

Public Service Through Communications



The REACTer

March-April 2006



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The REACTer

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Gene Robinson, (CREST 22) has his back to the camera as he surveys the area. Photos of fire operations were taken by Junior Member Justin Larsen, (CREST 16-J).

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Dick Cooper



The Annual Meeting of the *REACT* International (RI) Board of

Directors is history. Before the RI board meeting at the RI convention at the Corona Convention I decided that I would not run for a 2nd term as the president of RI, but as you can see by the summary of the minutes from the Annual Meeting, nobody paid any attention to my intentions. Consequently I was elected to another 2 year term as RI president. In addition to daily operations, the primary focus of my second term will be on the future of *REACT*.

If the Annual Meeting held in March were to have a theme it may be “*REACT* on the Move - Again” or “The Future of *REACT* Under Review”. The board covered many different topics at our meeting but a very large percentage of time was spent on items that involve building *REACT* for the future. There were even some smaller group brain storming sessions in the lobby of the hotel. Many ideas came out of the board meeting and sessions, but we all know that ideas alone will not help our future - we have to develop a methodology and

assign someone to be responsible to carry these ideas to a conclusion. This means that *REACT* members will (once again) be asked to participate on committees and other groups that have specific purposes and goals. We realize that RI history tells us that getting members to help RI with tasks is almost impossible, but I would hope that members realize that by not helping with the tasks developed by the board (or anyone else) they are only hurting themselves and the future of their organization - *REACT* International, Inc. I have read with sincere interest the emails on the ‘L’ list, especially those that pertain to the future of *REACT* and have seen many good ideas from various members. I hope that those same members (and others) will be able to help the committees or other groups with various tasks that they might undertake, whether in the areas of ways and means, membership or one of the many other areas that need your support so that we can assure the future of *REACT*.

At popular request, the RI board has revived the Team Topics newsletter even though the financial condition of RI is not exactly pretty. It was felt that the Team Topics can be a very integral part of the *REACT* communication process between RI and its members (just as it was before) and is therefore a necessity at this time. The Team Topics will

contain information that needs to be distributed to members sooner than the next issue of the *REACT*er will allow, thereby providing communication between RI and Teams on a more timely basis. There are 2 important items to remember regarding the Team Topics:

- Keep in mind that this is a Team newsletter so all Teams must make sure that RI has their current mailing address on file.
- Team leaders must be certain that they pass the Team Topics information along to Team members in a timely manner, otherwise the purpose of the Team Topics is defeated.

The Team Topics will be posted to the RI web site so if members see a new posting they should ask their Team leadership for a copy and bring it up at the next Team meeting.

When the dust settles after the board meeting and we start to organize our thoughts a little more, look for various ideas, programs, and plans from RI. Like I said above, these ideas, programs and plans will take the involvement of everyone so please respond to our calls for volunteers. I know that there are many *REACT* members that can help in various areas of *REACT* growth - membership, ways and means, agency relations, etc. There are also members that can

(cont. p. 12)

REACT News: Teams and Team Members

Allison Smith Today

By Karen Smith
McLennan County *REACT*
Team #4747



Let me reintroduce you to a young lady, Allison Smith. We featured her back in 1996 when she received her Girl Scout Gold Award for coordinating a holiday Rest Stop for her team, McLennan County *REACT* Team 4747. Allison is the youngest daughter of Karen & Wally Smith in Hewitt, Texas. Since last heard from, Allison has received her Associates Degree, moved into her own apartment and works 2 jobs to save money toward her teaching degree.

She was enjoying her independence when on February 20, 2005 we got a call from the movie theatre where she is assistant manager, saying that Allison had locked herself in the bathroom and would not talk to anyone. By the time we got there, the police and paramedics were on the scene and were putting her on a stretcher

to go to the hospital. After a short while in the emergency the scans showed a massive tumor in the front of her brain.

It was a shock. Although Allison had been complaining of severe headaches for the last year, no medicine seemed to help and an MRI taken in July showed nothing.

Specialists were called in and she was given medications to get the swelling down and keep her alive. After the doctors huddled we were told that the tumor (Glioblastoma) was inoperable and incurable. She probably had 8-10 weeks to live. She was moved to ICU. On February 22nd she went in for surgery and part of the left side of the brain was removed to get a biopsy sample, allow the tumor room to expand and relieve pressure from the brain.

Later that week we had a meeting with her surgeon before she was to head home. The lab results showed the cancer to be Primary CNS Lymphoma, which is treatable. This type of cancer rarely happens to people less than 60 years old so there are no good statistics for Allison's age group. Age has definitely got to be on her side.

Since then our family's year has revolved around chemotherapy, brain tumor seminars, labs and doctors appointments. Her chemotherapy started March 7, 2005. Each treatment meant 3-5 days in at an out-of-

town hospital every other week. This lasted through July.

We moved Allison out of her apartment and back home. Wally had taken over her bedroom and it is now full of model trains. Allison's library had become Karen's sewing and craft room. Karen took all her sewing and craft stuff out of the library and Allison moved in. The rest of the apartment furnishings are in the garage. We are had to adjust: Allison to the loss of much of her independence, Wally and Karen to having her in the house on a daily basis. Allison is working on a reduced schedule. She has never had a seizure and was cleared to drive last April.

Last April we all went to a Brain Tumor Conference sponsored by MD Anderson Brain and Spine Center. We all learned just what we were dealing with during that weekend. Allison won their grand prize, 2 round trip tickets to anywhere in the USA. They are good for a year. She used one of them to travel, by herself, to Tennessee in September for the wedding of a long-time friend. The other trip will be to visit relatives in Northern California this March and go skiing.

In July Allison got a month "vacation" from chemo, and we headed south to San Antonio for a family and friends

weekend. Upon return, the oncologist reviewed the scans. Everything appears to be in remission. The latest report as of November is that Allison has no traces of the tumor left. Because this type of cancer is known to come back with a vengeance Allison decided to take the maintenance route with chemotherapy once a month. This program will last a year with frequent checkups.

All of us have attended the Cancer Survivor Dinner and Relay for Life in Waco. Allison and Karen went to Temple for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's version called Light the Night. Allison attended a Planet Cancer retreat for young adults with cancer.

Things are much more normal now. We are doing a lot less running to see doctors. There is only one extra chair set up in the living room, where there were 9-10 chairs for all the visitors. We are all planning a trip this summer between chemo sessions. Allison hasn't decided on any long term plans other than getting back out on her own.

We would like to THANK all the people who prayed or started prayer groups/chains all around the world for Allison. We would also like to say thank you for the many checks Allison received. That extra money has helped her pay her health insurance premiums and keep her bills paid. Living at home has kept her expenses at a minimum so she should be able to continue to pay any de-

ductibles required and save a little in preparation for moving back out on her own late 2006 or early 2007.

FLAGLER COUNTY *REACT* IN THE NEWS

From Flagler County *REACT*

Flagler County Assist *REACT* volunteer Bill Sturidge – *REACT* 29 heard on his radio that the Coast Guard was in the process of trying to locate two boaters that were not accounted for. Apparently one civilian vessel was towing another and in touch with the US Coast Guard when contact was lost. The Coast Guard started putting out messages to be on the lookout for these two vessels.

It so happened that Bill also knew that the Flagler County rescue and fire suppression helicopter FireFlight was in the air on a training mission. After calling Flagler County Emergency Services making them aware of the search FireFlight responded to the search area and coordinated it's efforts with a United States Naval aircraft.

The search revealed nothing however just Bill's careful listening helped put two rescue resources together that may not have happened. Because of this incident Flagler County helicopter crews are now going to purchase their own scanner to monitor Coast Guard channels.

Flagler Beach – A Flagler County Assist *REACT* member was one of the first to pick up

SuitSat in Florida and in the USA. Bill Sturidge, KI4MMZ also *REACT* 29 picked up the signal on his 2 meter rig on Friday February 3rd 2006 at 2148hrs local time (eastern time). His reception of the contact was verified through <www.suitsat.org> and very well may have been the first in the United States to pick up the signal.

Bill and his entire family are new members to the Flagler County Assist organization and they have dived into the organization and it's activities. When Bill first tried to tune in SuitSat he had no idea he would be one of the first to pick it up.

The SuitSat project was essentially an old space suit with an amateur radio transmitter in it thrown out into space from the International Space Station (ISS). Since the launch hundreds of other hams have reported hearing the signal. The suitsat will eventually burn up in the earth's atmosphere.

Flagler County Assist *REACT* member David Moore is also a Deputy Sheriff for the Flagler County Sheriff's Office and maintains a GMRS radio in his patrol cruiser. On the evening of February 16th a very dense fog descended on Northeast Florida. *REACT* volunteers began reporting visibilities less than a ¼ mile in many locations. Deputy Moore (*REACT* 8) while on patrol was able to give many reports around the area of visibilities that were approaching dangerous values. This information along with

reports from ARES members was relayed to the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Jacksonville. The information prompted a Dense Fog Advisory to be issued.

Short after a number of serious fatale crashes occurred in Flagler County as well as Duval County including a 7 car pile up on Interstate 295. But since the reports of dense fog were relayed the National Weather Service put the advisory out earlier which may have helped prevent further crashes.

Steve Letro, the Meteorologist In Charge of the National Weather Service in Jacksonville said "I wanted to express my appreciation for the timely fog report you passed on Thursday evening. That heads up call prompted a dense fog advisory much earlier than we normally would probably have issued one in that situation. As you've probably heard, there was a multi-car pileup on the west side of Jacksonville overnight due to the dense fog. I can only speculate on how many people throughout northeast Florida, including Flagler County may have been spared a similar fate because they heard the dense fog advisory that your call prompted, and were therefore in a more aware driving mode. On behalf of the NWS and all the citizens of northeast Florida, my sincere thanks for your exceptional effort and dedication."

Again *REACT* volunteers who are active and trained help contribute to saving lives in Flag-

ler County and possibly Northeast Florida.

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.

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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.

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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>.

CALENDAR Spring - 2006

- April 7: Last day to get on director ballot
- April 8: Deadline for May-June *REACTer*
- June 8: Deadline for July-August *REACTer*
- June 20: Ballots due at *REACT* Headquarters



FIRE!

Silverado Canyon, California
Gene Robinson, CREST REACT Unit 22

Note: "This fire touched the toes of our Sierra Peak GMRS Repeater. Our Franklin Repeater covers down into Silverado Canyon where high-level repeaters we have do not penetrate. CREST REACT has many members residing in this Orange County canyon area. It is located basically southeast of Disneyland in the foothills of the Cleveland National Forest. The fire lasted for several days before extinguished and is thought to originate from a flareup of a controlled burn at Sierra Peak the previous day". – Ed Greany, President CREST REACT, Executive VP, REACT Int'l.

Monday February 6, 2006

The fire alarm sounded at 4:30 am. Santa Ana wind out of the North East had been blowing most of the night and had been waking me up off and on with things hitting the house.

As head of the Canyon Watch group in the canyon I thought I had better try to find out what was happening. I got my pickup truck, turned on the GMRS radio to our Franklin repeater and set off down the canyon. No smell of smoke, this was a good thing I thought.

At the mouth of Silverado Canyon is another road into Blackstar Canyon. A few hundred feet along Blackstar a Fire Department information officer was parked on the side of the road. He reported that there was a fire burning at Sierra Peak, which is several miles North and East of that location. He said the fire was small and diminishing in size. We could see some smoke, but no flames were apparent.

I went back to the house woke my wife up and had her turn on the base station.

When I went back to the information officer's location he reported that the fire was now one hundred acres in size and spreading. I radioed my wife to inform Mary Schreiber, the head of

our Fire Safe Council and have her call Phil McWilliams, who operates our emergency computer emergency information hot line and Connie Nelson, large animal evacuation person.



Fortunately the wind was blowing the fire away from homes in Silverado and surrounding areas.

Phil sent the first of many e-mails letting people know what was happening, to turn on their radios and call the Water Department's emergency hot line for additional information.

I received a radio call to meet at our local horse ranch to let the owner know if we thought we were in any immediate danger. I assured her with what information I had there was no danger as the fire was still moving away from us. She said the Red Cross had called to say, if necessary, her ranch would be used for first stage large animal evacuation and then would be moved to the Orange County Fair Grounds in Costa Mesa should the ranch be threatened.

An Incident Command Center was established by the Fire Department at Irvine Park in East Orange. Bob Click, Crest 183, was sent to establish contact and receive up to date information. Since Irvine Park is located in a valley he could not contact the Franklin repeater directly and had to leave the area to establish radio contact.

As the first day drew to a close the smoke was still moving away from Silverado into a wilderness area called Freemont Canyon.

Fixed wing aircraft and helicopters had been busy all day dropping water and chemicals and it appeared the fire was coming under control.

Tuesday February 7

We woke up to heavy black smoke over the fire area. Fortunately it was blowing away from us with winds still out of the Northeast. We heard that overnight the fire had jumped a local toll road with spot fires on the East side. The fire fighters had been able to quickly put them out so the fire was held at the toll road. The black smoke we could see were areas being burned that the fire missed on the first pass.

Bob Click reported from the ICS that the fire was still headed away from Silverado and was being held between the 241 toll road and Blackstar Canyon Road. Linda May, Crest 401, spent most of the day reporting on the fire's progress from Irvine Lake.

The fire continued to burn throughout the day. Several hundred homes and several schools had to be evacuated in the Anaheim Hills area with Red Cross evacuation centers set up in the area. At night flames could be seen on the ridges.

Wednesday, February 8

In the morning it was obvious the fire personnel were getting the upper hand. The smoke had gone from black to mostly white. Hand crews were being dispatched in the Blackstar Canyon area and water drops were being continued. By Wednesday night the sky was clearer with some light smoke still rising.

A meeting was called by Battalion Chief Mike Rohde to update members of the Silverado Fire Safe Council on the status of the fire. He reported the fire should be fully contained by the following Saturday.

In the end the fire had consumed close to ten thousand acres of brush and trees in the Cleveland National Forest. In the end no lives were lost or homes destroyed. The burned land will

return after several years. For the Fire Safe Council we learned the emergency e-mail system had worked beyond expectations. Over three hundred people were now registered to receive the e-mails. The emergency telephone system at the water company had worked well with several hundred phone calls registered. With a few glitches the GMRS radios had performed well. The Franklin repeater, which is solar and battery powered, had remained functioning throughout the fire.

HOW *REACT* CAN HELP SCHOOLS

By Bob Leef, Crest 1; KB6DON, KAB5295

A major incident at a school requires all employees to be coordinated for everyone's safety. Since communication is a vital need to accomplish this, Crest *REACT* maintains a cache of 50 FRS radios for loan to any of the approximately 70 public and private schools in two of the thirty districts of Orange County, California. These are available for quick delivery in case of emergency, and also for routine drills.

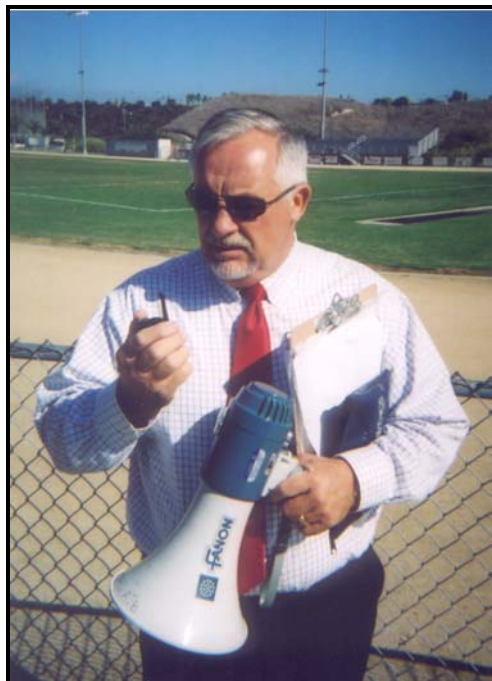
Typically a school has a few handhelds on some frequency but not enough to provide all teachers and administrators with communications. Another problem is the frequent lack of interoperability of Police, Fire, city services, ambulance, etc. that would respond. Having one FRS in the hands of each on-scene agency in addition to the school personnel can be a great benefit, and possibly a lifesaver when time is important.

On October 25, 2005 Aliso Niguel High School conducted a disaster/emergency drill on campus. This involved a full evacuation of 3200 students to the football stadium. At that location a NIMS disaster scenario was set up that fully integrated and coordinated multiple levels of responses to multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional emergencies. NIMS is the National Incident Management System, and is based on ICS (Incident Command System). ICS has five primary functions: command/management, operations, planning

/intelligence, finance/administration, and logistics.



According to Assistant Principal Edward Messinger this type of drill required extensive communications that the school was unable to provide so *REACT* was requested to loan 22 radios. These were distributed as planned so coordination was achieved. Messinger reported that all points of the large campus were covered. Most importantly, many employees who previously had been left out of the loop were now in touch. Typical were the seven two-man search and rescue teams that inspect every room after evacuation, and had no radios in previous drills.



We suggest other teams check local school districts and individual schools for possible communications assistance during an incident or for

a drill. They may need FRS handhelds that could be loaned, or *REACT*ers with their own radios. Some schools have radios are on different frequencies for maintenance, transportation, and administrative personnel with no interconnection or common frequency for mutual aid between them.

We strongly recommend you find out what kind of radio system exists at your district and school, and how *REACT* might help. Make an appointment to talk to the Assistant Principal. When you meet, provide a brochure (RI has "Not Just Another Radio Club"), and leave your team contact information.

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A photograph showing two pieces of radio equipment. On the left is a handheld radio with a long antenna. On the right is a mobile radio unit with a microphone and a coiled cable.

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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

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

Missing Out? Why?

Ron McCracken, KG4CVL,
WPZX486

‘SuitSat’. ‘Global Flyer’. Did you get in on the fun these offered to REACTers? Teams with members subscribed to REACT-L did.

NASA actually asked for help tracking ‘SuitSat’s broadcasts after it was ‘launched’ from the International Space Station. There was very short notice of this request. REACT-L was the only way to get word out fast. You need to be on REACT-L.

Using REACT-L, several REACT Teams did get involved. Teams as far-flung as Nebraska, Ontario and Florida took the challenge and listened for ‘SuitSat’. It proved more elusive than NASA or AM-SAT imagined. Signals were much weaker than planned or expected. But that made it all the more fun.

Flagler County REACT (FL) was successful in monitoring ‘SuitSat’ within 25 minutes of the launch. (See this issue.) It may have been the first to catch a signal from the ‘satellite’. The Team is awaiting word on that. Wouldn’t that be a nice achievement for them?

In Nebraska, despite the short notice, three REACT Teams

worked together to set up a monitoring station. Grand Island, Pawnee and Hamilton County REACT Teams did it. The public could listen for signals and get safety information while they learned about radio and REACT. The Teams lined up support from Best Buy and the Stuhr Museum too in that short time.

Up in Ontario, a REACT Don Valley member was already scheduled to operate the demonstration ham radio station VE3OSC at the Ontario Science Center in Toronto. Again, he helped children and adults to listen for ‘SuitSat’ signals. Who knows what seed of interest in radio has been

planted in those young minds?

REACT-L enabled all these Teams to participate. They did a great job. What they learned in doing it will no doubt help them deal better with an emergency situation some day down the road.

Likewise, *REACT-L* carried word to Teams of Steve Fossett's record flight. The 'Global Flyer' website allowed them to monitor for air-ground comms by posting his position each minute and a map of his location updated every five minutes.

Your writer was able to monitor 'Global Flyer' for about fifteen minutes as it left Kennedy Space Center in Florida until it reached 8,000 ft. At that point, scanner fans believe that Fossett was given a 'discrete' military freq to use. No further comms were monitored here then or on 'Global Flyer's' second pass Friday evening.

Again, this was a challenge Teams could use to train. However, you first had to know about the event. That information was available to members of *REACT-L* at no cost. *REACT*er David Moore created *REACT-L* to give us just this 'leg up' when news like this breaks. You need to be on *REACT-L* if you own a computer.

In 2006, you need to be able to get information quickly. You can't wait two months for the next issue of *The REACT*er. Both of these events were over in a matter of days. You need

to supplement *The REACT*er with *REACT-L* so you don't miss out on events like these. The two work together to keep you informed.

Most of us get a newspaper, and have a radio or TV. Even the daily paper can't keep you as current as you need to be these days. You rely on radio or TV for up-to-the-minute news although you enjoy reading the paper for its features and in-depth reports.

That is exactly the combination *The REACT*er and *REACT-L* offers you. You need both for the advantages each offers. Do yourself and your Team a big favor. Sit down at your computer. Write an e-mail to:

[<react-l-request@gibbousmoon.com>](mailto:react-l-request@gibbousmoon.com) with only the word **SUBSCRIBE** on the subject line. Type that same one word **SUBSCRIBE** in the message area. Send it off, and in a short time you should begin receiving *REACT-L* messages.

Next time, you won't miss out on the fun.

Board of Director Ballots

are in the mail – or in your hands. Get them back to *REACT* Int'l. headquarters by June 20, 2006. Director positions from Regions 1, 4, and 7 are now vacant. We need to fill them. See p. 12.

ANIMALS NEED HELP TOO!

By Bob Leef, Crest 1



Since the idea of *REACT* was born 44 years ago with motorist assistance by CB during a snowstorm in Detroit, we have been helping people by radio. Lots of changes have taken place since 1962 in the radios we use, and how we assist the public. Here is one more idea your team might put into effect to benefit the community.

You saw the recent pictures and know how hurricanes can affect dogs, cats, and other pets. Fires, floods, and disasters can cause havoc to animals just as easily as to humans. Good *REACT* communications can – and should – help both. Is communication for animal evacuation in your emergency plan? Rover, Tabby, and maybe even Tweety could be victims. There is also Mr. Ed to think about.

Members of Crest *REACT* (CA) who live near Trabuco Canyon in Orange County were invited to observe and make suggestions on a recent horse evacuation drill. Responding were Crest 1, 22, 73,

92, 192, and 198. This drill was organized by the Mounted Assistant Unit (MAU) of Equestrian Trails Inc. (ETI), a national organization with information at:

<www.ETINational.com>



A couple ETI members were very concerned about possible congestion and confusion on the narrow dead-end canyon roads during an emergency. They wanted to have a plan for removing their horses that was compatible with emergency vehicles trying to enter the area at the same time. Their “Mr. Eds” are not just financial investments, but also treasured family members.

Working with the local fire station, the MAU people including Crest members Rich (92) and Patti (192) planned to remove most horses by foot rather than using trailers since there were only nine trailers for one hundred horses in the area. This would be a test of preparedness, resources, procedures, and YES – radio communications!

Agencies taking part besides the Fire Department were Sheriff and County Animal Control. In a real emergency, others that would be notified might include County Roads, California Highway Patrol,

Flood Control, School District, U.S. Forest Service, ASPCA, and perhaps others. A staged “emergency” starts when the Fire Chief notifies MAU members of the need to evacuate. The phone tree is activated, and the first team member to arrive at the pre-designated equestrian center and command post serves as liaison between the agencies mentioned.



Horses brought to the center by walking or trailering are first logged in with name, owner, address, and phone, then photographed and given a temporary identification tag for the halter. A corral has also been pre-designated with food and water where they will be individually tied to the fence rather than let loose to run free in the yard and become even more excited.

Communications are important in all phases of this operation. FRS radios have previously been strongly suggested by *REACT* for all residents to have. A few are Crest members, and can act as relays on GMRS when FRS won't reach the required distance. This is an important function. Additionally, Crest can loan some FRS radios to on-scene agencies for interoperability – another vital function.

A good drill should not be without surprises. In this case, a county access gate had an unauthorized lock. The Fire Chief is contacted on the FRS radio and orders bolt cutters to solve the problem after which a “firelock” replaces it.

Situation remedies are implemented by good communications. In the past I suggested *REACT*ers contact their local school district and offer assistance for communications. This was because I found out our own 32 districts in my County were seriously uncoordinated. From observations at this horse evacuation drill, and what we have seen on TV about animals in New Orleans, it is also obvious that radio help should be used for this purpose too. Besides ETI, another organization where *REACT* might offer help is: <www.aspc.org> (See also Nov.-Dec. 2005 *REACT*er.)



We tipped a person to this activity who had previously written about *REACT* in the local newspaper. She came and wrote a story that included mention of *REACT*. Remember the media – it's good PR for us as well as the served agency or organization!

Please share any results of your contact here in The *REACT*er.

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(From President p. 2)

help with many of *REACT*'s internal operations such as finance, convention planning, communications, emergency planning, awards & recognition, etc. I would encourage all *REACT* members who are interested in any of these areas to contact myself or Ed Greany to discuss your possible involvement in the Future of *REACT*.

Help *REACT* Grow Stronger – Today.

From Headquarters Norman Kaplan

A **Director** from each of Region: 1, 4 and 7 is being elected this year. Ballots will have gone out by the time you read this. The nominees for Director are:

Region 1: Fred Lanshe
Region 4: Paul Jackson
Region 7: Robert Kaster

Each nominee previously represented his Region on the Board of Directors. The Candidate needs at least 1 vote to be elected. The ballots must be back to *REACT* International, Inc., by June 20, 2006 in order to be counted. A non returned ballot can be taken as a vote of non confidence. People wanting to run for Director have until April 7 to get on the ballot. Write ins on the ballot are not accepted. Each Director appreciates your teams vote in their support.

Last year, 29 teams sent in their Annual Monitoring Report. To date this year, 20 teams and 1 affiliate (6030, C320, C057, 2515, C010, 4960, 2446, C149, 2106, 6088,

6109, 3791, 2651, 3420, 6099, C322, 2141, 2647, 4258, 4712, and affiliate 3546) have sent in their report. The show an aggregated 417,686 hours total monitoring, 155,559 CB hours, 169,828 GMRS hours, 22,612 Amateur hours, 69,212 other frequency hours. *REACT*er teams spent 2,368 hours during disaster work, 24,853 hours in community support hours, 16,979 various activity hours and 12,730 hours in training and meetings. There were 1,163 total calls, ranging from 0 calls reported by some teams to a maximum of 617 calls. The reports cover teams with from 3 members to 37 members. The number of teams reporting cover 7.9% of the teams in 2005 and 10.8% of the teams renewing. The monitoring hours reported

(cont. p. 19)

REACT International, Inc.

Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors
held 3-4 March 2006
at the REACT International Offices
Suitland, Maryland

Directors Present

Larry Fry (Wis.), Region 5, Chairman
Don Manlove (Va.), Region 2
John Knott (Fla.), Region 3
C.C. Roberts (Hawaii), Region 6
Robert Kaster (Okla.), Region 7
Dick Cooper (N.J.), President (Director *ex officio*)

Directors Absent

Region 1 Vacant
Region 4 Vacant
Rob Clark (Nev.), Region 8
Kenny Jagdeo Singh (Trinidad & Tobago), Region 9

Officers Present

Dick Cooper (N.J.), President
Lee Besing (Tex.), Secretary
Norman Kaplan (Md.), Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

Officers Absent

Ed Greany (Calif.), Executive Vice President
Charles A. Thompson (Tex.), General Counsel

Visitors Present:

Mike Cauley (Fla.) – both days
Bob Lumpkin (D.C.) – on Saturday (partial)

1. Call to Order. The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of REACT International, Inc., was called to order at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, 3 March 2006, by Chairman Fry.

2. Quorum. Secretary Besing announced that there being six Directors present, a quorum was established

3. Opening Remarks. Chairman Fry welcomed the Board and asked for a moment of silence for REACTers who have passed on during the past year.

4. Approval of Minutes and Agenda.

- a. Minutes of the June 2005 Special Meeting, sent via email, were **approved.**
- b. Minutes of the October 2005 electronic Special Meeting sent via email were **approved.**
- c. The Agenda was distributed and **approved.**

5. Officer Reports.

- a. *Secretary* – No report.
- b. *Treasurer* – 2005 ended in black because several REACTer issues were not printed, but auditors adjusted the 2005 figures to include the anticipated expense. Looking into signing up for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for next year. Membership report was given; noted that there were Teams known to be renewing not received yet. Request has been received from NTIA to use REACT members during disasters to help guide relief trucks into disaster areas using CB, GMRS, and Amateur Radio. This would be coordinated with FEMA. Working on some grant requests from Maryland sources. RI Office will send letters to non-renewing members with survey asking why they did not renew.

c. *Executive VP* – Mr. Greany is working to fill vacant committee chairs but not having much success.

d. *President* – Mr. Cooper said RI had been put to the test in past five years with disasters that impacted more than local Teams. He encouraged the use of electronic Board meetings in the future to supplement in-person meetings. He recently visited Puerto Rico to visit with the Teams there.

e. *General Counsel* –No report.

6. Director Reports.

a. *Region 1* – Vacant.

b. *Region 2* – Mr. Manlove. Lost 1 Team in Delaware (increased insurance fee) and 1 Team in Virginia (deceased members). Gained 1 Team in Delaware. Working on possible new Team in Richmond area (current Skywarn group).

c. *Region 3* – Mr. Knott. Experiencing problems with membership renewals. Some individuals from lost Teams have joined neighboring Teams. North Carolina Council is active. Florida has active email list for coordination. Running a Yahoo Groups list for Region 3.

d. *Region 4* – Vacant. Paul Jackson (former Director for this region) has improved health and has been working with Teams. Dealt with a case where the Team president/treasurer donated money to Team as tax deduction, and then withdrew funds without Team permission. Reported George Lynn (Ind.) had tornado in Evansville, Ind., area and felt that response by other agencies was slower and less coordinated than expected. Mr. Jackson has requested to be reinstated as Region 4 Director (has currently filed for upcoming election). Consensus was not to reinstate since election was imminent.

e. *Region 5* – Mr. Fry has been unable to contact any officer of the Iowa Council. FEMA has requested council contact list to solicit communications support during disasters.

f. *Region 6* – Mr. Roberts. Most Teams are maintaining membership levels, but have losses of deceased members.

g. *Region 7* – Mr. Kaster. Team membership has declined. Working on leads for new members and possible new Teams, hard to contact some of the prospects. One prospective new Team didn't fit.

h. *Region 8* – Mr. Clark. No report.

i. *Region 9* – Mr. Jagdeosingh. Working with Teams in Puerto Rico who thought US Teams got support from RI in form of cash and equipment. PR Teams want to become part of Region 3 since they are part of the US. Puerto Rico Teams are covered by the RI insurance policy and individual members get *REACT*er. Mr. Kaplan mentioned that there were prospects pending in the US Trust Territory of Guam and asked if a new Team would be part of Region 6 or Region 9. Consensus that it would be Region 6. Mr. Jagdeosingh recommends the change of Puerto Rico to Region 3. **Motion** Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Manlove, to change Puerto Rico from Region 9 to Region 3. **Passed**. General Counsel is to draft Bylaws amendment to accomplish this, and in the meantime, Mr. Knott will work with Puerto Rico Teams.

7. Regional Problems. Region 3 is working on situation with a two-Team dispute over member behavior during a joint operation. Region 5 has Team with officers charged with class B misdemeanors charges, one already on probation, the other a convicted felon. Offenses not related to *REACT*. Council handling, no action needed by Board. In Region 6, Pacific NW Council president position is vacant. All three nominees declined, past-president could not be re-elected due to term limits. Council delegates re-appointed past-president, setting aside the bylaws. Mr. Roberts is working closely with council and is not asking for intervention by Board.

8. Reports of the Committees of the Board – Finance, Membership, and Office Review. Mr. Kaplan reported that unless membership increases, a dues increase might be necessary for 2007. Mr. Roberts compared *REACT* dues to other organizations, suggesting this should be viewed as a Team annual renewal expense, not a personal member expense. Average of Teams is 6 members, average age of members is 50 plus, and financial status varies widely. Many Team members have fixed income and limited Team income.

9. Corporate Committee Reports.

- a. **Convention Site Selection Committee** – No report.
- b. **Publications Review** – No report. No chairperson.
- c. **Public Relations** – Ron McCracken provided written report. **Motion** Mr. Knott, **2d** Mr. Manlove, to authorize the use of a “reverse color” logo in print or electronic media. Tabled until an illustration is provided by Mr. McCracken. Mr. Kaplan said RI is promoting *REACT* by meeting with FEMA, NTIA, and other federal agencies. Sample received from Mr. McCracken and **Motion passed**.
- d. **Training and Development** – Tom Currie provided written report. Recommends Emergency Communications course be made available online without tracking users until they ask for testing. Mr. Besing suggested that a form to request the package be used, followed by a screen providing download links and instructions, rather than email instructions, to enable RI to track interest level. FEMA classes are downloadable without registering.
- e. **Membership Retention and Development** – No report.
- f. **Ways and Means** – No report. Mr. Knott gave some grant writing books to the RI Office. Discussion held about current request to apply for a Hewlett-Packard grant. Email was sent to members to try to find any members employed by or retired from HP or subsidiary in order for RI to qualify. Deadline is March 2006. Sprint/Nextel – Mr. Manlove still pursuing, but no usable progress.
- g. **Awards Committee** – No report.
- h. **Communications** – No report.
- i. **Computer Services Committee** – No report. RI Office will provide more materials to committee for posting on web site for download.
- j. **Team Management Handbook Revision Committee Report**. Chuck Thompson and Tom Currie working on this project (Stuart DeLuca was a member). Little progress reported. Handbook is 3.5 inches thick. Most is already in electronic format, most areas need major revision. Mr. Manlove and Mr. Knott offered to work on this project.

10. Officer Elections. The Board discussed the performance of officers, and then, upon nomination and second, unanimously reelected the following officers for one-year terms:

- Treasurer* – Norman Kaplan
- Secretary* – Lee Besing
- Executive VP* – Ed Greany
- General Counsel* – Charles A. Thompson

Upon nomination and second, Dick Cooper was reelected as President for a two-year term.

11. Board Elections. Upon nomination and second, the Board reelected Larry Fry Chairman of the Board and Robert Kaster Vice Chairman.

Mr. Kaplan recommended that, as an economy measure, ballots for the Director elections for Regions 1, 4, and 7 this spring be counted in the RI Office. Treasurer Kaplan and Director Manlove will observe.

12. Corporate Committee Structure and Operations. Discussion held. Executive VP oversees these committees, recommends approval / removal of chair positions, subject to the President’s approval. President determines structure, no recommendations for change in structure.

13. New REACTer Editor. The President reported that Don Tarbet (Maine) was appointed editor.

Meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m. , reconvened at 1:00 p.m. No change in attendance.

14. 2006 Budget. Mr. Kaplan presented a balanced 2006 budget in the amount of \$105,160.00. **Motion** Mr. Kaster, **2d** Mr. Cooper, to approve the Budget as presented. There will be a need to actively pursue membership and other income sources, while keeping tight rein on expenses. **Motion passed**.

15. Annual Audit Report for 2005. Audit report from Singleton & Bardowski, LLC, CPAs with explanation and recommendations was presented for Board approval and implementation. CPAs spent about a week in office doing audit. Stock market investments with Smith Barney declined almost

\$10,000 and CPAs made recommendations. They recommend Life Membership Fund to be amortized over 15 years rather than 20, in accordance with the current formula for calculating Life Membership fee.

16. 2006 Membership Renewal. Mr. Kaplan distributed a summary as of the end of February 2006 showing 169 Teams registered with 1,847 members. Some Teams registered since then are not reflected in this report.

17. Plaques for Past Board Members. Mr. Cooper will get plaques ordered for former Directors and officers (since 2001). Mr. Besing is to provide list of names and time periods for Director/officer approval before the plaques are made. Former Board Chairman Frank Jennings was awarded the Goebel Award in 2003, but has not received a plaque.

18. Member Awards from RI. Discussion held about recognizing members for lengths of membership and participation, to be mailed out with the annual renewals. This will depend upon the Teams and members sending information to RI. Criteria for certificates discussed every 5 years of *REACT* membership, various levels for hours of service (e.g., annual hours for monitoring, events, etc.), and completion of training tests (Ecomm, NIMS, ICS, etc.).

19. President's Volunteer Service Award. It was proposed that RI apply to become a registered coordination agency for the President's Volunteer Service Award. Recognition is available for persons with 1,000 and 4,000 (lifetime limit) hours of volunteer service. *REACT* International can obtain this status for a \$20 application fee. There is a \$6 fee per award recommended. **Motion** Mr. Manlove, **2d** Mr. Roberts, to have Mr. Kaplan proceed with obtaining this status. **Motion passed.**

20. REACT Month. **Motion** Mr. Cooper, **2d** Mr. Roberts, to proclaim May to be "*REACT* Month." **Motion passed.**

21. Liability Insurance. Mr. Kaplan reported that the General Liability insurance premium is expected to increase this year, but the fee charged to Teams was set to cover this increase. Funds will not be needed from the general fund budget to subsidize.

22. 2007 Convention. Package was requested by Team in Las Vegas, Nev., but has not been returned with bid. No other Teams have expressed an interest.

23. Electronic Board Meetings. Consensus to have an informal weekly or monthly net on Sunday evening (10 p.m. ET to start). Mr. Knott is to coordinate users, Mr. Besing to coordinate the server. Board used TeamSpeak for October Special Meeting; it was decided to continue with this software (available at <www.GoTeamSpeak.com>).

24. Personnel Matters (closed session). The office staff proposes to shorten office hours during the summer (June, July, August, and part of September) when the workload is lighter to save payroll expense. This was done for a period in the summer of 2005. **Motion** Mr. Cooper, **2d** Mr. Manlove, to permit the office staff to approve. **Motion passed.** The schedule is to be published in the *REACT*er and on the web site. Discussion held about compensation of current staff.

25. REACT Web Site. RI is still working with David Perry (Baltimore Metro *REACT*) on a redesign. More current data and stories are needed to keep content current and interesting so that visitors will return more often. RI office staff is to provide much of what is mailed out in electronic version so that it can be downloaded from web site. Older "news & stuff" is to be removed from web site, including minutes, etc., more than 3 years old.

26. Email Pop3 Accounts. Mr. Knott suggested setting up POP3 accounts for Directors, officers, and committee chairs to be able to send and receive *REACT* mail through the *REACT* International Mail server, using their RI addresses (rather than their personal addresses). This would be at no charge to RI, courtesy of Mr. Besing's company.

27. Team Topics. Mr. Cooper reminded that "Team Topics" was formerly sent to Teams on a periodic basis to update Teams on matters that weren't in the *REACT*er. RI has used email announcements periodically, but that only reaches a portion of total membership (those who have provided a valid email address). Cost would be \$100-\$150 per mailing. Mr. Cooper suggested that RI put out Team Topics on

an “as needed basis,” minimum of twice a year. **Motion** Mr. Knott, **2d** Mr. Manlove, to approve. **Motion passed.**

28. Privacy Policy. Policy tentatively approved at June 2005 meeting and approved by General Counsel considered. **Motion** Mr. Roberts, **2d** Mr. Manlove, to approve. **Motion passed.**

29. Disaster Donation Policy. Treasurer Kaplan needs a policy to govern donations of the sort received from AFCEA (for Hurricane Katrina). Discussion about a “per diem” vs. “receipts” basis of refund, limits per event. CPA recommendations considered. Mr. Cooper prefers the “per diem” basis (like ARES did) to *REACT* members only, on a first come, first serve basis, as long as funds are available. Discussion about proof of “proper authorization” by other authorities (local to disaster scene) for the Team or Team members to be dispatched, as compared to someone who simply jumped in their car and decided to drive to the scene to help without an assignment. No reimbursement will be available for expenses covered by another agency. Mr. Cooper proposed, on an “outside funds available basis” to compensate registered *REACT* members responding to a disaster operation on a first come, first serve, and to have Mr. Thompson write up a suitable policy. Policy to include guidelines for possible reimbursement to *REACT* members who responded during Hurricane Katrina in an official capacity. Criteria will be established by Board and forwarded to General Counsel for exact wording and specifications. **Motion** Mr. Knott, **2d** Mr. Manlove, to establish a policy to reimburse *REACT* members who respond to a disaster area, on a first come, funds available basis, with a 3-day limit, at \$25 per day, when the request is submitted by the member’s Team to *REACT* International and signed by 2 Team officers. **Motion Passed.** *It was noted that no funds are budgeted for this, and that it would be necessary to obtain special funding from some source to implement it.*

Meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.; reconvened at 9:16 a.m. on Saturday. No change in attendance.

30. Future of REACT. Mr. Cooper gave an overview on the types of ideas or suggestions he wanted for an open discussion. Items discussed included:

a. **ARRL Change of Officers** - Mr. Besing asked that RI write letters to ARRL’s past and current presidents, thanking them for their service and support of *REACT*, looking forward to the future together. Mr. Fry directed Mr. Besing to write appropriate letters for signature by the President.

b. **Member Incentives** - Mr. Besing suggested contacting the Batteries Plus chain of stores to arrange a member discount. In exchange, RI could offer free advertising on the web site, in Team Topics mailings, the *REACT*er, etc. Mr. Fry directed Mr. Besing to contact the company to see what he could arrange. Mr. Fry suggested that this approach be tried with other companies, such as Drury Inns, Ponderosa Steak House, etc. Mr. Fry will contact these two companies.

c. **Former Members** - Mr. Cooper suggested working on former members and Teams to see if they could be brought back. He encouraged keeping ears and eyes open for leads and opportunities. He asked that Directors watch for potential leaders at the local level to get involved in state and RI leadership levels.

d. **Junior REACT** - Mr. Kaplan talked about hearing an 11-year-old on the ham radio, and stressed that RI needed ways for local Teams to attract younger persons into joining and becoming active with their Teams. He stressed the need for a much stronger Junior *REACT* program to serve as a guide for local Teams, noting that the average age of a *REACT* member was 50+ years.

e. **Five Year Planning** – Mr. Cooper said a time line is needed for when project goals should be reached, and need for follow-ups to make sure assigned person(s) keep actively working on their project.

f. **CERT Training** - Mr. Knott reported on an overnight group discussion. One idea was to link up with CERT to offer CERT groups communications training, and to get *REACT* Teams trained in some of the topics CERT offers.

g. **Membership** – Mr. Knott asked for a list of all non-renewed members in his region so that he can contact them to find out why they didn't renew and try to bring them back into the *REACT* family. It was suggested that the FCC database be searched for new GMRS and Amateur licensees to invite to join local Teams. ARRL offers a listing of new and renewed hams within a range of zip codes to each of their "Special Services" clubs. Discussion about contacting ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) members for possible membership interest.

h. **Report Forms** – Mr. Manlove asked that all RI forms available through the RI office be put on the web site.

i. **Leadership Incentives** – Mr. Manlove suggested offering a free one-year membership for persons serving in RI leadership positions, and perhaps other incentives for committee members. Incentives for Life Members discussed.

j. **Website** – It was suggested that a PayPal link be added to the Donations Page. Mr. Besing has sent email to PayPal asking if fees for service could be waived.

k. **Training On-line** – It was suggested converting the Ecomm training course to a module format to let users take the course on-line, and creating new on-line training for "money management," "Junior *REACT*," and other topics. and giving a completion certificate when done. RI could add links to the FEMA training courses and to ARRL training courses (not free).

l. **Services and Benefits from *REACT* International** – Discussion was held about what services RI offers to members and what new services could be offered without breaking the budget.

m. **Weekly "Net" on TeamSpeak** – It was suggested that the planned weekly Board net (see item 23 above) be open to all members. There is limit of 150 concurrent users. Board members and officers are "moderators" and could control any user who becomes a problem. Each user must have a suitable sound card, microphone, and speakers or headset.

31. Monthly Reports. Mr. Kaplan has been emailing reports rather than mailing paper copies to Directors and officers. Mr. Manlove said he wanted to only see membership figures and comparison of expenses YTD to Budget, not so much the Profit & Loss (P&L) monthly statement. Mr. Cooper wants to see some summary from the Smith Barney accounts. There is a discrepancy between membership figures generated automatically from the database and the manual figures created by office staff. The Computer Services Committee Chair will be contacted to see if the reports include/exclude the appropriate categories of membership in order to generate accurate counts.

32. Team Activity Reports. Mr. Kaplan wants to post on the web site an annual report of Team activity, with list of man-hours in various categories. Report would be in a spreadsheet format, perhaps converted in an Adobe Acrobat PDF format for downloading. The more info accurately reported by local Teams, the better this report will look.

33. *REACT*er Publication Frequency. Mr. Manlove suggested that if RI were to implement the Team Topics, the *REACT*er could be changed to quarterly issues, larger magazine and that the membership wouldn't perceive that as a drop in membership services. Discussion held about "how-to" or "training" articles. Mr. Kaplan felt that cutting issues would be not be a good marketing move. Discussion held about selling this idea to the membership. Discussion held about the different types of items suitable for the Team Topics packet and the *REACT*er.

34. Updated Member Contact Info. Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Besing discussed the problem with Teams not updating their members' contact info, email and mail addresses, and phone numbers, causing *REACT*ers to be returned (costing postage), causing email announcements to bounce, and invalid phone number contacts on the web site. A few (about 5) members have requested not to receive a paper copy of the *REACT*er, as they would download it from the web site.

35. Updated *REACT*er & Team Topics on Web Site. Discussion held about importance to keep current issues available on web site in timely manner. Mr. Besing stated that before the Computer Services Committee could comply, other than by removing older articles, current articles needed to be approved and provided.

- 36. Reciprocal Ad with ARRL.** It was suggested that the ARRL be contacted for exchange of ads on free or reduced cost basis. Mr. Kaplan to investigate.
- 37. NDCAT Proposal.** Bob Lumpkin (D.C.) provided a summary of his National Disaster Communications Assistance Team (NDCAT) proposal previously been presented to the Board. There are a number of hurdles to overcome. Florida *REACT* has a scaled-down version of this program. Mr. Kaplan pointed out the need for all persons to have prior approval before trying to enter a disaster zone. **Motion** Mr. Manlove, **2d** Mr. Knott, to authorize Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Lumpkin to approach ARRL's Emergency Planning Committee to present the NDCAT program with *REACT* International's endorsement and (non-monetary) support of the concept. **Motion passed.**
- 38. Recruiting Volunteer via Web Resources.** Mr. Roberts reminded Directors about using www.VolunteerMatch.org as a resource for recruiting new members. RI and some of the area councils and Teams already use this resource. RI gets several leads a week from this source.
- 39. High School Junior REACT Teams.** Mr. Roberts advised he is working in Hawaii to build local small JR Teams in high schools, with adult advisors. Mr. Kaplan asked that he write a "how to" guide that outlines what worked, or didn't work as he does this task.
- 40. Committee Chair Positions.** RI needs to identify more self-motivated *REACT* members who are "doers" to fill the various committee chair positions, not just seat warmers. **Motion** Mr. Knott, **2d** Mr. Manlove, to allow *REACT* International to credit the Team of any appointed RI Committee Chair with the equivalent of a regular membership fee for the following year's Team renewal. Discussion held about definition of measuring "active" status. Mr. Besing suggested requiring submission of regular written reports, especially when Board Meetings are held. **Motion passed.**
- 41. Directors Missing Meeting.** There were no Directors affected by Bylaws Article V, Section 5.5 Resignations, paragraph (b), for missing two consecutive in-person meetings.
- 42. Next Board Meeting.** The Board discussed a meeting in the summer. Mr. Fry recommended choosing a Drury Inn based upon the August 2004 experience in Dallas-Ft Worth. Mr. Fry suggested St. Louis. Other suggestions included D-FW, San Antonio, and Hawaii. Airline expenses were examined on-line. Plans will be for a one-day business meeting, arrival on Friday, meet on Saturday, depart on Sunday. Discussion also held about scheduling the 2007 Annual Board Meeting in mid-March to make it easier for Mr. Jagdeosingh to attend. **Motion** Mr. Manlove, **2d** Mr. Knott, to hold a Special Board Meeting in the St. Louis area at a Drury Inn on the weekend of 18-20 August, with alternate date of 25-27 August. **Motion passed.** Mr. Fry to make arrangements. It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. **Unanimous.**

Meeting adjourned sine die at 2:25 p.m., Saturday, 4 March 2006.

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 \$0.85 U.S. postage (for U.S. delivery) to REACT International, Inc., 5210 Auth Road, Suite 403, Suitland, MD 20746-4330

(Headquarters from p. 12) have increased from 243,507 to 417,686. Each team that has reported in both years is reporting an increase in monitoring hours, community hours, group activity hours and training hours. Calls taken vary from team to team. Again, as the *REACT*er is now issued at its normal pace, the

*REACT*er returns for bad addresses is increasing. It currently averages \$0.18 to send the *REACT*er out and costs \$0.70 for a return for a bad address. Please forward your correct address to *REACT* International Headquarters. This address correction may be made by going to the RI web site, <www.reactintl.org>, e-mail, <re-

act@reactintl.org>, or snail mail at 5210 Auth Rd., Ste 403, Suitland, Md, 20746. If you want to get the *REACT*er from the web site rather than through the mail, send a note to that effect either through e-mail or snail mail at the above addresses.

The Editor's Corner: From Ice to Fire

Don Tarbet

We have run the gamut from fire to ice in the last few issues. We have talked about ice storms; we have talked about hurricanes; we have talked about fire. But that is what *REACT* is all about; meeting and dealing with a wide variety of situations from coffee stops to charity walks to disaster preparedness.

For our role in dealing with emergencies, we need training. In recent issues of the *REACT*er (See January-February 2006 p. 2) and on *REACT*-L (See p. 9 this issue) training options and requirements have been discussed. FEMA offers online – and requires of first responders (either online or conventional classroom) the following courses. Internet addresses are given also:

IS 700 - National Incident Management System (first responders and volunteers to federal disasters)
<<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700asp>>

IS 100 - Incident Command Basics (first responders and volunteers to federal disasters)
<<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is100.asp>>

IS 200 - Working in Incident Command (first level supervisors)
<<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is200.asp>>

REACT offers emergency communications training (p. 5 this issue), as does ARRL. The ARRL courses are in three levels for licensed amateurs and can be taken online or in a classroom setting. Those who have completed all three levels can obtain a certificate acknowledging this accomplishment. Email <cce@arrl.org> with "Free certificate" in the subject line and your address (and call sign) in the body.

We know of a number of *REACT*ers who have taken all these courses, and some have taken one or more, and we plan to acknowledge their accomplishments in future issues. Stay tuned.

Your editor has completed (and taught, both online and in the classroom) the ARRL courses, and is now working on the others. I plan to complete the rest by the September, 2006 deadline given by Homeland Security.

Let's get as many of certified as is possible. If we are going to let people know what we can do – and we should – let's be sure that we, ourselves, know what we can, and must, do.



10-2.

"Loud and clear."

And that's exactly the kind of transmission and reception you get with a K40 CB antenna: Consistent SWR across all 40 channels.

Not so with other antennas. They're hand-wound and hand-glued. No two are ever alike. Performance is left to chance.

But all K40's are *exactly* alike. Computer-designed. Machine-assembled. Totally unvarying. And clearly superior.

So superior, we give you a *double* guarantee: 30-day money-back on performance to your satisfaction and 5-year replacement on parts.

Seems like there's only one choice when it's time to replace that old antenna. K40. The one guaranteed to keep those 10-2's coming.

K40
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Made in U.S.A.

CONFIDENCE THAT COMES WITH A GUARANTEE.



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As a member of REACT, you are part of a team. Others count on you. And in turn, you need equipment that you can count on. Count on Icom — the professional radios people. Built tough and tested to overcome any obstacle you might encounter in the field. When you want reliability, you want Icom.

IC-R20 Dual watch • Audio recorder • Wide band receiver, 150kHz - 3.36Hz*

IC-M88 Submersible IP-X7 construction • Li-Ion battery allows for up to 24 hours of operation**

IC-F21GM Simple operation • Built-in signaling (CTCSS & DTCS) • Lightweight & rugged

IC-V8 5.5 Watts of power • Weather alert • Great audio • Military rugged construction

IC-A4 Receive 108.000 to 136.975 MHz (all 760 channels) • Backlit, alphanumeric display

*Collaborative frequency band used on US waters **Typical operation: 5% TX (10), 5% ID, 90% standby.

BC-121 MULTI-CHARGER (not shown)

Minimize downtime with the BC-121 MultiCharger, for rapid charging of up to 6 battery packs at one time. Charging time: approx. 1.5 to 2 hours.



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