



Where Have All the Golf Carts Gone?



**HOLE IN ONE:**

*REACT Insurance Dollars at Work*

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# The REACTer

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# FROM THE PRESI- DENT

Dick Cooper



## The RI Board of Directors

held its summer board meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup> in St. Louis, Missouri. Two of the most important decisions of that meeting concerned the cost of *REACT* membership. The liability insurance premium to RI has been reduced, consequently the board decided unanimously to pass this reduction on to the membership. This reduction of \$1.00 per member will be reflected on the renewal forms that will be sent to Teams.

The 2006 membership of RI has dropped dramatically from the 2005 level. While this reduced membership level contributed to the lower insurance premium, it was directly responsible for reducing the income to RI. This has created a deficit situation because there won't be enough income to pay the expenses to operate the RI office and other necessary expenses. Logically the dues should be increased by \$5 to \$10 to cover minimal RI expenses

through the end of the year. In a unanimous decision, the board chose not to increase dues as it would mean a loss in membership which we cannot afford. (NOTE: Through the past few years the board has trimmed spending from the RI budget and now the only place to cut expenses is in member services, which we don't want to do). These board decisions are two more examples that the RI board is concerned about our members and acts accordingly when possible.

The summer months are behind us, school has started its fall term and many *REACT* Teams are very busy responding to requests to use their communications expertise. Some Teams will be engaged in inside or outside events with other non-profit organizations in their fund raising efforts or other activities while other Teams may be engaged in work within their local emergency management structure. This may be in the form of regular nets, drills or even training classes. Speaking of training classes, I'm sure that everyone has read the past few issues of the *REACT*er and noticed the Training articles telling about different courses required and available and where to get them. These are FEMA courses and of course the *REACT* EComm Course.

Recently I had a call from a man who was starting a new *REACT* Team. In our conversation he mentioned that each member's uniform shirt would have various patches on them designating various personal training achievements. While this idea is good, Teams must remember that a uniform is intended to be the same (or very close) from member to member. Various military or law enforcement uniforms are primarily the same except for very small differences (badge bar, rank, etc.) to designate personal rank or achievements. At the same time, members must remember to look and act professional at all events where they represent *REACT* as members.

A good way to realize what I'm saying is to look around you at people in uniform. You can quickly tell what looks professional and what doesn't. Also please remember that your actions on an event or at any other time (even when you are not in uniform) reflect back to your *REACT* Team and *REACT* International.

We need people who are willing to give their gifts and talents to *REACT* for work on committees, especially the most important ones which are Membership Development & Retention, Ways and Means and Public Relations. Of course there are other committees, but in my opinion these are the 3 most important. Nearly all committee business is done by email and USPS with some phone time and there is little or no travel is involved. Contact me today at 877-881-3995. All *REACT* members can help by bringing a new member into their Teams. You must bring in new, young blood to grow and stay alive.

As of this writing there are no bids for the 2007 RI Convention. The regional directors are encouraged to promote conventions within their regions or multi-region conventions. It may be easier to get to a centrally located convention in your area rather than an International

convention. If you are interested in helping with a regional convention, please contact me at 877-881-3995.

Final note to members. At the Annual Meeting of the *REACT* International Board of Directors, the main topic of discussion on Saturday was the Future of *REACT*. There were many good ideas discussed by the members in attendance but we need the help of everyone to implement these ideas. Please help the board in these and many other important areas of *REACT* – we can't do it alone. We are all striving for the same goals.  
Thank you.

## CALENDAR - Fall - 2006

- September: Homeland Security National Preparedness Month (US)
- September 4: Labor Day (US, Canada)
- October 2: Yom Kippur
- October 5: Deadline for Nov-Dec *REACTer*
- October 9: Columbus Day, Thanksgiving (Canada)
- October 31: Halloween
- November 1: All Saints Day
- November 11: Veterans Day (US); Remembrance Day (Canada, Australia, New Zealand (12th UK))
- November 23: Thanksgiving (US)

## HOLE IN ONE

### *REACT Insurance Dollars at Work*

**COMUPAC *REACT*, Inc.(C069)** was working a team event selling programs at the NHRA World Finals Drag Race in Pomona, California last year. We had use of a 1999 Golf Cart but during the night of November 6th, the golf cart was stolen along with several others.

The golf cart rental agency was not pleased and billed our team for the loss in the amount of \$3600. Our team treasury probably looks similar to many other of the *REACT* teams in the nation so our team submitted a claim for the loss with "NonProfits Insurance Alliance Group" - the company we are insured with by *REACT* International.

Now I understand the value of our insurance premium surcharge at renewal time. They negotiated a full settlement in the amount of \$2913.20.

We are grateful to NonProfits Insurance Alliance Group for their prompt and courteous service. Our agent representative was Nancy Zimmerman. She was very friendly and assisted us with our claim in a timely manner.

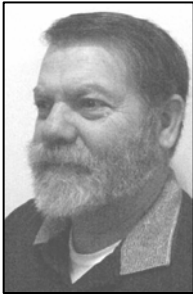
Thank you to NonProfits Insurance Alliance Group and all of the folks from *REACT* International specifically Executive Vice-President Ed Greany and Office Manager Dora Wilbanks.

Barry Burkholder, Treasurer  
COMUPAC *REACT* Inc. (C069)



# From the Desk of the V.P.

Ed Greany



Now that the year is rapidly approaching the fourth quarter, we start thinking about membership renew-

als. I would like you to pay particular attention to an article (p. 3) in this issue from COMUPAC *REACT* located in Southern California regarding a pending lawsuit wherein they were the defendant. They filed a loss claim with our *REACT* insurance carrier, and the story tells a lot about what your *REACT* Board of Directors and Officers do to protect the members and teams of *REACT*. Our insurance surcharge is a necessary evil and we only smile about it when we need it, and it comes to our rescue.

I am so pleased also to learn of the extensive training going on at my urging a few issues ago. Congratulations to those who studied and successfully completed your courses. Don't stop. There are so many excellent courses available to you and most are even free – courses such as ICS (100, 200, 700, etc.), NIMS, First Aid, CPR, Anti-terrorism, disaster preparedness, and emergency communications just to name a few.

The *REACT* Emergency Communications Course is undergoing an extensive expansion to include an advanced level. Tom Currie, your *REACT* International Training Committee Chairman and his committee are hard at work and we hope to have it available to you early next year.

**Anyone** who was at the cleanup of the 9-11 terrorist attacks and has suffered any possibly-related health problems should be aware that New York has passed a new compensation law in aid of those affected. A fact sheet of detailed information about the new law is available at [www.nycosh.org/environment\\_wtc/WTC/2006WCFactSheet.pdf](http://www.nycosh.org/environment_wtc/WTC/2006WCFactSheet.pdf)

## The Greany Challenge

*REACT* Intl. Executive VP Ed Greany challenged all Teams and members to become NIMS compliant – and more. We have responded.

**The first we had was *REACT* Team #2620:** “.. is 100% trained in ICS and the NIMS requirements. All team members have accomplished the required Independent Study Courses to meet the requirements of our local Emergency Manager.”

Then there were more: **Multi-County *REACT*** in Ohio reports it too is 100% compliant in ICS-100 and ICS-700. Additionally, 10 members also hold ICS-200 and ICS-800.

**Then: “C260 multi county *REACT* Response [is] 100% NIMS Compliant.”**

And then:

**Burke County *REACT* Team 3420** in North Carolina reports. All of our members are ICS 100, ICS 200, ICS 700, ICS 800, and all officers have ICS 300 and 400.

We also have HAZ-MAT Awareness which is required by OSHA to response to all incidents. Our entire Team is also CERT Trained. We also have Blood Borne Pathogens, infection control as well as an Instructor for these items.

Our Officers also have Bio-Terrorism Preparedness, Weapons of Mass Destruction and Emergency Operation Center Training, as well as full access to County And State EOC. All of our members have the Logistics Section Course, as well as Serve Safe with an Instructor in that Course.

We here in Burke County work extremely close with our EM both locally and State wide, and we are very lucky to have such great working relations with them.

Keep it going and work hard with your local agencies and all *REACT* Teams will succeed.”

**We also** have individual reports such as Joel Kagan who has done his 100, 200, and 700 and is an ARRL certification trainer (as is your editor and other members of *REACT*).



Let us know what you have done. We'd like to publish a list of those beating the September 30 deadline. Keep us informed.

**Following up** on last issue's request, Norman Kaplan asks: "In order to be able to track those members that can be asked to aid in other areas than their own, *REACT* International, Inc. needs to know who has passed ICS-100, ICS-700 and ICS-200. If you have not sent in a copy of your certificates of training to RI, then this can not be done. I am asking anyone who has completed the courses as well as any additional courses to send a copy of the certificate to RI."

*REACT* Training Officer Tom Currie says: "One of the easiest ways is to go online at the same FEMA Training website where you take the courses and select the link to REQUEST TRANSCRIPT -- you can then have FEMA send a free copy of ALL your completed courses to anyone you want. I highly recommend sending a transcript to RI headquarters, and to whomever keeps the training records for your team, plus consider sending a copy to whichever Served Agency or Agencies you work with regularly.

You do need to know the mailing address where you want each transcript sent."

**Also**, let us know what you did for National Preparedness Month and 9-11 commemoration. If you haven't yet gotten

the word, *REACT* Intl is an official participant in the **National Preparedness Month Coalition**.

### **REACT Note Cards**

Got some? If not, *get* some. What a cool PR tool these are! At 10/\$2.50 with envelopes they are a "steal" too.

They are greeting cards. On the front cover is the *REACT* logo. The inside is blank, so you can use them for a multitude of purposes: thank you, congratulations, get well, invitation, recognition, etc.

On some older *REACT* Supply lists they show as *post* cards, but don't be fooled. Use a *REACT* note card whenever you get the chance. They will advertise for your Team as they sit on someone's desk or shelf at home or the office. Very effective. Very welcome.

—Ron McCrackan, RI PR Chairman.

**Hill Country *REACT* Team #4804 to sponsor W2IK's event on Monday, September 11th.**

Lee Besing tells us: "We're planning to have our *REACT* communication trailer out there on display and in use as one of the stations. We've contacted our regional Citizen Corps to participate, along with the City and County governments. We anticipate having our local CERT trainers (part of Alamo Regional Citizen Corps) be available, along

with other agencies / organizations affiliated with ARCC.

Yes, we'll take lots of photos and do a write-up for the *REACTer*."

**Have you registered** your Team or Council as a **National Preparedness Month** participant? It's easy. Go to:

<[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)> and click on the NPM banner. Then click on "Participate – Organization" at the left of the page.

Have you chosen dates for your Team's **NPM events**? You can list them on the NPM calendar. Go to:

<[www.citizen corps.gov](http://www.citizen corps.gov)> and click on 'Register an event'. You can list several events.

Here are excellent chances to generate some good worldwide PR for both your Team and the entire organization. It's all free, too. The more Teams registered, and the more events listed, the better known *REACT* will become.

**TIP:** Register you calendar event as "*REACT* Safety Display" rather than "ABC *REACT* Safety Display". You can likely see why. That will keep all the *REACT* events in one spot. Spread the word. Take advantage.

Ron McCracken, PR Chairman

# REACT News: Teams and Team Members

## Roberta Erntson, Volunteer

By Geri McShane  
Photo: Albert Lea Tribune:



**For Roberta Erntson**, a volunteer is someone who does a service for someone in need. “I truly believe if everybody had love for one another, we wouldn’t have wars,” Erntson, of Clarks Grove, Minnesota said. For years she has been willing to drop whatever she’s doing and help someone in need. For her selflessness, she was recognized recently as one of two Freeborn City’s Outstanding Seniors.

“I was speechless,” Erntson said of the honor. “I like to stay in the background.” Her volunteer work actually began 34 years ago when she and her son, Paul, rode in the first Freeborn county American Cancer Society Bike-a-thon. She’s volunteered at every one since. She helps with initial organization and recruitment of other volunteers to help. She distributes pledge cards at schools and libraries to recruit younger riders. Then she works with *REACT* to maintain security the day of the ride, from 5am to 7pm.

Erntson got involved with *REACT* because she had a citizens band radio. Through the organization, she helps with things like the Bike-a-thon, March of Dimes Walk America, the Fourth of July Safety Break at the Interstate 35 Travel Information Center, Festival of Band, Eddie Cochran Weekend and more. “We go where ever the sheriff needs us.” She’s received the *REACT* K-40 Award, a national honor. She also goes where disaster has struck. Through the American Red Cross, she is certified in five areas: disaster assessment, communications, security, sheltering and feeding. She was part of the Southern Minnesota Inter-faith Disaster Relief Network and helped canvass neighborhoods affected by flooding in September 2004. Erntson is also a volunteer for the ecumenical food shelf, housed at First Presbyterian Church. She’s there every third Friday of the month as needed. She serves as a telemarketing and auction volunteer for KMSQ TV to keep the Public Television station on the air. *REACT* had gotten a letter from a Twin Cities Public TV Station asking for volunteers and she said, “Hey, don’t we have a Public Television station in Austin we could help?” Erntson recalled. She was named KMSQ’s Volunteer of the Year in 2005.

Erntson has also helped with parking and shuttle runs for the Big Island Rendezvous. She admits she never got to actually see the Rendezvous until about two years ago, when she signed on to be a guide for the School Days tours. She’s served her church, Albert Lea United Methodist, as a Sunday school teacher, vacation Bible school leader and mission board member for 56 years. Before retiring, she worked for the Yellow Cab Company, Albert Lea Electroplating, Albert Lea Tribune as a carrier, and at the Holiday Inn Express. She has three grandchildren.

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## Walkathon



*REACTer* Carol McCracken (2nd rt) monitors GMRS communications for the annual Georgina Community Living Walkathon in Sutton, Ontario as Walk officials brief participants at the midway point. Yellow balloons add to the walkers' safety and make *REACT* Lake Simcoe's task of keeping track of them much easier.



Her Technician class call sign as of May 2 is KC0WPU.

She wants to thank her brother, (also a Ham) the class instructors and Paul Oby for all of their continued support and said that if she can do it, everyone else can as well.

Her next step is to study for and pass her General license by the end of this year.

She is the most recent *REACTer* in Mn to have passed the test.

## Airport Drill



**Paul Oby and Paul Munns** (members of Ramsey County *REACT* team 2538 in St Paul MN) recently took part in an emergency drill at Twin Cities International Airport (Minnesota).

The drill also included Robinsdale Amat Radio Club and Dakota Co ARES/RACES members.

## New Ham

**Ruth Olson** Unit 252 of Albert Lea *REACT* team C143 mounts her new Ham plates on her car.

## Fox Hunt



**The Albert Lea, Minnesota Amateur Radio Club Fox Hunt** on Saturday, August 12, was a lot of fun. L-R Herb Neale KOHN, Dick Olson WB0FWI, Ruth Olson KC0WPU and Aldin Grahn WD0GVE. The hunt was in the afternoon followed by a picnic and music. The home made "tape measure beams" were used and worked very well. The one Aldin is holding is a joke antenna made of a paper tape and a ruler. (Ruth Olson, Southern Minnesota *REACT* in Albert Lea, Minnesota) *Ed note: antennas of this type (the real one) work well for emergency operations as well.*

**Eric Conrad Epie**, Raamulan *REACT*, 6061 reports conducting a series of earthquake drills this summer in coordination with police, fire, and city government. The drills were held June 20 and July 17. A bomb drill was held on July 31. Eric also reports that the new Philippine Team, Negor, has a website at:

<<http://203.160.168.43/negor/>>.

*Ed note: We have visited the site and it has useful and interesting information about the Philippines, the problems REACT Teams face there, and the ways they go about solving them.*

### 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.

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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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**Has your Team joined the Skywarn effort? If not, call your local forecast office.**

### OOPS!

A friend of your editor used to say that his last word on Earth would be "oops!" So, maybe he would understand this one: Last issue we published the procedure for getting on the *REACT-L* list. The word should be: **gibbousmoon**, **NOT gtibbousmoon**. Here's to the gremlins who inserted the 't'.

## Emergency Communications Training

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

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

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**If you have more training ideas and want to volunteer to help the training and development committee, contact Tom Currie, the committee chairman, at <[training@REACTintl.org](mailto:training@REACTintl.org)>.**

This from Ron McCracken, RI Publicity Chairman:

"Before you can help others, you need to take care of your family and yourself. That means you need a plan.

Visit:

<[www.homelandplans.com/safety/madesimple/](http://www.homelandplans.com/safety/madesimple/)> to create a *free* personal emergency plan. Print at least two copies. Send one to your out-of-state contact." Also check Ron's column in *Popular Communications*.

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## REACT POLICY NOTE

By Charles A (Chuck) Thompson,  
RI General Counsel

**Several situations** have come to my attention recently that deserve comment.

These situations generally involve problems at local Team levels, and could be serious matters.

*First*, it needs to be emphasized that *REACT* International, Inc. ("RI"), is comprised of many individual and independent entities which we call "Teams." Teams are initially "chartered" by *REACT* International, Inc., for a one-year period, renewable at RI's option annually upon payment

of individual member dues and any necessary fees (currently, the pro-rata premium for the RI General Liability insurance). Refusal to renew a Team by RI has been very rare, if done at all (one refusal was done for "political" purposes some years ago, and was inappropriate, in my opinion).

The "charter" includes permission to use the trade-marked *REACT* logo for Team purposes, provides access to General Liability insurance coverage through a group policy, provides IRS charitable status pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code through RI's "group exemption," authorizes (indeed, requires) use of the trade-marked *REACT* name in each Team's name, provides a source of certain "*REACT*-specific" items such as caps, brochures, pins, stickers, etc., and provides each registered regular and Life member with a copy of RI's six-times-per-year publication, "The *REACT*er." *REACT* membership affords Teams and individual members a "sense of belonging" to a national organization with a defined purpose of "Public Service Through Communications." In this regard, we are aware of a number of formerly active, fairly large "communications teams" which, after dropping RI affiliation lasted only a short time before disappearing.

*Second*, because of the independent status of each Team, RI has no direct control over any Team. (Councils are considered part of RI, only because they can only be formed with RI permission and are provided for in the RI Bylaws). RI has policies which member Teams are expected to comply with, but RI has no enforcement authority, other than not to renew the annual charter of a non-complying Team.

*Third*, except for RI chosen Honorary Members and Affiliates, individuals are members of their local Teams and are *not* members of *REACT* International, Inc. Individual Team members are entitled to use trade-marked items (name and logo) on their uniforms, on their name badges, etc., but RI has no direct authority over these individual members. While it is true that each Team annually registers its Team members with



RI, this is for purposes of establishing the total amount of Team dues, as RI Bylaws require that Teams register their members with RI. This is for the mailing list, to be able to provide the Team with ID cards for their members, etc.

RI Bylaws provide for only two types of membership – Team and Non-Team. Non-Team membership is defined as “Affiliate” and “Honorary.” Since Life Members purchase their Life Memberships from RI, they have always been considered to be “members” of RI, but the Bylaws actually provide that they are Team members. (Life Members no longer associated with an active Team are kept on the mailing list because they *are* Life Members and entitled to receive “The *REACT*er.”)

All of this explanation has a point – problems at the local Team level must be resolved at the local Team level. *REACT* International, Inc., has no authority to remove local members (only the Team can do that), RI has no standing to press criminal charges against a local member (for example, in a misappropriation of Team funds matter), *REACT* International cannot direct a local Team to do anything! The only authority *REACT* International has is to discontinue a Team’s affiliation should it fail to follow established RI policies.

Let’s repeat that. *REACT* International cannot direct a local Team to do anything! ***The only authority REACT International has is to discontinue***

***a Team’s affiliation should it fail to follow established RI policies.***

Occasionally, someone will be unhappy with their local Team, or with one or more individuals. They often demand that *REACT* International take some action, and even threaten RI with legal action if nothing is done. These demands and threats are misplaced. RI (and its officers and Directors and Councils) may offer to help by mediation, may offer suggestions, or may in an extreme situation expel a Team – *but that’s all the authority RI has.*

The relationship between each *REACT* Team and *REACT* International, Inc., is contractual. When the Team applies for a Team charter, it agrees to certain things, and in accepting the application, RI agrees to certain things. Except for the items each party agrees to in that application/contract, neither party has any authority over the other.

RI’s nine elected Directors are designated to represent a *REACT* Region, and Teams in each Region elect a Director every three years. The eight US Regions are defined by the Board of Directors (the International Region is specified in the Bylaws to include Puerto Rico and all non-US Teams) and may change from time-to-time. RI Directors are expected to be aware of what Teams in their Region want and need, but the Directors have no authority over Teams in the Region – absolutely none! There

is no chain of command here, only “representation.”

The same is true of *REACT* Councils. RI Bylaws authorize Teams in a state to create a “*REACT* Council” subject to RI Policy, but the *REACT* Council has no authority over its member Teams. Councils are intended to be forums where Teams become familiar with other Teams in the state, coordinate activities, perhaps plan joint Team activities, but the Council (*and its officers*) do not control Council member Teams.

In summary, when a *local Team* has a problem with misapplication or misappropriation of funds, it must solve its problem under local law, using local (or state) authorities, including courts if deemed necessary. (State Attorneys General usually have supervision over charitable organizations in their respective states, and often can be of assistance). An *individual* who has a complaint against a Team must use the same local channels. An *individual* who has a personal complaint against another Team member (including an officer and/or director) must go the same route. RI has no authority to redress individual complaints.

One final thought – if a group of Team members cannot redress its complaints and concerns within its Team, and assistance from a Council and/or an RI Director isn’t available or isn’t working, the group can consider forming its own *REACT* Team, and then running

things its way. I don't recommend this, as fixing an existing Team should be the priority, and existing Teams often have been around a long time and have contacts, property, etc. If a dissident group does want to leave a Team, it should negotiate a division of assets *before* walking out the door – once a Team member quits the Team, he/she no longer has any voice in the organization.

Fortunately, most *REACT* Teams operate reasonably well, and differences of opinion are resolved within the Team structure. Those who cannot should not expect their Council or *REACT* International, Inc., to solve their problems, for the reasons discussed in this article.

*(NOTE: Nothing in this article is intended to change any existing RI policy. It is intended only as an explanation of the legal relationships which have always existed between RI, the Councils, the Teams, and individual Team members.)*

## EXCERPTS FROM FCC BPL DECISION

*Let the Dog Dance*

*ARRL and REACT Intl have opposed the widespread deployment of Broadband Over Powerlines Internet Access based upon the high interference potential. ARRL has characterized the technology as being impressive in the same way that a dog taught to walk on his hind legs is impressive:*

*He doesn't do it well, but it's impressive that he does it at all.*

The Federal Communications Commission today generally affirmed its rules for Access Broadband over Power Line (Access BPL) systems while maintaining safeguards against harmful interference to existing radio services. Today's decision was adopted in response to a number of petitions for reconsideration of the BPL rules established in October of 2004.

Specifically, the Commission: affirms its rules regarding emission limits for BPL, including its determination that the reduction of emissions to 20 dB below the normal Part 15 emissions limits will constitute adequate interference protection for mobile operations; Denies the request by the amateur radio community to prohibit BPL operations pending further study and to exclude BPL from frequencies used for amateur radio operations; Denies the request by the television industry to exclude BPL from frequencies above 50 MHz."

### From the ARRL newsletter:

**A bill to enhance** emergency communication at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) includes Amateur Radio operators as part of an overall effort to provide interoperability among responders. The 21st Century Emergency Communications Act of 2006

(HR 5852), an amendment to the Homeland Security Act of 2002, passed the US House this week on a 414-2 vote and has gone to the Senate. Its sponsor, Rep David G. Reichert (R-WA) – who chairs the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology – says his legislation is designed “to improve the ability of emergency responders to communicate with each other” – interoperability.

“Until the events of September 11, 2001, many people in this nation believed and assumed that first responders from different disciplines and jurisdictions could actually talk to each other,” Reichert – a former police officer – told the House in support of his bill. “It wasn't happening. It is still not happening today. Unfortunately, that was not the case then, and, as demonstrated by the inadequate responses to Hurricane Katrina, that is not the case today.”

Reichert told his colleagues that the inability of first responders to communicate with each another effectively led to the loss of many lives along the US Gulf Coast last year. “This is simply unacceptable,” he said. His measure also would require the DHS to strengthen its efforts to improve emergency communications.

HR 5852 calls for Amateur Radio operators to be part of a “Regional Emergency Communications Coordination



Working Group” (RECC Working Group) that would be attached to each regional Department of Homeland Security office. The RECC Working Groups would advise federal and state homeland security officials.

## **REACT Urges “Get Prepared”**

**For Release September 1,  
2006**

*Publicity Release for National Preparedness Month by Ron McCracken, RI PR Chairman. We hope you will find it useful.*

**Imagine** power and telephones go out right now. How would your family cope? If that lasted for three days or a week, how would they cope? Think back to Katrina. Learn from the tragedy that befell those who were unprepared. September is National Preparedness Month.

*REACT* reminds you of how important communications are these days. In an emergency, they become all the more important. In an emergency, however, normal communications may not be available. Both telephones and cell phones may be out for prolonged periods. Power outages may mean no incoming communications.

Another human voice can be very reassuring in an emergency. Depending on your circumstances, that voice can help save your life. One simple and inexpensive way to pro-

vide yourself with emergency communications is FRS radio.

### **Worth Having**

FRS radios are readily available at a variety of stores. They are easy to operate and they often cost under \$25 for a pair. They have many routine uses (shopping, camping, boating, etc.). No license is required to use the FRS channels (Channels 1-14) on FRS/GMRS radios. GMRS channels (Channels 15-22) *do require* an FCC license.

You can organize an FRS network for your neighborhood to keep track of the kids, announce events, etc. Avoid using **FRS-1\***. Reserve that channel for emergencies only. Meanwhile, a neighborhood network channel will put you at ease using your radio in non-emergency situations so you can remain calm and confident in an actual emergency.

In an emergency, FRS will enable you to contact neighbors. That neighbor’s voice can offer comfort, or bring help if it is needed. This can be particularly beneficial to seniors and the disabled.

FRS Channel 1 is the unofficial emergency channel nationwide, by “gentlemen’s agreement”. *REACT* has advocated FRS-1 for emergencies since the arrival of FRS radio a

decade or so ago. Midland Radio, a major FRS manufacturer, has encouraged that concept with its “Midland-1” campaign. Today, FRS-1 is the accepted FRS call/distress chan-

nel, similar to Channel 16 on Marine Band radios used by boaters.

After the Katrina disaster, National SOS was created by Eric Knight, president of UP Aerospace, to increase public awareness of FRS-1 as a life-saving communications link among neighbors. National SOS recently conducted a state-wide “SOS Drill” in Connecticut with excellent results. Further “SOS Drills” are scheduled during National Preparedness Month, including both the DC area and the LA area. More will follow.

Many *REACT* Teams monitor FRS-1 routinely around the clock. Often, they monitor for FRS calls with their GMRS radios. These are more powerful radios. They broadcast and pick up FRS signals over wider areas. GMRS radios *do require* an FCC license.

In an emergency, not only your neighbors but *REACT* volunteers, scanner operators and amateur radio operators may monitor your distress call. Using other radios, they can relay the information to authorities to summon help.

### **Your Skill Matters**

You may not be able to hear monitors answering, or asking

(continued on p. 19)



# NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

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

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

## ON THE AIR FROM A WHEELCHAIR

Ideas on how to get a wheelchair-bound ham on the air

by Bob Hejl - W2IK

Being restricted to a wheelchair should never restrict your VHF/UHF emergency communications abilities. I've designed and built a fourth generation of my standard telescoping VHF/UHF antenna system which can be mounted to the back of a standard wheelchair, yet allows complete mobility and folding of the chair. While originally designed primarily for VHF (2 meters) operation, this antenna design has been working quite well up in the UHF (440 MHz) amateur band as well. The antenna, itself, is a modified design of my standard telescoping "J Pole" system: Telescoping J Pole with differences being a smaller diameter, lighter CPVC shell on the antenna and a larger dimension radiating wire in the shell so the antenna has better bandwidth and is easier to tune after construction.

Extended, this antenna reaches up to 14-feet so it can be used when a disabled ham deploys outdoors during operations such as at a parade or marathon. It can also be used when deployed in a gym or church as might be the case during emergency communications for a shelter situation. Even when the antenna is the collapsed position (about 5' 10" tall) it still allows much better than average HT communications indoors. If the user is in a house, he simply slips the antenna off the blue telescoping sections, and reinserts it into the lower slot allowing the operator to cruise from room to room yet still operate the HT.

The accompanying photos are of a special VHF/UHF antenna which was designed and built by myself on request and through discussion with Lee Besing (N5NTG) of HILL COUNTRY REACT #4804. The antenna was originally designed to fit a basic "Jennings-type" wheelchair, so minor adjustments were made when we met with new ham Schuyler W Crist (KE5VIP) to get him on the air with his model of chair. Interestingly enough, we performed the installation outside the University Hospital in northwest San Antonio, Texas, where we had many curious spectators and other wheelchair bound patients

watching our activities. When we were finished, Schuylar rolled back inside the hospital happily chatting away on his HT.



Telescoping mast assembly in use

The mast can be placed in a telescoping mast assembly, which allows it to be extended up to 14 feet; so if Schuylar is deployed outdoors or in a shelter with a high ceiling he'll be able to get out much better than with his HT's whip antenna. The photo above shows it at about 7 feet.



Indoor setting in use

The second photo below shows a view of the antenna in its "indoor" slot which brings the height down to about 5 feet 10 inches so it will allow him to keep on the air from his home and go from room-to-room without a problem. I adapted the lowest height so he can even travel on the VIA Transit handicapped Shuttle/Bus (Via is the local City of San Antonio, Texas bus transit system) without any problems.



Rear view

The rearview photo allows a view of the antenna in its "indoor" slot. To go to the telescoping mode, all the operator does is reach behind, slide the antenna out of the slot and slide it into the blue telescoping assembly.

I hope that this project encourages others to help hams in wheelchairs to get on the air and become an asset to emergency communications. This antenna can also be used if Schuylar wants to plug it into a mobile radio for greater power such as if he's deployed at a shelter which has AC power. Around the house, he can remove the blue telescoping assembly simply by sliding it up and out of its PVC housing. Schuylar has reported that he can now reach repeaters that are 40-50 miles away from his home using his HT and the new antenna system, even from inside his house, where before he was limited to reaching repeaters within 10-15 miles range. (Note: Schuylar's house is on a high elevation point in the county giving him better range than other locations may experience using the same configuration.)

I want to thank Lee (N5NTG) and *REACT* for supporting this effort and also for taking the photos. Thanks, also, to Schuyler (KE5VIP) for not complaining while I was in my making several finicky mounting adjustments. The antenna in no way effects the wheelchair's operation. The chair can still fold as normal when transport is needed.

If you would like additional information, such as instructions on how to build this antenna, please send an email to: <alonestaryank@aol.com> with the subject line "W2IK wheelchair antenna". More info about Bob Hejl's antenna projects are also on-line at:  
<<http://hometown.aol.com/alonestaryank/webpages.html>>

Lee Besing provides the following update:

*Schuyler Crist, KE5VIP, has now applied to join our local REACT Team as a result of our helping him get on the air better with this antenna project. We've also been taking him to some recent public service events, such as our July 4th parade, where he could have the opportunity to use his new antenna for more than just rolling around the house.*

*Of course, when it started to rain, the antenna gave his poncho some challenges, but hey, can't figure out everything for him in advance.*

## NOTICE OF BYLAWS CHANGE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of *REACT* International, Inc., at its special meeting, on Saturday, 19 August 2006, amended Section 2.5(a)(2) to remove Teams in Puerto Rico from the "International" Region. Teams in Puerto Rico have requested to be assigned to Region 3.

In accordance with Bylaws Section 9.12, this amendment will take effect 60 days after publication of this notice in *The REACTer* (the date the issue is accepted for mailing by the United States Postal Service), unless at least 20 percent of the active Teams file objections. Objections to an amendment are filed by notifying the Secretary, in writing, addressed to the *REACT* International, Inc., office in Suitland, Maryland.

The section amended is set out, as amended, below.

### Article V - Board of Directors

\*\*\*

**Section 5.2 Number, Term of Office, and Qualifications.**  
The number of Directors of the corporation shall be eleven (11). Directors shall be qualified as follows:

- (a) \*\*\*  
(2) One (1) Director shall be elected from a region composed of Teams in countries outside the United States.

## Minutes 2006 Board of Directors Meeting

*REACT* International, Inc.  
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors  
held 19 August 2006  
at the Drury Inn - Airport  
Saint Louis, Missouri

### **Directors Present**

Larry Fry (Wis.), Region 5, Chairman  
Robert Kaster (Okla.), Region 7, Vice  
Chairman  
Don Manlove (Va.), Region 2

C.C. Roberts (Hawaii), Region 6  
Dick Cooper (N.J.), President (Director  
*ex officio*)

### **Directors Absent**

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

### **Officers Present**

Dick Cooper (N.J.), President



Lee Besing (Tex.), Secretary

Charles A. Thompson (Tex.), General Counsel

**Officers Absent**

Ed Greany (Calif.), Executive Vice President

Norman Kaplan (Md.), Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

**Visitor Present:**

Fred J. Lanshe (Penn.)

**1. Call to Order.** A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of *REACT* International, Inc., was called to order at 8:03 a.m. on Saturday, 19 August 2006, by Chairman Fry.

**2. Quorum.** Secretary Besing announced that there being five of eight Directors present, a quorum was established. Two non-voting officers are also present.

**3. Opening Remarks.** Chairman Fry welcomed the Board and thanked those present for their attendance. President Cooper distributed the Meeting Agenda.

**4. Approval of Minutes.** Minutes of the March Annual Meeting, sent via email, were approved.

**5. Director Elections.** The President announced the election results.

a. *Region 4* – The Board considered an election protest received concerning *Region 4*. After discussion, it was determined that the nomination of Paul Jackson for Director was void, as he was not a member of a Team in the Region when nominated. Therefore, the election process was void, and the position remains vacant.

b. *Region 1* – Fred J. Lanshe, elected to a three-year term, was present and took his seat.

c. *Region 7* – Robert Kaster was re-elected to a three-year term.

**6. Director Reports.**

a. *Region 1* – Mr. Lanshe advised that the New York Council was keeping Teams on alert status due to terrorist concerns. He is working on 2 possible new Teams in Pennsylvania and advised that the Pennsylvania Council had (again!) chartered an organization named “*REACT INTERNATIONAL, INC.*” to be ready to take over if the real *REACT* International, Inc., fails.

b. *Region 2* – Mr. Manlove. Nothing to report, very little action needing attention.

c. *Region 3* – Mr. Knott (absent). No report.

d. *Region 4* – Vacant. No report.

e. *Region 5* – Mr. Fry. Lost some Teams, down about 10% in membership.

f. *Region 6* – Mr. Roberts. 1 Team has not renewed. Pacific Northwest Council lost corporate status, but is getting it reinstated.

g. *Region 7* – Mr. Kaster. . Region lost some Teams. Charter is pending for a new Team in Colorado Springs, Colo.

h. *Region 8* – Mr. Clark. Absent. No report.

i. *Region 9* – Mr. Jagdeosingh. Absent. No report.

**7. Officer Reports.**

a. *Secretary* – No report.

b. *Treasurer* – Mr. Kaplan submitted a budget comparison with actual income and expenses for the year-to-date. He recommended a 25% dues increase for regular, family, and junior members for 2007. Membership at end of July 2006 is 2280.

c. *Executive VP* – Mr. Greany’s written report said that he is working on training and membership problems.. He is still seeking suitable volunteers to serve on committees and as chairpersons, and that he is happy with progress made with new *REACT*er editor. He needs to re-establish the Publications Review committee operations. Mr. Currie wants to expand RI’s E-Comm Training course to another level

d. *President* – Mr. Cooper made a statement about his concern about the low level of participation by Board members and committee chairpersons, and his dissatisfaction with the status of many projects and activities.



e. *General Counsel* – Mr. Thompson stated that the Pennsylvania corporation named “*REACT INTERNATIONAL, INC.*” was in violation of REACT International’s trademarks. He said that Mr. Lanshe had a serious conflict of interest by being associated with this corporation. He encouraged all Teams to qualify Team members by taking FEMA’s IS-100, IS-200, and IS-700 online courses.

**8. Corporate Committee Reports.** In his written report, Mr. Greany expressed dissatisfaction with progress of most of the committees.

a. *Convention Site Committee* – No proposals have been received for 2007.

b. *Publications Review* – Mr. Cooper stated that this committee should review all documents, including *The REACTer*, prior to publication to ensure that quality and accuracy is maintained.

c. *Public Relations* – No report.

d. *Training and Development* – No report.

e. *Membership Retention and Development* – No report.

f. *Ways and Means* – Working on some ideas with Guidestar.org, TechSoup.org, VolunteerMatch.org, and grants currently available from Homeland Security at the local level.

g. *Awards Committee* – No report.

h. *Communications* – No report.

i. *Computer Services Committee* – Mr. Besing reported for Chairman Johnny Stowers.

(1) Email – There are ongoing problems with high levels of spam going to RI addresses. The RI mail server host was temporarily blocked by AOL. Committee recommends changing all RI email addresses and encoding or changing the way addresses are displayed on the web site.

(2) Web site – Proposed new website development by David Perry (Md.), working with the Committee, is moving again. Completion by end of 2006 is the goal.

(3) Office Computers – RI office has new computer; high-speed Internet connection being sought.

j. *Team Management Handbook Revision Committee*. Mr. Thompson is making progress in revising the document. Tom Currie will reformat

the Handbook, following the present outline, and then content revisions will be made.

k. *REACTer* - Editor Don Tarbet said the next issue will be slightly delayed in order to publish the Board Minutes summary. After considering a change of publication frequency (quarterly or monthly), he recommends no change. Mr. Cooper expressed satisfaction with the progress of the *REACTer* since Mr. Tarbet became editor.

**9. CPA and Financial Report.** Mr. Fry expressed concern as he has not recently received any Smith-Barney reports on RI investments – the President said they were coming to him, and he’d have it changed. No investment changes were recommended by CPA.

**10. Membership Renewals YTD.** Mr. Kaplan reported 2,280 members renewed, including 230 International members, an increase from the 1,847 members reported in March. There are 210 Teams and 22 councils, an increase of 41 Teams from the March report.

**11. Member Survey – Past & Present.** Mr. Cooper reported on an informal survey conducted by Mr. Currie regarding various topics regarding the *REACT-List*. Response was too low to interpret. He recommended we use a web-based service <surveymonkey.com> to conduct various surveys. A question was raised about including members who do not have Internet access.

**12. Liability Insurance Policy.** Mr. Thompson provided the Treasurer with a lead for an insurance carrier which expressed an interest in providing insurance coverage policy at a lower cost. His Team had a policy from same carrier. Discussion was held about changing policy that allows local Teams to opt out of RI’s insurance coverage and providing their own coverage. Motion Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Roberts to reduce 2007 insurance fee from \$12.00 to \$11.00 per member. Discussion held. Unanimous.

**13. Bylaws Amendment** – Bylaws place Puerto Rico in Region 9 with international Teams. PR Teams have requested a change to Region 3. Mo-

tion Mr. Roberts, 2d Mr. Manlove, to revise Section 5.2(a)(2) by removing “in Puerto Rico and”. Unanimous. Mr. Thompson will have notice published in the *REACT*er. Motion Mr. Roberts, 2d Mr. Manlove, to amend RI Policy 5-02 to move Puerto Rico to Region 3 and to add Guam, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, and American Samoa to Region 6. Unanimous.

**14. Disaster Donation Policy.** Base guideline was suggested at the March meeting, but no action has happened since. A donation of \$3,000 was received to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to retain the funds at HQ and advise the donor how the funds were used. Mr. Thompson will work with Mr. Cooper in writing the letter.

**15. Officer Meeting Attendance Requirement.** Discussion held. Mr. Thompson pointed out that the Bylaws require meeting attendance for Directors, but not officers. Board can remove officers where participation is not satisfactory. No action was taken.

**16. Director Qualifications.** The Board discussed steps needed to ensure persons nominated (or appointed) are qualified pursuant to the Bylaws. Mr. Cooper will discuss situation with RI Office staff.

**17. Future REACT Conventions.** No bids were received for 2007. Mr. Fry discussed recent conversations by Wisconsin Council with representatives from Minnesota Council regarding costs involved for the host and attendees. Mr. Fry said that with fewer than 100 attendees it would be almost impossible for a convention to be a financial success. Regional conventions over a weekend might be viable. He concluded that a national convention may no longer be feasible.

**18. Informal Electronic Board Meetings.** Board has been holding informal meetings electronically weekly on Sunday at 10 p.m. EST. Participation has declined in recent months after strong start in Spring. Consensus to change to 1st and 3d Wednesday nights at 10 p.m. EST, and to allow participation by any *REACT* member,

change to be effective 6 September 2006. Mr. Knott and Mr. Besing will provide training for new participants, who must test their setup prior to entering a meeting.

**19. Team Topics.** Authorized in March, Team Topics has not yet been put out. Consensus of the Board to send out a Team Topics with the renewal package in October.

**20. RI Member Award.** Discussion was held about the local Team records needed to support a monitoring or participation award. A points program, such as used by Mr. Lanshe’s Team for participation and attendance, was discussed. Mr. Thompson suggested establishing an award for 20 years of membership. Motion Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Lanshe, to make a 20-year service award for individuals who have currently completed 20 or more years in *REACT* (may be from several Teams, no extra credit for concurrent membership in several Teams). Future awards will be sent annually. Service as reflected on the RI database will be used to generate awards. Unanimous.

**21. President’s Volunteer Service Award.** No report from Mr. Kaplan about RI’s status to become a registered agency to issue this award.

**22. Corporate Donation Program.** Donations web page is ready to go live now that RI has a privacy policy in place. Recommended program will have four levels of corporate sponsorship for cash donations (\$100-\$999 Bronze, \$1000-\$2499 Silver, \$2500-\$4999 Gold, \$5000+ Platinum). Donations may be unrestricted or designated for projects established by the Board. Motion Mr. Roberts, 2d Mr. Manlove, to establish a Corporate Donations Policy as presented. Unanimous.

**23. Plaques for Past Officers and Directors.** Mr. Besing was asked to prepare a list of former officers and Directors who have left office since 2001.

**24. Proposed NDCAT Program.** After discussion, motion Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Roberts, that the Board finds that the concept of a “National

Disaster Communications Assistance Team” (NDCAT) is beyond the capability of *REACT* International at this time, and that establishment of DCAT teams is left to local Teams. Motion passed, Mr. Lanshe voting no.

**25. SOS Program.** Mr. Cooper advised that RI support for the National SOS Program <[www.nationalsos.com](http://www.nationalsos.com)> and a press release bearing Mr. Greany’s name was coordinated with him and done with his permission. Motion Mr. Roberts, 2d Mr. Manlove, that *REACT* International officially endorse the National SOS Program. Unanimous.

**26. BBB Rating.** RI has apparently complied with the all requirements to be approved by the Better Business Bureau. Mr. Cooper will follow up with Mr. Kaplan to get approval completed.

**27. Membership Dues for 2007.** Treasurer Mr. Kaplan recommends \$5.00 dues increase for US and Canadian Regular, Family, and Junior members and \$3.00 increase for Additional Family and International members. The Board discussed the loss of membership which occurs with dues or fee increases. Mr. Thompson recommended no increase in dues, even though it will create a budget deficit, stating that the only long-term solution is for RI to increase membership. It was the consensus of the Board not to raise dues for 2007.

**28. Changes Regarding Directors.** Bylaws Article V, Section 5.5(b) Resignations specifies that any Director who misses two consecutive in-person Board meetings will be deemed to have resigned. Kenny Jagdeosingh (Region 9) and Rob Clark (Region 8) were affected by this provision. Mr. Jagdeosingh emailed an apology for his absence with an explanation. There was no contact from Mr. Clark.

Motion Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Lanshe, to decline the resignation of Mr. Jagdeosingh, whose heavy involvement in the current national parliamentary elections in Trinidad & Tobago precluded his attendance. Unanimous.

**29. Location and Date of Next Board Meeting.** Consensus of the Board to hold an electronic meeting in October, exact date and time to be determined. The Annual Meeting of the Board will be held at the RI Offices in Suitland, Md., 16-17 February 2007.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous.

*Meeting adjourned sine die at 3:10 p.m., Saturday, 19 August 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 on the REACT International, Inc., web site <[www.reactintl.org](http://www.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.)*

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(continued from p 12)

for missing details. Radio conditions are often poor in major emergencies. They must rely on you. Broadcast full, accurate details *repeatedly* on **FRS-1\***. Monitors may need to hear those details several times to piece together the full message.

First, broadcast **WHERE** *exactly* you are. Give the street and number, apartment, town, state. In a rural area, give crossroads, landmarks, etc. Second, broadcast **WHAT** is wrong (fire, injury, someone trapped, etc.). Third, broadcast **WHO** you are. Repeat your broadcast several times. Keep it the same each time to help monitors.

It’s as simple as that, but it takes practise. Test yourself now and then, to be sure you recall the steps in an emergency broadcast.

FRS radios can add a lot of enjoyment to your life. They can also save it. They have saved others. For more information on the National SOS program, you can visit <[www.NationalSOS.com](http://www.NationalSOS.com)> and <[www.REACTintl.org](http://www.REACTintl.org)> . If you would like help setting up your FRS neighborhood network, contact *REACT* for a speaker and demonstration.

### **Helping Others**

We hope you may be interested in putting your radio skills to work for your community with *REACT*. We always need more monitors, not to mention help with radio communications for various local events nationwide. You can have a lot of fun while providing for the safety of others. For more information, give *REACT* a call at (number) or e-mail us at (address).

**\*no tone**

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## Lightening – from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management

**Lightning kills**, and the damage that survivors live with can be devastating. Lightning can change your life in a flash. Paralysis, hearing and vision loss, burns, numbness, and memory loss are some of the long-term injuries that can result from a strike. Often, the recovery is long and hard, and many never fully recover.

Organized outdoor activities, such as soccer and baseball games, present a serious danger to the children playing them. Coaches should get their players to safety at the first sign of danger. Dug-outs are not safe from lightning. Campers and boaters are also at high risk of lightning strikes. Metal tent poles, fishing rods and boat antennae can all attract a strike.

“Lightning can strike before, during and after a storm,” said Bill Sammler, warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service station in Wakefield, Va. “Whether the ground is wet or dry, the electricity in a strike can travel up to 15 miles in any direction. When you see dark skies, get inside a sturdy building and stay inside

for at least 30 minutes after the storm has stopped.”

### **Lightening Safety Tips**

Before the storm:

- \* Check weather forecasts before going outdoors.

- \* Be aware of signs of an approaching or developing storm – distant lightning or thunder, darkening and towering clouds, or large rain drops before the first lightning strike.

- \* Make sure you have a NOAA Weather Radio at your golf course, athletic field complex or any other outdoor venue. Also, buy one for your home.

- \* Watch for environmental clues such as dark clouds and strong winds that may signal a severe thunderstorm. When you hear a severe thunderstorm warning, take appropriate action.

When you hear thunder

- \* Immediately move inside a sturdy building. Avoid picnic or rain shelters.

- \* Once inside a building, close all windows and outside doors. Stay off the telephone and away from electrical outlets and metal pipes.

- \* If you cannot get to a building, seek shelter in a vehicle with a metal roof. Close all windows and doors and avoid touching any inside metal. If caught outdoors and you can not get to a building:

- \* Find a low spot away from trees, fences and poles.

- \* If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees or low brush.

- \* If you are on the water, move to land immediately and find a low spot.

- \* If you feel your skin tingle or hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Tuck your head down and place your hands over your ears. Make yourself the smallest, shortest possible target while minimizing your contact with the ground. When to resume outdoor activities

- \* Wait at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder to return to your activities.

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Don't forget to let us know what YOUR Team is doing.



# 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**  
ELECTRONICS

Made in U.S.A.

**CONFIDENCE THAT COMES WITH A GUARANTEE.**





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## Count on us!

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 - 3.36GHz\*

**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 spectrum Model on US website \*\*Typical operation: 5% TX (10), 5% RX, 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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