.org/committees/EComm%20Flyer.pdf>> for more information about the Emergency Communications Training and Certification Program. *REACT* Members should send e-mail to <IWantEComm@REACTintl.org> for information about downloading the manual online.

* * *

If you have more training ideas and want to volunteer to help the training and development committee, contact Tom Currie, the committee chairman, at <training@REACTintl.org>.

Hurricane Watch!

When hurricanes threaten, Amateur Radio operators activate the Hurricane Watch Net . If you would like to listen in, the net frequency will be 14.325 MHz, upper sideband.

Other resources to keep in mind: The Waterway Net meets daily from 0745 to 0845 Eastern Time on 7.268 MHz, lower sideband. The Maritime Mobile Service Net operates continually, with rotating Net Control Stations, every afternoon and evening on 14.300 MHz upper sideband.

William Riley
<communications@REACTintl.org>

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The REACTer is the official publication of REACT International, Inc. REACT is one of the world's largest all-volunteer safety communications organizations. REACT has more than 3,000 members in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, the Philippines, and the West Indies. REACT volunteers are organized into local Teams that offer a variety of communications skills to their communities. *The REACTer* is their primary source of information about this international organization, its

activities, and matters such as new radio technologies, safety-related equipment developments, etc.

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