

## REACT International

### Officers

**President:** Dick Cooper, N2LMK  
**Executive Vice-President:**  
Ed Greany, KB6DOL  
**Secretary:** Lee W. Besing, N5NTG  
**Treasurer:**  
Norman Kaplan, N3LDM  
**General Counsel:**  
Charles A. Thompson, N5IAG

### Board of Directors

**Chairman:**  
L.O. "Larry" Fry, K9FRY  
**Vice-Chairman:**  
Robert Kaster, K5MIE

**Region 1:** Vacant  
**Region 2:** Don Manlove  
**Region 3:** John Knott, KG4WQ  
**Region 4:** Vacant  
**Region 5:** Larry Fry, K9FRY  
**Region 6:** Crichton "Rob" Roberts, KH7MW  
**Region 7:** Robert Kaster, K5MIE  
**Region 8:** Rob Clark, KG6DTL  
**Region 9:** Kenny Jagdeoingh  
**Ex Officio:** Dick Cooper, N2LMK

### Publications Review Committee:

Eric Hutchins, K7ELH  
R.K. "Bob" Leef, KB6DON

**Editor:** Don Tarbet, KD1XU

**Advertising Manager:** Ron McCracken,  
KG4CVL

### Editorial Address:

The REACTer  
5210 Auth Rd., Ste. 403  
Suitland, MD 20746-4393  
<editor@reactintl.org>

### Circulation Address:

5210 Auth Rd., Ste. 403  
Suitland, MD 20746-4393  
<react@reactintl.org>

### REACT International

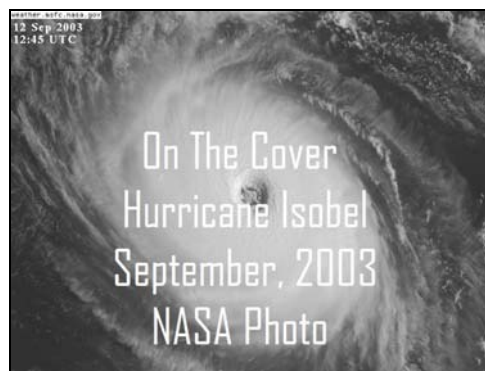
Dora Wilbanks, Office Mgr.  
5210 Auth Rd., Ste 403  
Suitland, ME 20746-4393  
Voice: 301-316-2900  
Fax: 301-316-2903  
<react@reactintl.org>



# The REACTer

Volume 39, No. 5 September-October 2005

From the President .....	Dick Cooper	2
From the Executive Vice-President .....	Ed Greany	4
Editor's Corner.....	Don Tarbet	12
Calendar.....		5
Hurricane!.....	Don Tarbet	6
Officers & Board of Directors.....		9
Silent Mics .....	Dora Wilbanks	3
October 22 Electronic Board Meeting Minutes .....		11
Advertiser's Index.....		3
REACT Councils.....		8
Crest REACT Surprises Authorities .....	Bob Leef	15
News & Notes.....		16



**The REACTer** (ISSN 1055-9167) is the official publication of REACT International, Inc., a nonprofit public service corporation. © 2005 RI. All rights reserved.

Mailed at Periodicals Rate at Suitland, MD, and other mailing offices. **POSTMASTER: Send address changes to REACT, 5210 Auth Rd., Suite 403, Suitland, MD 20746-4393.**

The REACTer is published bimonthly (six issues per year). The subscription price is included in members' dues. Subscription rate for nonmembers is \$7.50 per year (U.S.).

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](http://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](http://www.REACTintl.org).



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Dick Cooper

By now all Teams should have received your renewal packages. If you didn't receive it, please call Dora or Norman at the office and they will send another one to you. There are some new questions that are included in the 2006 renewal package. Please call your Director or the RI office if you have any questions.

The extensive delays of the *REACTer*, Teams and members stressed by the excessive number and sizes of various natural disasters, *REACT* International deficit budget, loss of our long time editor and other things have combined to make 2005 one of the most traumatic years in *REACT*'s recent history. Your Directors and officers are working to keep *REACT* operating as efficiently as possible. Just as before, all changes have been made after careful consideration of the impact on the loyal membership and the well-being of *REACT* International. I read the emails that I get and I know that there is unrest with many *REACT* Teams – they are unhappy with *REACT* International for various reasons. The Board is still painfully aware of the specific problems that resulted in the delays of the *REACTer* magazines and we are still working to get it back on schedule. The

full story would probably be good enough for several episodes of a soap opera. The insurance decision that the Board made was not popular among the Board members but we had to choose whether to increase the insurance to Teams/members or to have *REACT* International continue to have a very large deficit at the end of each year. Please understand that a deficit in the budget at the end of the year means that the difference must be taken from RI savings and that is never a good idea. If your team wishes to discuss options or alternatives, please contact myself or Norman in the RI office. Remember that you have worked hard to build your *REACT* Team and establish various relations. “*REACT* is still the best way to go – let's keep it that way.”

On October 22, 2005 at 3:00 pm Eastern time the RI Board of Directors conducted its first electronic Board meeting. The idea had been discussed for quite some time and it finally happened. This first e-meeting was conducted as an experiment to see if it might work for *REACT*. There was a much reduced agenda that was distributed to all officers and Directors via email in advance of the e-meeting. The software chosen for this experiment was

from Teamspeak. Teamspeak is free of charge to non-commercial users, and it is an application that enables people to speak to each other over the Internet just as you would via telephone. Among other things, there is even a text messaging feature that lets participants send a message to a specific individual(s) or the entire group. There was considerable advance preparation to help Directors and officers with the Teamspeak software setup for the meeting, etc. There were still some glitches that prevented some of the Directors and officers from participating though. Out of the possible 13 officers and Directors, 9 were able to participate in the e-meeting. All Directors and officers were invited to critique the e-meeting to see what needs to be changed next time. It is my desire that this e-meeting will be an annual occurrence in addition to the Annual meeting and summer meeting.

Near the middle of October I received an email from a *REACT* friend in Indiana. Her emails are normally upbeat but this one was a real downer. She informed me of the death of Jack Murrell, long time *REACTer* active at the Team, council and international levels for many years. Jack was

76 years old and was preceded in death by his wife Edna and 1 son. He is survived by 7 children, 12 grand children, 1 great-grandson and his brother. On the *REACT* International Board of Directors, Jack held the office of president and most recently was the Director for region 4 (Indiana, Michigan and Ohio). I worked with Jack on the RI Board for only a few years, but in that time I learned that he was a very unique individual (That is a compliment.). Jack didn't say too much but when he did, you better listen because he didn't like to repeat himself. During Board meetings, Jack would like to play word games in his game book. If ever anyone should think that he wasn't paying attention to the business that was being discussed, they were making a big mistake. He heard everything that was being discussed. Many of his comments had deeper meanings than many of the Board members realized at the time. Jack's family, *REACT* and the world have truly lost a giant. Thank you Jack.

## Silent Mics

by Dora Wilbanks

Peter Weideman, Team 4364,  
Fond Du Lac County *REACT*.

**Got an idea for an article? We may want it. Contact the *REACT*er: <editor@reactintl.org> to inquire – or write and send it to that address. We're looking for thumbnail profiles of *REACT*ers, stories of *REACT* actions, general interest radio pieces.**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:training@REACTintl.org)>.**



## Advertisers Index

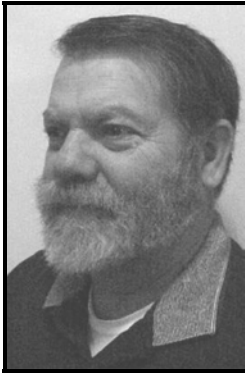
Barbara Jennison, Sparks Flew ...	10
Cook Towers .....	13
Icom America.....	Back Cover
K40.....	Inside Back Cover
National Communications.....	13
Popular Communications.....	.....
.....	Inside Front Cover
R.K. Leef.....	5
R.K. Leef Special.....	7
The Coaxman.....	7

## The business of *REACT*

International revolves around natural disaster. We deal with hurricanes, fires, snow and ice, tornados, floods, earthquakes and tsunamis, and more. (See *REACT*er July-August 2004.) Yes, there are manmade disasters, too, such as 9-11. And traffic pileups. And hazardous materials spills. And...

We are about the quieter parts of public service, too. We are about a cup of coffee when it's cold. We're about toys for kids left homeless by hurricanes. We're about making sure that public events go smoothly and without danger to participants or spectators.

But we train for emergency. With this issue we begin a series on the various types of disasters we might face. We start with hurricanes (page 6). As time permits and interest is expressed, we will move on to the other problems nature may confront us with. Have you experience with any or all of these? Want to write the story? <editor@reactintl.org>.



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

By Ed Greany

We just celebrated our 43rd year of service. Congratulations to all of us for this long time record of service. We should start now preparing for our BIG celebration to commemorate our Golden Anniversary in 2012. That's only seven years away.

*REACT* is still very strong with excellent exposure and articles by our Public Relations Committee. Please submit articles of your events and activities for consideration for use in Popular Communications and other publications. Are you promoting the ICE program? ICE stands for In Case of Emergency and is a recommendation that you program your cell phone with important emergency contact numbers under the letter "I" for easy access by emergency personnel. Example: Under the letter "I" you might program ICE-mother 202-555-1212. This would allow someone to contact your mother easily in case of emergency whereby if you simply had her programmed under "M" for Mom or some name like Lucy

under the "L" listings it would be more difficult to make the contact when necessary.

Our Training Committee is working hard on the next level of the *REACT* Emergency Communications course. If you haven't yet taken Level I you won't want to get behind so order your copy today and get ready for your next chapter in disaster training.

Membership is still high on our priority list. Some Teams are flourishing while others are suffering. Much of the success is related to attitude and aggressiveness in recruiting new members. Why not invite a friend to your next Team meeting and ask him or her to join? Often it only takes a simple invitation by you. We have kept *REACT* dues at the same level now for many years. We can operate on the dues due to our efficient management Team. What we can't control is the insurance premium for our liability insurance you said you want. We are at the mercy of the insurance company and can no longer subsidize the insurance premium so that part must be apportioned to the members. This year the cost is \$12 per member for our excellent policy we worked very

hard to locate and acquire for you.

After some bumps in the road after the untimely death of our editor the Publications Committee has located a replacement editor and we will be back on a regular publications schedule for you of *The REACTer*. This issue is Don's first issue published and he welcomes your comments and articles for future issues. Let's all welcome Don to his key-board and look forward to some excellent work in 2006. Advertisers are always welcome so if you know of someone who could benefit from our *REACTer* magazine to a specific audience of communicators, please refer the party to us for follow up.

---

### **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.

## Two Board of Directors Vacancies

**Region 1 and Region 4 still 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.

## What Do Directors Do?

Directors are involved in the development of membership within their respective regions. Their role 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 representative on the board 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 representative.

## Icom, Midland, Maxon, Tekk

GMRS, ham, business use  
Handhelds from \$109  
Mobiles from \$239

(949) 770-9501  
www.rkleef.com  
REACTer since 1966



## Calendar 2005 - 2006

*December 25:* Christmas

*December 26:* Boxing Day (Canada)

*December 26 – January 2:* Hanukkah

*January 16:* Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (US)

*January 31:* **Team Renewals and Monitoring Reports Due** at REACT International

*February 6:* Deadline for March-April REACTer

*February 20:* President's Day (US)

*March 3-4:* Annual REACT Board Meeting

**REACT is about service. Let us know what *your* Team is doing, be it training, monitoring, public service events, or emergency assistance. Send stories to: <editor@reactintl.org>**





## By Don Tarbet

These last two years have been bad ones for hurricanes. Volunteer communicators have been kept busy responding to disaster after disaster. (*REACTer* Nov. – Dec. 2004 & Nov. – Dec. 2003) But has it been worse than normal? According to figures published by the National Hurricane Center ([www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)), currently we are suffering through one of the worst periods since modern record keeping began in 1851.

According to a study recently released by the National Hurricane Center, the 2005 season had 26 named storms, a record, with 13 hurricanes, also a record – seven of which became intense hurricanes. Though projections differ, many experts expect continued severe weather for at least several years, though recent projections call for decreased – though still above normal – hurricane activity.

Projections are for nine hurricanes – five intense as opposed to an average of six and two.

So, how do hurricanes form and what conditions favor their development? According to NOAA, “Convection is the process by which thunderstorms, tropical storms and hurricanes form. It is also an important ingredient of a monsoon system. When convection is strong — warm, moist and unstable air in the lower atmosphere rises to great heights. This rising air cools, forming clouds and rain. However, it remains warmer than its surrounding environment, thus warming the atmosphere. Warmer temperatures lead to higher pressure in the upper atmosphere and lower pressure in the lower atmosphere, which further accelerates the inflow of warm, moist air into the region, and further enhances the outflow in the upper atmosphere, thus sustaining the convection.”

Hurricanes are categorized by wind speed. We turn to the National Hurricane Center for our definitions. The threshold is set at wind speeds of 74 mph. Below that level, we have tropical depression and tropical storm. Considerable damage is likely below hurricane levels, but the major

damage comes with hurricanes, sometimes due to the tornados they spawn.

Category 1: Winds are 74-95 mph. Storm surge is 4-5 feet above normal. Damage is primarily to unanchored mobile homes, vegetation, and poorly constructed signs.

Category 2: Winds 96-110 mph. Damage will occur to buildings and some trees will be blown down. Storm surge 6-8 feet above normal is to be expected.

Category 3: Winds 111-130 mph. Storm surge 9-12 feet above normal is expected. Structural damage to small buildings will occur with mobile homes destroyed.

Category 4: Winds are in the 131-155 mph range. Storm surge is 13-18 feet above normal. Considerable damage with some roof collapse on small structures occurs. Katrina hit the Gulf coast as a category four, and note what that storm did.

Category 5: Winds are greater than 155 mph. Storm surge is more than 18 feet above normal. Roof collapse and some complete destruction of buildings. Damage is severe and widespread.

Hurricanes in categories three through five are

considered as major or intense hurricanes and special records are kept of their occurrence.

Hurricanes need warm ocean waters, low wind shear, and favorable mid-level easterly winds. All these conditions have been present at unusual levels since 1995. This change seems to be part of a natural cycle with 20 to 30 year periods of above or below normal hurricane activity. None of this relates to greenhouse warming, but some studies indicate that over the next century global

warming may lead to an intensification of conditions favorable to hurricane development.

With our increased vulnerability to infrastructure damage and our increasing numbers, the potential for disaster has never been higher. Lives will be lost; property will be lost. Weaknesses in our response efforts and our preventative efforts will cost us dearly. But there is a bright side. There have never been more, or better trained, volunteer communicators, ready to step in when offi-

cial channels become overloaded – as they generally do. That is you and me. If you haven't already done so, download the *REACT* emergency preparedness course and study it. If you are a ham, go through the ARRL course, either on the Internet or otherwise. Check the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org>. For preparedness tips, go to <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/intro.shtml>

Remember the old saying: "It's not a matter of *if*; it's a matter of *when*."

**"Preparation through education is less costly than learning through tragedy."**  
- MAX MAYFIELD, DIRECTOR  
NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

"History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster." National Hurricane Center.

**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>

**SKYWARN**

is a group of volunteer weather observers trained by the National Weather Service to observe and report on weather conditions as part of an organized net. For more information:  
<http://www.skywarn.org/>

**SPECIAL THROUGH 2-28-06:**

ONLY \$249



**MIDLAND UHF MOBILE MO-4032**

**"The COAXMAN"**



Magnet Wire • Accessories  
Wireman Coax • Baluns  
[www.coaxman.com](http://www.coaxman.com)  
[wire@coaxman.com](mailto:wire@coaxman.com)  
405-745-WIRE (9473)

**Clear Signal Products, Inc.**  
toll free (866) 745-WIRE (9473)

## **REACT Councils as of April 14, 2005**

<p><b>ARIZONA</b> Arizona State <i>REACT</i> Council Gene McLemore 2129 E. Whitton Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85106 602-956-4296</p>	<p><b>KENTUCKY</b> Kentucky State <i>REACT</i> Council Tom Currie P.O. Box 72595 Louisville, KY 40272-0595 502-935-5113</p>	<p><b>NEBRASKA</b> Nebraska State <i>REACT</i> Council Rick Harrison P.O. Box 244 Cortland, NE 68331 402-798-7503</p>	<p><b>TEXAS</b> Texas State <i>REACT</i> Council Allan Tyler 1309 Gifford Lane Angleton, TX 77515 979-849-9489</p>
<p><b>CENTRAL CALIFORNIA</b> Central CA <i>REACT</i> Council, Inc. Kurt D. Ervin 35 South Cambridge Drive Lemoore, CA 93245 559-309-3247</p>	<p><b>MAINE</b> Maine <i>REACT</i> Council Jim Koritzky 42 Sunbury Ave. Bangor, ME 04401-3353 207-942-8067</p>	<p><b>NEW JERSEY</b> Garden State Council of <i>REACT</i> Teams, Inc. Dick Cooper P.O. Box 9898 Trenton, NJ 08650 877-881-3995</p>	<p><b>VIRGINIA</b> Commonwealth of Virginia <i>REACT</i> Council, Inc. Chris Bowen 118 Jackson Ave. Winchester, VA 22601 540-665-9749</p>
<p><b>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA</b> Southern CA <i>REACT</i> Council Howard Heyboer 3375 Avocado Hill Way Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 626-330-9816</p>	<p><b>MARYLAND</b> Maryland State Council of <i>REACT</i> Teams, Inc. Wayne L. Lewis 116 Ormand Street Frostburg, MD 21532-1612 301-689-8849</p>	<p><b>SOUTHERN NEW YORK</b> Southern New York State <i>REACT</i> Council Warren Deitz PO Box 17 Holmes, NY 12531 845-228-1501</p>	<p><b>PACIFIC NORTHWEST</b> Pacific NW <i>REACT</i> Council Tom Jenkins P.O. Box 191035 Boise, ID 83719 208-869-5034</p>
<p><b>FLORIDA</b> FL Council of <i>REACT</i> Teams Michael Cauley 833 Grenadier Drive Orlando, FL 32807 321-438-5952</p>	<p><b>MASSACHUSETTS</b> New England <i>REACT</i> Council William Street Station Joe Nadeau P.O. Box 60755 Longmeadow, MA 01116-0755</p>	<p><b>NORTH CAROLINA</b> North Carolina State <i>REACT</i> Council Terry Houston P.O. Box 786 Drexel, NC 28619 828-893-0812</p>	<p><b>WEST INDIES</b> Trinidad&amp;Tobago <i>REACT</i> Council Deonanan Kenny Jagdeosingh P.O. Box 3062 St. James Post Office Trinidad &amp; Tobago, West Indies 868-628-2886</p>
<p><b>ILLINOIS</b> Illinois <i>REACT</i> Council Archie L. Hawley 19917 S. Pine Hill Road Frankfort, IL 60423 815-469-6355</p>	<p><b>MICHIGAN</b> Michigan <i>REACT</i> Council John Swaton, Jr. 5863 West Side Saginaw Rd. Bay City, MI 48706 989-686-4991</p>	<p><b>OHIO</b> Ohio <i>REACT</i> Council, Inc. Dave Boone P.O. Box 58 Brunswick, OH 44212 330-273-4671</p>	<p><b>WISCONSIN</b> Wisconsin Council of <i>REACT</i> Teams Edward Beltz P.O. Box 228 Pewaukee, WI 53072-0228 920-923-4291</p>
<p><b>INDIANA</b> Indiana <i>REACT</i> Council, Inc. Stan Forker 719 Plum St. Logansport, IN 46947 574-753-4213</p>	<p><b>MINNESOTA</b> Minnesota <i>REACT</i> Team Council Charles Reichensperger 2311 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. South Saint Cloud, MN 56301 320-251-7844</p>	<p><b>PENNSYLVANIA</b> Pennsylvania Council of <i>REACT</i> Teams, Inc. Steve Gobat P.O. Box 8797 Allentown, PA 18105-8797 717-938-6943</p>	<p><b>CANADA</b> Ontario <i>REACT</i> Council, Inc. Linda Faulkner 189 Sydenham Street Woodstock, ON N4S-7B8 519-539-6922</p>
<p><b>IOWA</b> Iowa <i>REACT</i> Council Danny Fowlie 1255 Ripley Court Muscatine, IA 52761 319-266-0270</p>	<p><b>MISSOURI</b> Missouri <i>REACT</i> Council Lawson Smith 20876 Hampton Drive Dixon, MO 65459 573-336-2459</p>	<p><b>PUERTO RICO</b> Puerto Rico <i>REACT</i> Council Alfonso Ferrer Barbosa Box 425 Yauco, PR 00698 809-856-4960</p>	





**REACT International, Inc.**  
**5210 Auth Road - Suite 403**  
**Suitland, MD 20746**

**(301)316-2900 Office**  
**(301)316-2903 Fax**

**e-mail: <react@reactintl.org>**  
**<http://www.reactintl.org>**

## **Contact Directory**

### **OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2005-2006**

#### **Officers**

Dick Cooper  
24 Thropp Ave.  
Hamilton, NJ 08610

Ed Greany  
P.O. Box 720790  
Pinon Hills, CA 92372

Lee W. Besing  
8607 Timber Ash  
San Antonio, TX 78250

Norman L. Kaplan  
2605 Loma Street  
Silver Spring, MD 20902

Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson  
2909 Rosedale Ave.  
University Park, TX 75205

#### **Contact**

HP 609-888-3506  
e-mail: <dcooper@reactintl.org>

HP 760-868-8113  
e-mail: <Crest25@Verizon.net>

Cell 210-771-7075  
Fax 210-680-2680  
e-mail: <lbesing@reactintl.org>

HP 301-649-6389  
e-mail: <nkaplan@erols.com>

HP 214-368-8223  
Cell 214-797-1495  
Fax 214-691-2322  
<ChuckTho@aol.com>

#### **Title**

President

Executive Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer, Asst. Secy

General Counsel

#### **Board of Directors**

Laurence "Larry" Fry  
833 Cornelia Street  
Janesville, WI 53545-1609

Vacant

Don Manlove  
4019 West Dogwood Ave.  
Chester, VA 23831-7311

John T. Knott  
833 Grenadier Drive  
Orlando, FL 32807

Vacant

#### **Contact**

HP 608-752-4547  
Fax 608-757-2379  
e-mail: <LOFRY@aol.com>

HP 804-439-3017  
e-mail: <DManlove@reactintl.org>

HP/Fax 321-438-5952  
e-mail: <jknott@orlandoreact.org>

#### **Title/Region Assigned**

Chairman of the Board  
Region 5  
*ND, SD, NE, MN, IA, WI, IL*

Region 1  
*ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI, NY, PA*

Region 2  
*DE, NJ, MD, VA, KY, WV*

Region 3  
*TN, NC, SC, MS, AL, GA, FL*

Region 4  
*MI, IN, OH*

## Board of Directors(cont)

Laurence O. "Larry" Fry  
833 Cornelia Street  
Janesville, WI 53545-1609

Rob Roberts  
410 Magellan Avenue #1003  
Honolulu, HI 96813-1857

Robert Kaster, Jr.  
2401 SW 76  
Oklahoma City, OK 73159

Rob Clark  
3420 W. Arby Avenue  
Las Vegas, NV 89118

Kenny Jagdeo Singh  
P.O. Box 3062  
St. James Post  
Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies

## Contact

HP 608-752-4547  
Fax 608-757-2379  
e-mail: <LOFRY@aol.com >

HP 808-864-2828  
Fax/voicemail 808-524-5171  
e-mail <CRoberts@reactintl.org>

HP 405-685-9745(evenings)  
e-mail: <bobk1011@cox.net>

HP 702-361-5322  
e-mail: <crestreact89@aol.com>

HP 868-628-2886  
Fax 868-622-2557  
e-mail: <kennyr631@tsst.net.tt>

## Title/Region Assigned

Region 5  
ND, SD, NE, MN, IA, WI, IL

Region 6  
AK, HI, WA, OR, ID, MT, WY

Region 7  
AR, LA, NM, CO, KS, MO, OK, TX

Region 8  
CA, NV, UT, AZ

Region 9  
Canada, W. Indies, PR, UK, Germany,  
The Philippines, Scotland



### Sparks Flew!

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](http://www.authorhouse.com)  
also at Hastings and  
[www.BarnesandNoble.com](http://www.BarnesandNoble.com)

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



Barbara autographs book at Texas State REACT Council meeting

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

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.

Members outside of the U.S. and Canada may subscribe to *The REACTer* but the subscription fee (\$6 U.S.) is not included in their dues. To subscribe, send your name, full address, and payment to RI headquarters. Nonmembers may subscribe for \$7.50 per year.

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

**REACT International, Inc.**  
5210 Auth Rd., Ste. 403  
Suitland, MD 20746-4393

# Summary of the Minutes of A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of *REACT* International, Inc.,

*Held Electronically, 22 October 2005*

## **Directors Present**

Don Manlove (Va.), Region 2  
Larry Fry (Wis.), Region 5, Chairman  
C.C. (Rob) Roberts (Hawaii), Region 6  
Bob Kaster (Okla.), Region 7  
Dick Cooper (N.J.), President (*ex officio*)

## **Directors Absent**

Region 1 (Vacant)  
John Knott, Region 3  
Region 4 (Vacant)  
Rob Clark (Nev.), Region 8  
Kenny Jagdeosingh (Trinidad & Tobago), Region 9

## **Officers Present**

Dick Cooper (N.J.), President  
Lee Besing (Tex.), Secretary  
Norm Kaplan (Md.), Treasurer  
Charles A. Thompson (Tex.), General Counsel

## **Officers Absent**

Ed Greany (Calif.), Executive Vice President

## **Visitors Present:**

Allen Friend, Asst Director, Region 6

*(TeamSpeak software was used. Directors Jagdeosingh and Knott attempted to participate but had computer problems preventing connection. General Counsel Thompson had computer problems, but participated through a telephone link to President Cooper.)*

**1. Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at 3:10 p.m. EST, Saturday, 22 October 2005, by Chairman Fry. Mr. Fry first established ground rules for the first-ever RI electronic Board meeting. The limited agenda had been previously sent to each Director and officer.

**2. Quorum.** Secretary Besing announced there was a quorum with five Directors out of eight (including the President) present. Three non-voting officers were present.

**3. Approval of Previous Minutes.** Minutes of the meeting held 21-24 June were approved unanimously.

**4. New *REACT* Editor.** Mr. Thompson presented the Editor Search Committee's recommendation that Don Tarbet of Maine be the new *REACT* editor. He briefed the Board on Mr. Tarbet's qualifications, including that Mr. Tarbet currently edited several other publications and had a PhD. **Motion** Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Roberts, to appoint Don Tarbet as the new editor of *REACT*. **Unanimous.**

**5. REACTer Status.** It was decided that Mr. Besing and Mr. Thompson would work on the (late) July-August and September/October issues, and will work with Mr. Tarbet on the November/December issue if he is ready to assume the position, otherwise he will start with the January/February issue. Mr. Besing announced that he would endeavor to have the Jul/Aug issue to the printer by the end of October, the Sep/Oct issue by mid-November, and the Nov/Dec issue by the end of November.

*At this point, the meeting was recessed briefly because of technical difficulties with the software. When the problems were corrected, all previously present were again present.*

**6. President's Letter Concerning Insurance.** The President announced he had sent a letter to all Teams respecting the \$12.00 insurance fee since the information hadn't been included in the May/June REACTer.

**7. Disaster Fund Policy.** President Cooper briefly discussed Disaster Fund policies, and asked that all officers and Directors email their suggestions to him and Mr. Thompson. An RI policy, based on these suggestions, would be prepared and sent to the Board. Mr. Besing mentioned the ARRL policy. It is desirable that the policy be sent to Teams with the annual registration in about a week, so time is of the essence.

**8. Future E-Meetings.** President Cooper asked that officers and Directors send their observations and comments to him. He will compile and share with the Board and officers.

**9. Annual Board Meeting 3-4 March 2006.** Chairman Fry confirmed that the Annual Meeting of the Board would begin at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, 3 March 2006. Treasurer Kaplan will send out information regarding airport and hotel accommodations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m. EST, *sine die*.

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 \$0.37 U.S. postage (for U.S. delivery) to REACT International, Inc., 5210 Auth Road, Suite 403, Suitland, MD 20746-4330.)*

---

## Editor's Corner

By Don Tarbet

First, let me introduce myself. I am Don Tarbet, KD1XU. I live in the woods of central Maine and don't understand

why anybody would want to live anywhere else, though I have previously lived, worked, and gone to school in California, New Mexico, New York, and North Carolina. I am CEO of a small organization, NHEST, that provides nature and science education and recreation for blind and visually

impaired people of all ages ([www.nhest.org](http://www.nhest.org)). I am also involved in the craft industry, and am a writer and publisher to be found on the web at [www.mainemarketplace.com/books.html](http://www.mainemarketplace.com/books.html).

I have a background in psychology, forestry, and statistics

and have worked as logger, bartender, forester, college professor, retail store manager, and more that I've probably forgotten.

As a writer, I have published both fiction and non-fiction in a variety of outlets. My science fiction story on the cloning of extinct animals from recovered DNA was eventually purchased by a very small SF magazine (after some nasty comments about the impossibility of such a thing from other editors) for \$12.50 about the time Jurassic Park came out. I suspect that Michael Crichton got a bit more for his effort than did I.

In radio, I am president of Pine State Amateur Radio Club in Bangor ([www.n1me.com](http://www.n1me.com)), AEC, Penobscot ARES ([www.n1me.com/ares/htm](http://www.n1me.com/ares/htm)), ASM for Northern Maine for ARRL, and Secretary-Treasurer for Penobscot REACT, Team number 6088 ([www.mainemarketplace.com/react/](http://www.mainemarketplace.com/react/)). I teach ham licensing classes, ARRL emergency communication classes, and act as an examiner for both. I edit newsletters for Penobscot County ARES, Penobscot REACT, and NHEST.

As editor of the REACTer, I hope to stress the idea of cooperation among groups providing emergency communication, as well as stressing training and personal preparedness.

If we are not ready, we cannot serve.

I want to see more personal notes, thumbnail sketches of individual REACTers. I'll provide examples in the coming issues. And photos – we want photos of REACT in action as well as items showing the personal touch. Much preferred are electronic submissions.

Please bear with me as I learn this new task. But do send me your suggestions as well as your stories. Email to [editor@reactintl.org](mailto:editor@reactintl.org).



**CREST REACT IN ACTION**



## Has Your Team Renewed Yet? Team Renewals are due no later than January 31.

\*Reduced dues for family members (after the second member of the family)

\*Increased insurance fees to continue liability coverage

\*Remember that all Teams must certify compliance with IRS rules (unless they have their own 501(c) (3) exemption)

Check with your Team officers to be sure YOUR Team is renewed.

Please don't be surprised to find the REACTers coming in a bunch, possibly even out of order. In the confusion following the death of Stuart DeLuca, we have gotten behind and are struggling to catch up without shorting REACT members on news and information and our advertisers on space.

Bear with us while we get back on a normal schedule. We can't replace Stuart, but we can try to follow in his footsteps by producing a magazine worthy of REACT International and our tradition of public service. Bear with us – and help us. Send articles to [editor@reactintl.org](mailto:editor@reactintl.org)



# NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

An every other month magazine devoted to the entertainment and education of those interested in Scanners, CB radios, and other electronic means of communications.

As a subscriber to **National Communications**, you will be able to:

- Access over 4 million frequencies for your scanner
- Toll free "help line" for your programming questions
- Opportunity for FREE classified advertising
- Learn new and interesting ways to use your scanner, CB and FRS radios
- Keep up with the "latest and greatest" happenings within the industry
- 40 colorful pages in each issue

To subscribe to **National Communications**, call toll free 1-800-423-1331, log onto our web site at [www.nat-com.org](http://www.nat-com.org) or mail to: PO Box 291918, Kettering, OH 45429  
A full year's subscription (6 issues) is only \$21.



Every issue is packed with articles, interviews and stories of how to get more out of your scanning, monitoring, and CB radios. There are product reviews and product announcements of interest to those of us who enjoy the hobby of using the radio waves. And of course, advertisements for making your equipment better!

We accept:



For a free preview of **National Communications** log onto [www.nat-com.org](http://www.nat-com.org)

## REACT SURPRISES AUTHORITIES



### CREST REACT

[www.crestcom.org](http://www.crestcom.org)  
800-99 REACT

By Bob Leef, Crest REACT



As community events go, it wasn't a real biggie. There were slightly more than 1200 registered for the first ever 5K Labor Day Walk/Run in Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., and about 130 kids for the 1K. There were also exhibits near the start/finish area. However, behind the scenes something interesting happened.

*REACT* had worked before in the city, providing communications for two canyon cleanups and the annual New Year's Eve Family Fair. These activities had been without need of the police department. However, the 5K event required the

PD to do street blockades, traffic direction, spectator control, security, and other official functions. Our function was to observe and report. Because of all this activity, the city Emergency Operations Center was activated with Police and Fire Department personnel, and Crest *REACT* was asked to provide a member for liaison.

About a year before, we had asked to install a UHF antenna on the roof of the PD and make a wall outlet for the cable in case of a future need for communications services that we might provide. The 5K was to be the first use. After our portable repeater was brought in and connected, all *REACT*ers along the route were in touch with Jeff Roberts, Crest 68, who was in the EOC. What happened at this point was a surprise to the Police and Fire authorities. As Sgt. Steve Miller put it "we were getting information from *REACT* that wasn't being reported from our officers, the reserves, or the explorers!"

This was reason enough for *REACT* to be there but wait – there's more! Something else new happened. For the first time, we monitored FRS channel 1 for assistance. Our signs along the route and at the registration area said: AT THIS EVENT WE MONITOR FRS CH.1 FOR THE PUBLIC. This could be valuable at any activity where there are a lot of people and the usual questions, problems, need for directions, etc. There is a lot of potential here for *REACT* throughout the country to do this as yet another public communications service if participants know ahead of time to bring their FRS radios. This should be mentioned in any advance event promotion when your Team plans to do it. Reports on your results would be interesting to read. And, send your photos!

**At any event** where *REACT* has a presence, there is an opportunity for promotion. At our 5K we set up a table and had the following:

**Items from RI:**

- Planning Safe Community Events
- A Quick Guide to *REACT* Radio Systems
- Extra copies of The *REACT*er
- REACT* banner
- Variety of *REACT* signs

**Items from our Team:**

- Brochure "An Invitation to Join"
- Flyer "Is Your Neighborhood Communicating?" (FRS)
- Brochure "Using your FRS in an Emergency" Subtitled Facilitating Radio-equipped Schools
- Signs "Monitoring FRS Ch. 1"
- Large COMMUNICATIONS banner
- ICE (In Case of Emergency) flyer
- ICE graphic
- Membership applications
- A few radios, of course.

**NO TESTING REQUIRED!**

Ham radio type repeater operation for the whole family without taking a test! A simple FCC part 95 GMRS license covers everyone in your household. No testing required, just a simple form that may be completed on the internet.

Complete GMRS (UHF) repeater packages at discount prices. Also mobiles, handy-talkies, base stations as well as commercial lines and antennas all available at discount prices. Licensing assistance available. Beldon coax, hard line, repeater and base station antennas.

Communications of all types -- amateur, police, fire, EMS, business and SWL.

Please give us a call or drop us an email today!

**COOK TOWERS, INC.**  
**877-992-2665**  
**cooktowersinc@aol.com**

Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams Founded in 1962  
A NON-PROFIT PUBLIC SERVICE ORGANIZATION PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS  
FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS AND EMERGENCIES  
Recipient of The President's Volunteer Action Award



## NEWS & NOTES



Don Tarbet discusses the role of volunteers in emergency communication with Jon Ford, aide to Senator Susan Collins who chairs the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.



## TOYS

Some *REACT* Teams have joined ARRL and the Salvation Army in collecting toys for youngsters displaced or left homeless in the wake of this year's devastating Gulf Coast hurricanes. Penobscot *REACT*, Team #6088, participated in a small way. If your Team participated, let us know. Email us at <editor@reactintl.org>.

## BPL IS STILL WITH US

The issue of Broad Band over Powerlines (BPL) is still with us and not likely to go away until the technology itself fails to prove the panacea proponents claim it to be. Charles Land in the January – February 2004 *REACT*er describes BPL as follows: “The basic concept of BPL is to transmit broadband signals, containing Internet data and possibly other content, over existing electrical powerlines. BPL is designed to use the spectrum from 2 to 80 Mhz. Unfortunately, these powerlines are unshielded antennas and interference with emergency and public service communications has been, and probably will continue to be, unavoidable.

The FCC finally acknowledged concerns of ARRL, *REACT* (*REACT*er July-August 2004), and other public and private concerns by requiring BPL suppliers to provide information about their operation to a data base. However, the FCC is now limiting access to that data base, unreasonably, according to ARRL. The FCC has supported the implementation of BPL. Former Chairman Michael Powell was a particularly vociferous supporter.

And, according to Land and other commentators, it isn't even as though BPL was a truly viable technology on any large scale. It would be prohibitively expensive to implement in rural areas, the very locations it is being touted as capable of solving access problems. ARRL has commented to the effect that the technology does not work well. The amazing thing, ARRL says, is that it works at all. It is like a dog walking on his hind legs. He doesn't do it well; the impressive thing is that he does it at all.

