

Public Service Through Communications



The *REACT*er

May-June 2006



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The REACTer

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Kaamulan REACT of the Philippines undergoes emergency medical training

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dick Cooper



It's the time of the year when cold weather is behind us and

hopefully spring weather has arrived with even warmer months ahead. Of course some areas have that nice weather nearly all year and don't have to suffer through cold, snow, blizzards (not Dairy Queen), etc. It's the time of the year when *REACT* Teams generally become more active in their communities by furnishing communications for various charities or other organizations and maybe participate in a table top exercise or drill with their emergency management affiliate. Whatever your activity, by now you should have already reaffirmed your relationships with local police, sheriff, emergency management, amateur group and anyone else that you work with. It's always a good idea to have a Team representative put on his/her uniform and visit these people to confirm upcoming events, discuss event details, review what is expected of the *REACT* Team and anything else that is of importance to the relationship between you and the respective organization or agency that you work with. Agencies and *REACT* International will need to know the

various NIMS and other training courses that your Team members have completed so that they can include you in their emergency plans, callouts and procedures. Just a reminder that all responders to emergencies and disasters should be familiar with the NIMS (National Incident Management System) as developed by the Department of Homeland Security through FEMA. Most emergency management agencies are starting to require that *REACT* members and other responders take various courses to become familiar with NIMS. The NIMS has been mentioned on the *REACT* - L list as well as articles in the *REACT*er.

If this issue of the *REACT*er is sent to a *REACT* Team and/or member that didn't renew for 2006 or is thinking about not renewing, please reconsider. The November-December 2005 issue of the *REACT*er includes a good article entitled *Why REACT?* This article lists several of the many reasons why you should reconsider everything about *REACT* and then send in your renewals right away. Another very good article regarding Team activities and reasons to belong to *REACT* appears in the January-February *REACT*er - *Lake County (South Dakota) REACT: A Tradition of Service*. This capsule history briefly describes the Team's services to the community and some highlights from the Team's activities. I particularly noted the statement "...we belong to

REACT because people in our community expect and depend on us to be out there for them." I think that this true most everywhere. *REACT* Teams should develop relationships with local agencies such as Red Cross, Salvation, emergency management, SKY-WARN and others so that their local community will expect them to be there in times of need. If you have any questions about membership renewal, please call the RI office.

I want to take this opportunity to give a belated mention to William and 3 Team members from Alerta *REACT* of Bayamon, Team #6110 in Puerto Rico. My wife and I planned a cruise of the south Caribbean to leave from San Juan, Puerto Rico and we took that opportunity to meet with William and some of his members before we departed on the cruise. William had previously emailed myself and Kenny Jagdeosingh (region 9 director) and explained some of the problems that *REACT* was experiencing in PR. After I met William, I quickly discovered that his Team and council have basically the same problems as Teams and councils here in the states. With communication I think that these problems can be overcome.



REACT News: Teams and Team Members

REACTKAAMULAN MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDERS

By Eric Conrad Epie,
DU9GVU

REACTKaamulan 6061



REACT is an institution widely known because of its communication expertise. Few would think that *REACT* Teams provide other forms of voluntary service such as traffic assistance, fire brigade and First Aid. Teams center their attention in ways appropriate and fitting for the community but are still guided by one common objective and that is public service through communication.

REACT Kaamulan on the other hand, followed a new but already existing path for some Teams, a paradigm shift from emergency communication to Emergency Medical Service.

Last February 13 to 26, 4 members of the Team including the writer, were able to successfully complete a 14

days live-in Medical First Responders course in Cebu City, Philippines. The training was conducted by the Emergency Rescue Unit Foundation, Inc. (ERUF), a non-government organization based in the Philippines which has maintained a record of Emergency Medical Service since 1985. It is undoubtedly the only EMS training center in the country and hopefully will be elevated into a training institute 2 years from now.

Medical First Responder or MFR is defined as a person on the scene with emergency medical training covering all EMS; patient assessment, CPR, trauma, patient transport, medical and childbirth emergencies. Teaching at ERUF is by instructors who are also trained in American and European EMS standards.

After the training, we were authorized to perform actual ambulance runs in metro Cebu City on cases ranging from patient hospital to hospital transport, childbirth emergencies, a stabbing victim, allergies and big event backup service. These actual runs made us realize how important medical responders' responsibilities are.

Some questioned our position why *REACT* Kaamulan decided to embrace EMS. First of all, the national highway in our province of Bukidnon has the dubious distinction of being one of the most accident prone

highways in the Philippines. This is due to heavy flow of traffic crisscrossing north to south within the heart of Mindanao Island. Not a single day is recorded without vehicular accidents involving mostly transient motorists. Second, it is a sad fact that unlike other developing countries that have realized the importance of such a service, the Philippine government has no program or agenda concerning emergency medical service.

Because of this *REACT* Kaamulan heeded the call to undergo the 1st level pre-hospital care training.

The Team is hopeful that a few years from now we shall have full fledged paramedics who shall train more volunteers and serve the entire province in general.

At present we have formed two jump teams which have responded numerous calls, mostly vehicular accidents. Even though we are not well-equipped compared to other foreign-based EMS groups, our Team have tried the very best to serve any medical emergencies.

Perhaps generous and philanthropic individuals will recognize our efforts and may donate ambulance, medical /trauma equipment or sponsor training for our members and realize our dream of becoming a successful volunteer

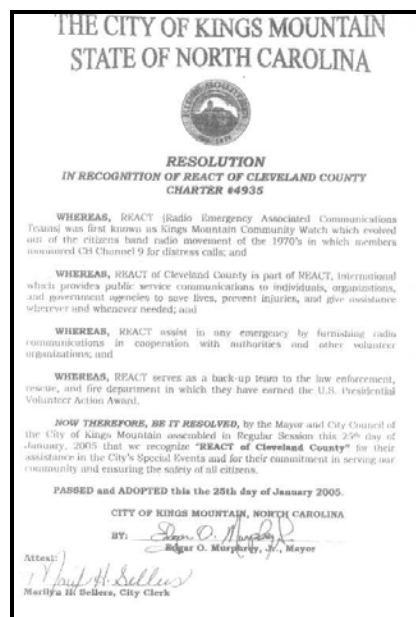
REACT EMS someday. So we wait with fingers crossed.

Updates may be found at: <www.reactkaamulan.org/2006-2007>.

Mabuhay ang REACT! Long live REACT!



Cleveland County (North Carolina) REACT



The City of Kings Mountain issued Cleveland County REACT a special recognition for their services to the community. The Team earned this recognition by keeping busy in

the public service. From their newsletter we find that:

February 1, 2006 Captain Jay Flora worked traffic control at a fire on Double Shoals Road. The Cleveland Fire Department told him to stop all west-bound cars and direct them around the incident zone which he did for nearly two hours. Cleveland, Fallston, and Lawndale Fire Department's offered thanks for the activities. Jay has also helped out at accidents, in removing trees from the roadway, patrolling, and, Skywarn.

Team President Lloyd Idol worked the funeral of Shelby, North Carolina Police Chief Charley Vanhoy. On February 8 he worked traffic control for an hour and a half at an accident.

All Team members have been busy with monitoring, helping out at accidents, and patrolling. And the City of Kings Mountain thanked them for it.

FLAGLER COUNTY From Eric Palm K1CE ARES (ARRL) Newsletter of April 19

For two years, Flagler has been the fastest growing county in the country. We are getting a new EOC, with the grand opening scheduled for April 29. ARES has been invited to send a representative. We are grateful for the excellent relationship we have enjoyed with county emergency services, effected by many good radio ama-

teurs, the emergency manager and his staff, including effervescent EOC worker Bob Pickering, KB4RSY [Flagler County Assist REACT Team 4800 – ed], who was recently selected as county employee of the year.

From the PGNiner: Newsletter of Prince Georges County (Maryland) REACT Team 2106

The Timonium Hamfest included an information booth sponsored by the Maryland State Council of REACT Teams. The booth was well-decorated, although sparsely staffed, and our members had many opportunities to let the hams in attendance know that REACT is still in existence, and that it includes ham radio operators. Ed Brown provided a computer to display the Powerpoint slides of the 2001 Memorial Day weekend chain-reaction crash in Western Maryland, and Jerry Hazel set up a display showing REACT repeaters on a state highway map. Both these displays attracted a lot of attention, although there were a few people who stopped only to ask if we were selling Dell computers or GMRS repeaters.

CALENDAR Spring - 2006 -May: REACT month -June 5: Deadline for May-June REACTer -May 29: Memorial Day (US) -June 20: Ballots due at REACT Headquarters

**RAMSEY COUNTY
(Minnesota) REACT,
Team 2538**

REACT sponsored a booth at the 47th annual Midwinter Madness Hamfest on Saturday March 25th In Buffalo Minnesota. There were over 1,000 attendees as well as over 150 vendors.



Pictured are Maline Fish Co. Owner of Radio City and Paul Oby Team President discussing a patch Radio City sells that looks like the *REACT* one.

After Maline took time out from the rather hectic day to call the store it was determined that the patch says Emergency Communications Team and has nothing to do with *REACT*.

Many thanks to Maline for taking time to talk with us about it.



About Your Subscription

All Regular, Junior, and Affiliate members in the U.S. and Canada automatically receive a subscription to *The REACTer*; the subscription price is included in the annual RI dues. 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.

We don't run the above ad every month just to fill space. We are serious about training. If *REACT* is to continue to provide public service, we need to keep ourselves up to date with current thinking and with the realities of emergency operations. The *REACT* course is an excellent one. Take it from one who has taken and taught the ARRL emergency courses and has completed the related (and other) FEMA courses online – your editor. See page 7



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Sparks Flew!


Barbara Jennison

By Barbara Jennison

Sparks fly between a rancher and a REACT female dispatcher as they battle grassfires consuming his land south of San Angelo, Texas. Based on actual events and composites of people and equipment, a love story ignites.

The novel is dedicated to individuals who volunteer during times of disaster, especially to the late Hon. Jerry Jennison.

Available at:
www.authorhouse.com
also at Hastings and
www.BarnesandNoble.com



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

Barbara autographs book at Texas State REACT Council meeting

Board of Director Ballots

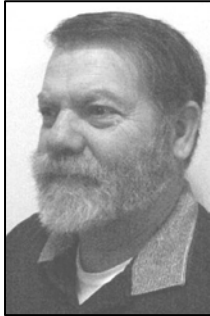
are in the your hands. Get them back to REACT Int'l. headquarters by June 20, 2006. Director positions from Regions 1, 4, and 7 are now vacant. We need to fill them. See p. 15

Silent Mic

Michael G. O'Connor, REACT Member April, 1999 – March, 2006. Age 56. During his life, Mike enjoyed participating in politics, the Omaha Astronomical Society, watching Maverick hockey and volunteering for Heartland REACT. He loved all things Irish, his family was important to him, and he was a loving son, brother, and devoted uncle. Preceded in death by father, Edward O'Connor. Survived by beloved mother, Virginia O'Connor, of Omaha; brothers and sister-in-law, James O'Connor and Diana Fuller, of Omaha, Thomas O'Connor, of Omaha; sister and brother-in-law, Ann O'Connor and Timothy Davlin, of Omaha; nieces, Molly and Maggie O'Connor, nephew, Patrick Davlin; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

TRAINING: A CHALLENGE FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

CREST calls for Training Challenge



Ed Greany
Executive
Vice Presi-
dent *REACT*
Int'l.

The CREST Communications REACT Team headquartered in Corona, Calif. is challenging all of *REACT* to a Training Duel according to President Ed Greany. When Ed took office in December, he stood on a platform of Membership and Training. Having approximately 100 members in his Team, the next step is to implement the training.

Southern California is never short on natural and man-made disasters which often include fires, earthquakes, mudslides, floods, and transportation accidents. Since we are alert to assist in these disasters with volunteer communications, it is imperative that we have the necessary tools which include training. The city expects it, the county expects it, FEMA expects it, and the agencies we serve such as the American Red Cross expect it. As a result, the CREST Team has embarked upon a training program beginning with CPR which occurred in March and

now Level 1 EComm course on April 22nd (stay tuned for results) when at least twelve CREST members were to be given the *REACT* EComm final exam. Eight members were to take the closed-book "Certification" test while four were to take the open-book exam resulting in a Certificate of Training.

Studying began on this EComm course on January 1st with an expectation of testing in April. This allowed one week per lesson. Most studied more than one lesson per week, and much is "old stuff" since we have had hands-on training with prior disaster call outs. Our next goal will be qualifying in NIMS which will be a requirement for all Disaster Service Workers in the future. CREST wants to be prepared ahead of time.

I put out the challenge to all *REACT* members to become qualified in the *REACT* Emergency Communications course by the 4th of July. The Editor will be publishing results of the Teams who report to him the accomplishments in Team training (see Editor's Corner, this issue).

The course is free so what do you have to lose? Do it and be a winner many times over.

FEMA Training – Yes, it's free –

B. F. (Frank) Jennings
LM 020, KAD 9560, N7TRL

VP Rainier *REACT* Radio Watch
#3366

First of all it is Free. From that point on it is quite easy to participate with or without a computer, though I must admit it is best if you have a computer. The courses are plentiful, and the individual lessons within the course are short, taking from 30 minutes to an hour. Those that are an hour or longer usually have a break point midway through. Most of the courses allow you to take the final test on line. You can download the courses and test for study purposes. Once you are ready, you can go on line and take the test and know almost immediately if you were successful.

Our Team started taking the "then written courses" in the late 70's early 80's, which were then administrated by the local DEM (Department of Emergency Management) and we attended many of the Red Cross Courses. We did this so that we could become familiar with all of the acronyms that we used in every day talk within the DEM and Red Cross.

I took all of the Red Cross Courses up to Supervisor and

FEMA courses IS-00001, IS00002, IS-00003, IS-00005

The 2005 Convention in Corona, we were exposed to the NIMS program. The exposure lit a fire, and I have since completed IS-00100 ICS, IS00200 ICS, IS-00317 CERT, IS-00700 NIMS, IS-00800 NRP – all of which are loaded with acronyms. The acronyms are used extensively within the organizations during their communications. As you become more familiar with them you can improve your communications and be more proficient as a volunteer communicator.

More from the April 19 ARES Newsletter and Rick Palm:

"Fulfilling the other half of my promise of two issues ago, I passed FEMA's on-line course IS-700 on the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS incorporates the ICS, and adds the component 'Multiagency Coordination Systems, a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications integrated into a common framework for coordinating and supporting incident management.' The course is highly recommended and is becoming a requirement across the country (see below). Get on board now:

<<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/IS/crslst.asp>>

The course took me about two hours to complete."

FROM FEMA Supplied to
REACT – L by Don Manlove

"The NIMS Integration Center's five [we reproduce the first two here] most frequently asked questions, which are posed primarily via e-mail, focus on required NIMS training, lost or delayed NIMS/ICS training certifications from the Emergency Management Institute, and NIMCAST temporary passwords.

In the interest of providing the information most relevant to our audiences we have decided to repeat those questions and our answers in this NIMS Alert. We also urge you to check our FAQ site, which is directly accessible from the NIMS Homepage at <www.fema.gov/nims>; it is updated frequently based on your questions.

Who has to take NIMS and ICS training?

All federal, state, local, tribal, private sector and non-governmental personnel with a direct role in emergency management and response must be NIMS and ICS trained. This includes all emergency services related disciplines such as EMS, hospitals, public health, fire service, law enforcement, public works/ utilities, skilled support personnel, and other emergency management response, support and volunteer personnel, as follows:

>Entry Level:

§FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction

§ ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent

>First Line, Single Resource, Field Supervisors

§ IS-700, ICS-100 and ICS-200: Basic ICS or its equivalent

>Middle Management: Strike Team Leaders, Division Supervisors, EOC Staff, etc.

§ IS-700, IS-800 NRP, ICS-100, ICS-200 and in FY07, ICS-300

>Command and General Staff; Area, Emergency and EOC Managers

§ IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200 and in FY07, ICS-300 and ICS-400

What about elected officials?

The NIMS Integration Center strongly recommends that all elected official who will be interacting with multiple jurisdictions and agencies during an emergency incident at the minimum, complete IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction and ICS-100: Introduction to ICS. These courses provide a basic understanding of the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System. Everyone directly involved in managing an emergency should understand the command reporting structures, common terminology and roles and responsibilities inherent in a response operation."

The Editor's Corner: Training for the Inevitable

Don Tarbet

The challenge has been laid down, not only by *REACT* Executive VP Ed Greany (p 7), but on the *REACT-L* list and throughout the world of volunteer emergency communications. Let's take that challenge.

The three ARRL courses are not required. Nor is the *REACT* course. Nevertheless, these courses contain much information not present in the FEMA courses and provide an excellent introduction to the subject of ICS. With the ARRL courses as background, I found little difficulty in the ICS 700, 100, and 200 courses. The 800 course with its meal of alphabet soup was a bit more challenging. Still, I completed them all in one 12-hour sitting after attending a planning meeting at which I found out just how seriously our official counterparts are taking them. I am now working on the *REACT* course and find that quite substantive. I'm going to meet Ed's challenge and finish that by the Fourth of July. That seems a reasonable goal to set for myself.

The easiest way to take the FEMA courses is online. I downloaded the material, including the test, studied, filled out the test, and then went

back online to copy the answers I'd recorded onto the provided form. The next working day I had an acknowledgement of having passed. As we saw earlier, the certificate itself follows quickly. On the website we are warned that it may take weeks for the paper certificate to arrive, but that has not been my experience with the 12 FEMA courses I have completed online.

Twelve courses? Why? Well, because they are related to things we may have to do. I don't expect to be a field supervisor or any high level planner, but I do want to know what's going on. So I took:

IS 2 – Emergency preparedness (no longer offered in that form)

IS 3 – Radiological emergencies

IS 5A – Hazardous materials emergencies

IS 15A – Special Events Planning

IS 288 – Voluntary Agencies in Disasters

IS 292 – Disaster Basics

..and, as a followup to the recent SKYWARN training in which Penobscot *REACT* participated along with Penobscot County ARES:

IS 271 – Hazardous weather risks

IS 324 – Hurricane preparedness

And, of course, the four (IS 100, 200, 700, and 800) we have been stressing.

What does all this qualify me to do? Well, in part it qualifies me to understand what the ex-

perts are talking about and to do my part constructively rather than being in the way. And it qualifies me to start learning about the subjects in detail.

Although the easiest way to take the FEMA courses is online as Frank Jennings and I found, there are other ways. Teams, with qualified instructors (see the NIMS site listed above) can do the courses in classroom settings. The Northeastern Regional Resource Collaborative (Northern Maine) is planning a series of introductory power point presentations to get folks started. Students will then complete the courses online.

There are advantages to all methods, but the big advantage is finding a way to complete the courses you need.

Ed Greany's article above gives a background on the *REACT* course in a classroom setting. Or, check the *REACT* website at <www.reactintl.org> or write to headquarters. Or call.

And let us know when you succeed. Just send us some sort of indication – certificate copy, for example – either by email at <editor@reactintl.org> or by USPS mail at *REACT* International headquarters. We want to start an honor roll. We want to know who has completed any one of the most relevant FEMA courses (IS 100, 200, 700, 800). We want to know who has completed,

either as training certification or emergency certification (see Ed's article), the *REACT* course. We want to know who has completed the three ARRL courses.

We'll start it small: Chuck Thompson, N5IAG and Don Tarbet, KD1XU have completed all three ARRL courses. Don Tarbet has also completed IS 100, 200, 700, 800. I know that a lot more people than that have completed some of these. Let us know what you and your Team are doing, and we'll let everybody know.

And to let everybody know what we are up to as *REACT*, we should keep in contact with our local officials and with the public. Below, Paul Jackson outlines some of the steps his Team and Council has taken in identifying themselves to officialdom.

The *REACT-L* list has recently held a discussion of statistics. The initial statement from Dale Ellis:

"Something for Teams to remember when asking for donations [or convincing the public and officialdom that we're for real] and that is statistics. Those pesky yearly numbers that we compile for *REACT* International can be used for other purposes. Let me give you an example.

In 2004 Oklahoma County *REACT* # 2620 provided 1970.75 hours of support at events. This does not include

meeting or special callouts, just regular events (parades, runs, traffic control, etc). Big deal right? Well if my figures are correct then that actually is a big deal. That is 246.3 days of support. In a non-leap year that is like 1 person working 8 hours per day, 7 days a week from Jan 1 to Sep 3. Now that is impressive.

When requesting a donation be sure and include the amount of work you have done in the past. It really adds up. Organizations providing donations need to know that they are donating to a worthy cause. Even low numbers of hours can present a case for a worthy example.

Just a thought."

.. and it's a good one, Dale

There are also ways to write good press releases. If you are a subscriber to the *REACT-L* list, you've read Ron McCracken's advice and examples. If you're not a subscriber, talk to someone who is – and consider subscribing, yourself.

RECRUITMENT AND SERVICE: *REACT* Nuts and Bolts
Paul Jackson

How do you start new Teams or add to your membership roster? That is a situation many members and Teams are facing

now, and here are some ideas and suggestions:

Does your Team have a purpose in your community? If not, contact your local EMA and inform them of what you can do to help with communications in an emergency situation. For instance, our EMA introduced me to the local parks and recreation department, and, after discussing problems with vandalizing and with emergency situations that arise, I offered to help by using *REACT* volunteers in our community. I explained that we could use our two-way radios or cell phones to notify the proper authorities through the 911 communications center. We had several meetings with the parks and recreation department, local police, fire, the city council, the 911 center, and other concerned authorities.

Now we are in the process of recruiting volunteers by using *REACT* brochures and displays, television and radio spots, newspaper articles and by having an information & recruitment meeting from 10 AM until noon at a local community center every week for two months.



I am also contacting senior citizens centers, civic organizations such as Kiwanis Club

as well as church even activity groups. This requires *REACT* brochures and a little public speaking which will get the message out.

How we do it isn't important. The bottom line is to keep encouraging people to volunteer, to get involved. There are many people with time on their hands, looking for activities to keep them busy and to let them perform rewarding, useful service. All we need to do is inform them of our organization and give them a chance to try *REACT* out.

In the November-December, 2005 issue of The REACTer, there was a mention of emergency channels on FRS and GMRS in an article by Robert McGuane. This generated questions as the FCC has not designated emergency channels in these services. Author McGuane Responds below:

**Robert McGuane
KB1BXQ, WPVB820,
KRM02481**

In my opinion, a good clarification of the use of 462.6750 MHz as an emergency channel may be found in this paragraph from the home page of the Personal Radio Steering Group (PRSG):

"The '675 channel' ... is used by many public service teams and user cooperatives for their emergency and travelers assistance communications. There is a growing nationwide network of repeater stations avail-

able on this particular channel for just this purpose. However, GMRS personal licensees may operate on any GMRS channel, and all users must immediately yield to any bona fide emergency communications."

This paragraph may be located by going to:

<www.provide.net/~psrg/wi-gmrs.htm>

and searching for the phrase, "675 channel."

As a user of the Radio Shack model 19-903 (a commercial grade handie-talkie without duplex), I was referred by the manual to PRSG. The manual instructed me about the need for licensing, and also indicated that the Channel-20 (462.6750 MHz) of the handie-talkie was the Emergency And Assistance Channel for GMRS radio.

It would seem therefore that characterizing FRS/GMRS dual service radio channel 20 (also 462.6750 MHz) as being "widely touted by bubble pack radio manufacturers as an emergency channel" is not quite accurate.

In view of the fact that FRS/GMRS shared Channel 1 has not yet been recognized by the FCC as an emergency channel either, it might be best not to give undue emphasis to the fact that the FCC has not yet recognized the "675 Channel."

However, given the fact that the vast majority of FRS/GMRS dual service radio users are unlicensed, there

would seem to be an FCC rules basis for making a two-way radio related public service announcement regarding the generally accepted status of FRS/GMRS shared Ch-1 and FRS/GMRS dual service Ch-20 as emergency channels. (In particular, unlicensed FRS/GMRS dual service radio users may only use FRS/GMRS shared CH-1 and FRS/GMRS dual service CH-20 if there is an immediate threat to life or property.

CH-1 may be an exception if CH-1 of the dual service radio is limited to 0.5 W ERP.) At the same time, there would also seem to be an FCC rules basis for encouraging change from a factory setting of CH-1 to a channel of choice selected from one of "FRS Only Channels," 8-14.

Furthermore, ARRL ham radio training teaches that trained 2-way radio operators take pride in being "self-policing." Part of being self-policing is to follow recommended, established 2-way radio procedures which meet and, at times, exceed FCC rules requirements, as you are aware.

All the radio services stand to benefit from Good Radio Citizenship. Good Radio Citizenship might be described as following the FCC rules for the particular radio service and also recommended, established 2-way radio procedures practiced by amateur radio operators and other established 2-way radio practitioners.

A starting point in educating the public about Good Radio Citizenship might be to make the public aware of the generally accepted emergency channel status of FRS/GMRS shared Channel-1, FRS/GMRS dual service radio Channel-20, and the desirable option of changing from a factory channel setting of Channel-1 to a channel of choice selected from one of channels, 8-14.

NEW AND IMPROVED TECHNICIAN CLASS HAM TEST

**Gordon West,
WB6NOA**

All current 35-question, entry-level, Element 2 Technician class examinations get trashed at 11:59 p.m., June 30th. The current Element 2 entry-level Technician class question pool, made up of 511 total questions for the brand new applicant, is summarily discharged to the dumpster on June 30, 2006.

None too soon. The present Tech examination and pool is a hodgepodge of old NOVICE questions, very old TECHNICIAN class questions, some newer questions submitted by an outer-space engineer, plus a handful of GENERAL questions, and totally off-base with encouraging newcomers to really learn the material, rather

than speed read for 511 rote memory answers.

The current Technician class examination got a hasty patch-and-add job in July of 2003, after ham radio restructuring in 2000. New questions were added (actually old, tired questions), pulled from the deleted Novice test, and few current questions were subtracted to make up for the addition—causing the pool to swell from 384 to an unmanageable 511 total questions!

Statistics compiled by one testing group revealed a downward trend in test-taking, a downward trend in test-passing, likely associated with anyone opening up an Element 2 question pool book and quickly realizing it was going to be a skill of memorization, rather than true question research and understanding.

Old Question Examples:

T0D04 In the far field, as the distance from the source increases, how does power density vary?

A. The power density is proportional to the square of the distance

B. The power density is proportional to the square root of the distance

C. The power density is proportional to the inverse square of the distance

D. The power density is proportional to the inverse cube of the distance

How did YOU do on this entry-level question?

T1B07 What are the frequency limits of the 13 cm band in ITU Region 2?

A. 2300-2310 MHz and 2390-2450 MHz

B. 2300-2350 MHz and 2400-2450 MHz

C. 2350-2380 MHz and 2390-2450 MHz

D. 2300-2350 MHz and 2380-2450 MHz

How did you do on this non-technical question for beginners? How many beginners would actually operate on the 13 cm band, homebrewing their own equipment from a cannibalized analog 2.4 GHz cordless telephone, anyway?

Ham exam coordinators who meet yearly in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, representing their volunteer examiner coordination group, agreed that the entry-level Technician class examination needed to be “fixed,” and soon. Instead of waiting until June of 2007, the scrapping of the current question pool for a new pool was set for this July 1, 2006.

“The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) announces that the Question Pool Committee (QPC) has adjusted the schedule for revising question pools used in the amateur radio service,” comments Jim Wiley, KL7CC, the Chairman of the Coordinator’s Council.

“The QPC anticipates that the new questions will be released to the public in early 2006, AND BECOME EFFECTIVE ON JULY 1,” adds Wiley, realizing the tall order to

completely redesign the new Technician class examination based on the following criteria:

- Question level should be on a high school reading level
- Approximately 10 main topics
- Avoid questions with negative answers or “all of the above,” or “none of the above” answers
- No existing questions based on obsolete technology
- Need questions on digital communications, APRS, IRLP/ Echo Link, and satellite
- Questions should be written to a level that a middle school student would be expected to be able to handle
- PULL ALL THIS OFF IN 90 DAYS, seeking a minimum of 385 questions for the new Element 2 pool

The QPC pulled it off! Jim Wiley, KL7CC, Perry Green, WY1O, with the ARRL, and Larry Pollock, NB5X, of the W5YI Group each took specific areas of question topics and divided them out to groups like AMSAT, TAPR, Weak Signal Societies, digital user groups, internet linking experts, and an open invitation for everyone in ham radio to come up with at least one new, fresh question for the entry-level Element 2 Technician class question pool.

Plenty of fresh questions were developed by these team leaders of the Question Pool Committee, thanks to short notice offerings from the ham community and multiple forums. These QPC members worked throughout Thanksgiving and December holiday weeks, meeting their scheduled

release date of early January for the new pool that kicks in July 1. QPC assistants for additional question input were:

Roland Anders, K3RA
 Dave DeFebo, WB9BWP
 Tom Fuszard, KF9PU
 Fred Maia, W5YI
 Steve Sternitzke, NS5I
 Gordon West, WB6NOA

Not a facelift! Not a redo! Not a rewrite! But rather fresh, new questions to encourage applicants to really apply some study time in preparation for the new Element 2 examination.

New Question Examples:

What does it mean when you are using an amateur satellite operating in mode V/u?

- A. You are transmitting a special code for satellites launched in Asia.
- B. You are transmitting to the satellite on VHF and receiving the satellite on UHF.
- C. You receive the satellite on VHF and transmit back on UHF.
- D. The satellite is storing your message for transmission at a later time.

What is the normal bandwidth required for a conventional fast-scan TV transmission using combined video and audio on the 70 cm band?

- A. More than 10 MHz
- B. About 6 MHz
- C. About 3 MHz
- D. About 1 MHz

What technology do Echo Link and IRLP have in common?

- A. Ionospheric propagation
- B. AC power lines

- C. Voice over internet protocol
- D. PSK 31

For the new beginning ham, logical safety questions when they are assembling their first ham station:

What can happen if a rechargeable nickel metal hydride battery pack is charged or discharged too quickly?

- A. The battery pack could overheat, give off dangerous gases, and explode.
- B. The terminal voltage will oscillate rapidly.
- C. The voltage will be reversed.
- D. It is difficult to overcharge the common battery pack.

The new Technician class Element 2 entry-level question pool is available for inspection on line at numerous web sites. As you read over the entire pool, it may remind you of when you took *your* FCC-administered examination years ago—short, concise questions with short word answers. Two answers absolutely wrong, one answer plausible but incorrect, and one answer absolutely correct.

Notice the various areas to encourage the applicant to do plenty of home study *without* rote memorization before the big exam. Also see that none of the older questions were “dumbed down,” but rather sharpened up on how the material is presented to the test applicant.

In fact, developing some sample examinations for a student pre-test before they began to study the book reveals that an applicant has no easier time passing a test now without reading the book than on the older existing exam. Also notice that General-class type questions, such as dealing with F2 layer ionospheric skip, have been pulled from the Technician class question pool and will go into the new General class question pool being developed later this year. (For you 6-meter buffs, we can revisit the F2 ionosphere question in a few more years as we climb back up to solar cycle 24!)

Beginning this July 1st, candidates for the ham radio test will now study those topics that have relevance to getting started on their privileges above 50 MHz. The examination subtly promotes some of our newer operating modes, such as weak signal work, internet linking with radio, fast-scan television, APRS, satellites, and good old 2-meter repeater operation with plenty of questions on good operating practice with that new single- or dual-band handheld. After all, once we get them into ham radio and on the air with local communications, now is the time to work with

these new hams and encourage them to add high frequency to their existing exciting VHF/UHF privileges they have just earned with a refreshingly clean, new, Element 2 Technician class question pool hitting town this July 1, 2006. Still 35 questions, multiple choice, on the test, with 74 percent passing grade.



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MORE ON FRS:

FRS is becoming increasingly important as a means of short-range communications. The simplicity and inexpensiveness

of the units make them very attractive for many purposes as witness the article by **Bob Leef**

in the March-April, 2006 issue of *The REACTer*.

Jim Koritzky, Penobscot *REACT*, Team 6088, has been working on an FRS committee that would apply some of the tools and methods described by Leef. Here is some of Koritzky's thinking:

We all remember important dates; no one will forget 9/11. But who remembers what happened on 4/20/99 in the town of Littleton, Colorado? That's right, the tragic events at Columbine High School occurred on that date.

If all the staff in the classrooms at Columbine High School had been equipped with FRS Systems, they would have been able to report to a command post and inform that party where they heard the shots being fired.

I decided to ask why could we not start an FRS committee and maybe persuade school officials in our towns to purchase these radios. A senior member of your Team or Council could instruct a training session in how to use them. Despite some early opposition, FRS now seems widely accepted in the *REACT* community.

Ron McCracken says:

"*REACT* International, Inc. has recognized the inherent safety potential of FRS since its inception,' Executive Vice-President Ed Greany notes. *REACT* Teams worldwide monitor FRS Channel 1 (462.5625 MHz; no tone) for

emergency calls. Those calls have come, and have saved a number of lives to date as media reports show.

Midland Radio's early advocacy of FRS-1 (no tone) as the unofficial FRS emergency channel has enhanced public awareness of its value and importance. That has benefited both radio owners in terms of safety and *REACT* Teams in their monitoring.

FRS-GMRS combination radios offer those who hold GMRS licenses a second [unofficial] emergency channel with greater range. In most units that is Channel 20 (462.6750 MHz; no tone). Some makes do vary, so consult the owner's manual to be certain. 'One GMRS license now covers an entire family,' Greany points out, 'so it is well worth considering.'

In an emergency, broadcast repeatedly *where exactly* you are. You are the key to your rescue. *REACT*, police or other monitors must depend on your radio skill. Give the state, town, road, crossroad, landmarks, etc. Then state *what* is wrong. Keep each broadcast the same. Realize that you may be unable to hear a reply. Expect that.

After several broadcasts on FRS-1 (no tone) or GMRS-20 (no tone) try another channel, particularly one where you can hear voices. Remember, the details you broadcast allow monitors to send help even if you can't hear a reply. Teach family members to use the ra-

dio correctly too, in case you are disabled and can't.

FRS is there; let's use it.

A Director from Regions 1, 4, and 7 is being elected this year.

The nominees are:

Region 1 – Fred Lanshe

Region 4 – Paul Jackson

Region 7 – Robert Kaster

A candidate must have at least 1 vote to be elected. Ballots are in the hands of the Teams. Use them.

Paul Jackson, candidate for the Board from Region 4 writes:

I have many years experience in *REACT* in membership, recruiting, councils, public relations, as well as in business, including 25 years with Federated Macy Lazarus Department Stores and E.S.O.P. owner of a vinyl wall cover business. I am a former military police army investigator. I have brought 12 new Teams to *REACT* in ten years. Based upon that record I have requested that the Board of Directors reinstate me as Director for Region 4 for the remainder of my original elected term. And, I seek your vote for Director for the three-year term starting July 2006.

My health was the reason for my inability to fulfill the requirements of a Director last year, and it has improved since I retired. I am getting the use of my legs back, and I can

walk again without a cane. My financial situation is better also. I am on social security and am working 28 hours a week transporting special needs students to school and home for a local school district. This position required a B.C.I. background check and a driver's certificate and D.O.T. medical examination, all of which I passed.

I am glad to be active again and, like John Leist, I do not plan to let dust gather under my feet.



MORE ON NIMS from the ARES Newsletter of 4/19

Just to let you know how some of the thinking is going – and to give some sources.

"In Pennsylvania, NIMS [National Incident Management System] training is now a requirement for ALL first responders by decree of the Governor. There is also a requirement from Homeland Security to put NIMS in place (or lose federal funding opportunities). Currently in Pennsylvania the requirements are the IS-100, 200, and 700 courses. IS-800 (National Response Plan Intro) will also be required soon. Pennsylvania's requirements can be found on the PEMA web site:

<www.pema.state.pa.us>

It's of note that the Pennsylvania requirement explicitly applies to volunteers." -- Donald D. Cripe, KE3MM, Western Pennsylvania DEC, New Galilee, Pennsylvania

"As of last year, just before I departed FEMA HQ, all FEMA employees are now required to complete the following EMI courses within one year of being on board: IS-100 (Intro to ICS), IS-200 (ICS for Federal Disaster Workers), IS-546 (Continuity of Operations Awareness), IS-700 (NIMS Intro), and IS-800 (NRP Intro)." – Bart Bartholomew, N3GQ

"NIMS has been required for all of us in Prince William (Virginia) since last year (about 80% of my ARES team have it now) and IS-100 and IS-200 are required by the end of the year (2006). I am signed up for 200 and 300 next weekend. ECs and AECs are also required to have the NRP Intro course (IS-800). It looks like the League needs to embrace these as requirements for all ARES members sooner rather than later." -- David A. Lane, KG4GIY, EC/RO Prince William County ARES/RACES
<www.qsl.net/pwcares/>

NIMS compliance for volunteers -
FAQ 313 now states, in part, "The NIMS Integration Center strongly recommends that volunteers with a direct role in emergency and incident management and response take NIMS and ICS training."

Silent Mics

Reverend Jerome Shearer, Long time member of Colleton County REACT, Team 3153, and past Team Chaplain has passed away. He died on Tuesday March 28, 2006. Jerome died from Brain Cancer and was carried as a honorary Member when he could no longer function as a Regular Member. He will be missed as he always had a way of making the Team feel better and always had a funny story to tell.

Chief Bill Kofron created a certificate on parchment paper and gold sealed it to present to Jerome's wife. The text was old English and reads, "Know Ye all Men by These Presents Greetings: That on this date March 31, 2006 our faithful brother Lieutenant Jerome Shearer membership in Colleton County REACT was transferred to Heaven REACT 1 His service was ever faithful and he will be missed by all members of this Team and the State Council." Signed by Kofron and sealed at Walterboro, South Carolina.

Space Coast REACT Team 4577 regrets to inform the REACT family of the loss of our unit 755, Paul Panteleo, on Feb 4th of this year. Paul's dedication to REACT and Brevard County will be missed. Bob Bodine unit 704, President Space Coast REACT, Melbourne Florida.



10-2.

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