

Public Service Through Communications



# The *REACT*er

January – February 2006



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# The REACTer

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# FROM HEADQUARTERS

By Norman Kaplan

**The topic in this issue** is paperwork. Yes, a snoozer, but please read on. Prior to 9/11, Al Sevilla had said: "We are volunteers, volunteers do not do no . . . paperwork". That was absolutely correct. At that time, little was asked of each team. Of course, not doing paperwork, also meant no one outside the individual team and members knew what was being done.

As Treasurer, I need to thank those members who keep their addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses current. In the aggregate, you have dropped an \$800 expenditure in 2004 to less than \$500 in 2005. Please keep up the good work and continue to send your updates to *REACT* International Headquarters (RI) when either the team or the individual member has a change in their address, telephone or e-mail address. You may do this by letter, postcard or e-mail. This saves RI money which comes from your dues.

By the end of January, RI had received 113 team renewals. In 2005, RI had received 158 team renewals and 180 by the end of the first week of February. Renewals are coming in a little slower this year. Dora and I try to process the renewals as soon as they come in. Unfortunately, with the mass

of renewals during the end of January and beginning of February, getting the renewals processed is slower. One problem we have is the legibility of some renewal forms. Please print neatly and legibly. It makes our job easier and more accurate. It also helps us get the membership cards out quicker.

Several teams have received donations of one type or another. While small donations normally do not have to be acknowledged by law, it is a good practice to send a thank you letter acknowledging the donation. The letter should contain a full description of the donation, the mention of your E.I.N., and the thank you for the donation.

During the last several months, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the National Communication Service (NCS), both federal agencies, have contacted RI. The DHS Directive 5, which states the first responders and volunteers to federal disasters, need both IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System and IS-700: Introduction to the National Incident Management System by September 2006 to get their credentials. A first level supervisor needs IS-200: the Incident Command System, all of which are at the DHS website and can be taken as a web course. When you complete a course, please let RI know. RI will need to track which of our members has passed the courses. NCS is the agency tasked with restarting

communications at a disaster site. Their main interest with *REACT* is in our amateur members for long distance communications. Short distance communications using FRS, CB and GMRS are required for handling communications with the civilians. Consequently, RI needs to have current amateur and GMRS call sign information in the membership database. The reported hours monitored on both GMRS and amateur frequencies per call sign reported is approaching 8,000 hours per call sign. This indicates that either not all call signs have been reported or the number of hours monitored is being exaggerated. In either case, it should be corrected for confidence in the *REACT* organization's sake. While it has not been asked in the past, it would be nice to know the frequencies that the teams normally monitor, e.g., CB channel, FRS channel, amateur frequency and GMRS frequency.

Teams in *REACT* go from 3 to 90 members. Each team provides the services that the team can handle and the area needs. This includes pure monitoring to providing communication and backup services to the local government and the community. All of the work each *REACT* team does is appropriate to the team and the community. No team should feel left out or not doing more if the team is unable to handle more than what they are doing.

(Continued p. 19)

# REACT News: Teams and Team Members



**William M. Riley**, President of Prince Georges County *REACT* in Maryland, has also been appointed as the Division Staff Officer for Communications (SO-CM) for the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Middle Chesapeake Division.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is a civilian volunteer component of the U. S. Coast Guard. Members use their own vessel, aircraft, and radio facilities to augment the resources of the regular Coast Guard. Besides his amateur radio activities as N3SNU, and his GMRS activities as WPQL-840, Bill also operates Coast Guard Auxiliary Meadowbrook Radio on HF and Coast Guard Auxiliary Seven Golf Mobile on marine VHF. Upcoming activities where the Division will be providing communications support include the Washington DC Dragon Boat Races and the Volvo Ocean Race stopover in Baltimore/ Annapolis.

Prince Georges County *REACT* operates a GMRS re-

peater atop Doctors Community Hospital. Team Membership includes both GMRS and Amateur Radio licensees, with enough overlap to provide liaison between a GMRS net and the ARES/RACES/*REACT* Amateur Radio nets during emergencies, public service events, and SKYWARN activations. A new solid-state ICOM repeater has just been assembled and will be installed in place of the present repeater once final programming and testing are complete.

Riley is Chairman of the *REACT* Int'l. Communications Committee.

## Airport Emergency Exercise – Crown Point International

By Hugh Weekes.  
Chairman, Technical Management Committee, Trinidad and Tobago *REACT* Council.

**Following a request** made by The Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago to Mr. Kenny Jagdeosingh, President of the Trinidad and Tobago *REACT* Council (and representative from Region 9 on the *REACT* Int'l. Board of Directors), for assistance in evaluating *REACT*'s Communication Response to their emergency exercise code-named Operation Sky hawk.

I went to Tobago on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2005. On arrival at the Crown Point Airport,

Ms. Elizabeth Baptiste, the coordinator of the exercise, met David Alexander, Technical Director Trinidad and Tobago *REACT* Council, and myself. We, along with all the other evaluators, were briefed prior to taking up our positions on the eastern side of the ramp where the simulated crash site was already in preparation.

The exercise began at 10:20 a.m. with the ignition of the prepared fuselage and other material to be burned. The crash site being littered with the civilian crash victims, assumed dead bodies, and luggage from the wreckage gave the whole atmosphere an eerie feeling, which was punctuated by the arrival of a Fire engine, the first of the many agencies responding to the emergency.

Among those agencies were The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, The Trinidad and Tobago Regiment, The EHS ambulances, NEMA, *REACT*, Medical personnel. These played a major role in the exercise as the various groups set about their tasks implementing the rescue effort.

With regards to *REACT*'s assignment, it was felt while communication was in effect, far too many requests were made for repeats as personnel either spoke too quickly, or clarification was needed. In addition, much of the traffic lacked vital information, e.g. names or numbers of injured persons sent to hospital were



not readily available and had to be sought over and over. There was one case where a young lady was asked to use a radio and ask for some information. Her reply was "it would be faster if I go and get it myself".

The general feeling was that the communication sector needed more coordination and direction. Although persons were there that should have acted as the control, that in fact did not always occur, as reported by some of the other evaluators in their debriefing report.

Generally speaking the exercise was a good one, although there are some areas that need work to get fully ready for this type of emergency.

Consistent with the invitation, the airfare from Trinidad to Tobago and return as well as meals and refreshments were provided by the Airport Authority.

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**The Southern California REACT Council** has a new web address, <[www.socalreact.org](http://www.socalreact.org)>, according to Eric Hutchins, Council President.

**RNN has learned REACT** in Philippine Islands has reported a URL change. Please update your records and check <[www.reactkaamulan.org](http://www.reactkaamulan.org)> for current information and "local" activities.

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## Lake County (South Dakota) REACT: A Tradition of Service



*The following was adapted from a letter posted by Lake County, South Dakota, REACT President Dale Wabba to the Lake County website <[www.lakecountysd.com/lepc/react.htm](http://www.lakecountysd.com/lepc/react.htm)>.*

Lake County *REACT* actually began as a CB Club back in 1976. The members, over forty in number, provided Madison and Lake County primarily with four services; namely, 1) weather watch, 2) support for Law Enforcement with neighborhood patrol during Halloween evening and traffic control for the 4th of July fireworks celebration, 3) assist charitable organizations by providing traffic safety during their walk-athons, bike-athons, Community and High School triathlons, and 4) provide help to Civil Defense and Emergency Management in expanded disaster planning.

In 1976, some members took it upon themselves to drop out of the CB Club, form another group, collect yearly dues, and become affiliated with *REACT* International. Fifteen club members joined *REACT* at that time. Of this group, five of the original members worked for East River Power Electric; which is an Electric Cooperative that provides electric service to Eastern South Dakota. East River donated 14 out-styled, but still usable, mobile radios for *REACT* to have and use as their own. *REACT* acquired a repeater and the use of a tower 5 miles South of Madison enabling members to transmit on a radio frequency different from all others in our area thus making emergency radio communications much easier.

In 1989, Lake County *REACT* decided that they would update their radios by organizing a fund-raiser. This proved to be very successful as they raised over \$10,000 to purchase new radios and equipment. Those radios were once again updated in 1997 through monies received from the United Way, the City of Madison, and the Lake County Commission. Those funds, along with a Federal Grant, which we applied for and received, have provided us with the very best communications, second to none, in the immediate area.

Funding for radios, supplies, and equipment has never presented *REACT* with a serious problem. We no longer do fund raisers. Our monies come from the United Way, memorials, private donations from individuals and Service Organizations, Church affiliated groups, fund-raisers from the schools, and a yearly amount from

the Lake County Commission to be used for our annual dues, insurance, and help with other needed supplies.

Inventoried supplies for each *REACT* member include: two radios, one hand held and one mobile unit, batteries and a battery charger, hand-held mikes, personalized *REACT* fluorescent vests for night time activities, flashlights, radio cases and belt clips, cyallume candles for marking emergency areas, outside magnetic antennas, flashing emergency lights, and other incidental materials such as: notebooks, caps, rain gear, patches and decals. In November of 2001, members elected to purchase jackets with their own weather watch logos imprinted on the backs and their name and unit number on the fronts.

It is my firm belief that the success *REACT* has had all these many years in Lake County can be attributed to the excellent PR which we have maintained within our community. Annual visits to the schools in Madison and in neighboring communities talking to the children about weather awareness has paid big dividends for us.

Visits to the nursing homes, hospitals, Service Organizations, 4-H and FFA camps, Boy/Girl Scout and SOFY (Save Our Farm Youth) groups, and holiday campers in the State Parks explaining weather safety procedures are some of the many annual activities for us. Occasionally,

*REACT*'s services will be requested to assist State, County, and Local Law Enforcement in emergency traffic control situations. *REACT* has provided air to ground communications to law enforcement while looking for escaped prisoners and missing persons and we were called in to provide ship to shore communications while in search of drowning victims in our local lakes.

Certainly our help evacuating the residents from the Bethel Nursing Home and aiding the American Red Cross in caring for these people during our "flood of 93" made our presence more noticeable. It didn't hurt either that for the next 4 or 5 days members of *REACT* were running about the community pumping out basements for those hit hardest by the flooding. All these activities plus maintaining a vigil on a rising Lake Herman about to overflow its banks and pour into Madison, or, keeping an eye on homes destroyed by fire until morning light have made people in our community aware of *REACT*'s existence. While we have been actively involved in all the community activities mentioned, our number one priority is and always will be severe weather watch.

All too often, while visiting the schools, nursing homes, Assistant Living Quarters, or talking to people in general, we have been asked the same question repeatedly; namely, "Why do you belong to *REACT* and do you ever get scared when chasing storms?" Our answer is

always the same. First, we tell them that many people in our community have scanners in their homes and are listening to the *REACT* frequency, or they will be listening to our local radio station and getting a first hand report from a *REACT* member who is monitoring calls from the field and putting them out on the air for everyone's benefit. Then we will say, "and yes, there have been times when we become a bit uneasy, especially late at night when everything is black and it is hard to see all the hidden dangers out there. It is during those times that we have wished that we were someplace else other than in the middle of a severe thunderstorm unable to see anything!" Then we will tell them, "we belong to *REACT* because people in our community expect and depend on us to be out there for them." When the day comes that no one cares one way or the other whether or not we are out there for them, then that will be the day when we will stay at home and look out of our windows.

*REACT* currently has 16 active members. They receive no reimbursement for any travel expenses or damage to their vehicles. Gasoline, oil, wear and tear on their vehicle, including hail or wind damage to vehicles including lost windshields, is all part of sacrifice one makes when they become a *REACT* member. *REACT* members are asked to keep a log of their mileage and the amount of time they spend performing these volunteer ser

vices for the community. Records have been kept from 1997 up to December 31, 2005. During this time frame, *REACT* members have traveled 27,379 miles, all in Lake County, (it is 24,904 miles around the earth at the equator) and have logged 3006 hours providing volunteer services to the people in Madison and the neighboring communities. 3006 hours of volunteer service equates to 125 - 24-hour days; or better still, 375 - 8 hour working days.

While members of *REACT* have many diversified talents and are capable of performing numerous activities within a community, they are not capable of participating or partaking in everything. *REACT*, no matter how well trained, motivated, and prepared must be realistic about what an all volunteer group can accomplish. Even huge organizations such as FEMA, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army, well funded and staffed, don't try to be all things to all people. Neither should *REACT*...

The past 5 or 6 years, The Madison Elks Club has hosted an All-American Night sponsored by a number of businesses in Madison. It is during this special time that they honor the many first responders and heroes of our Community. *REACT* is one of many groups honored that evening. With this kind of recognition and continued support from our Community, it is easy to understand why belonging to

*REACT* is so important and fulfilling to all our members.

In January 2002, Dakota State University sponsored an All American Night at which time they honored the heroes of our community. *REACT* was one of 8 groups honored that evening. With this kind of recognition and continued support from our Community, it is easy to understand why belonging to *REACT* is so important and fulfilling to all our members.

## Lake County REACT: At work and preparing to work



### About Your Subscription

All Regular, Junior, and Affiliate members in the U.S. and Canada automatically receive a subscription to *The REACTer*; the subscription price is included in the annual RI dues. All Life Members also automatically receive a subscription to *The REACTer* but may discontinue their subscription if they wish.

If for any reason you do not wish to receive *The REACTer*, let us know. Send a note or e-mail to RI headquarters. However, your dues will not be reduced.

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

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

**REACT International, Inc.**  
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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.

## 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)>.**



## WORKING FOR KIDS

McLennan County Texas *REACT* (Team 4747) again helped out at the annual TADPOLE fishing tournament. TADPOLE is a non-profit organization that provides poles, bait and food for a day of fishing for the Waco, Tex. and Ft Hood area kids who come to spend the day with a parent and learn the fun of fishing. Everyone gathers at a local church and then they ride school buses, escorted by police cars and fire trucks with sirens blaring out to a local private lake to spend the day. Our Team blocks cross traffic on the way to the lake and then some of us control traffic outside the site while others help untangle fishing lines.



L to R, Wally Smith, Allison Smith, Karen Smith, Wanda Riddle and Rannie Riddle. Missing was Jo Schlottmann Chairman of the event.

## REACT PROTECTS LIVES AT ACCIDENT SCENE

On October 30, 2004, members of Stark County (Ohio) and Great Lakes *REACT* encountered an automobile

blocking two lanes of traffic. *REACT* notified local authorities, set up flares, and used their own vehicles to warn oncoming traffic of the danger. By this prompt action, lives may have been saved, and certainly, further accident damage was averted. *Reported by Paul Jackson, then-Director, REACT Intl. Region 4.*

## LOUISVILLE METRO-REACT JOINS PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON SERVICE AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN HELPING HONOR VOLUNTEERS

Louisville *METRO-REACT* announced it has teamed with the White House to become a Certifying Organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award, a national program recognizing Americans who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to volunteer service. Established in 2003, the Award was created by President George W. Bush to give Presidential recognition to individuals, families and groups who meet requirements for volunteer service, measured by the number of service hours performed over 12 months.

Louisville *METRO-REACT* Team is one of thousands of organizations across the country that have joined forces to deliver the President's Volunteer Service Award and honor the volunteers who strengthen our Nation. As a Certifying Organization for the Award,

Louisville *METRO-REACT* Team is responsible for verifying service hours, nominating potential recipients and delivering the Award.

"We are extremely proud to recognize our most outstanding volunteers with the President's Volunteer Service Award," said Tom Currie, President. "*REACT* Team volunteers are role models in our community, donating their time, energy and talent to bring us closer together as neighbors and a Nation. The Award is our way of thanking these volunteers and inspiring everyone in our community to make volunteering a central part of their lives."

The Award is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, a group convened by President George W. Bush to help foster and encourage a culture of volunteer service and civic participation among Americans. Chaired by two-time Super Bowl Champion Darrell Green, with former U.S. Senators Bob Dole and John Glenn as honorary co-chairs, the Council is composed of leaders in government, media, entertainment, business, education, nonprofit and volunteer service organizations and community volunteering.

The *REACT*er joins *REACT* International President Dick Cooper in offering congratulations to Louisville *METRO-REACT*.

(more team news page 20)

## Jim Koritzky: Keep The Fire Burning

By Don Tarbet



**Jim is always** the first to volunteer for Penobscot *REACT* events. Maybe that's as it should be, since he is president of the Team and also president of the Maine *REACT* Council.

Jim's history with *REACT* began during the 1980s when he attended a recruiting meeting of the team then operating in Penobscot County. He joined and became a life member in 1995 and Maine Council president in 1997. During the early to mid 90's *REACT* was active in Maine with Teams in Penobscot, Aroostook, Hancock, Oxford, and Cumberland counties. Koritzky was active with *REACT*, not only locally, but far beyond the borders of Maine. Between 1989 and 2000 he attended seven international conventions.

In the years that followed, participation dwindled. People moved away, died, pursued other interests, found other ways to operate as communi-

cations volunteers. Finally, little but the overall structure was present in the state. *REACT* was dormant, but not dead.

Jim was there; he kept the fire burning. When interest revived in 2003 and 2004, requests for team start-up information were directed to Koritzky. Since that time we have gained one team (*REACT*er, Nov-Dec 2005) and lost one. Another may be about to be spun-off from the Penobscot Team.

We have gained activity, though. Led by Jim's example and enthusiasm, *REACT* is gaining a new threshold of work and recognition in Maine, at least in the Bangor area. Cooperating with ARES and other communications groups. Penobscot *REACT* has begun the long process of regaining the position it once held.

To do so, *REACT* in Maine faces the same problems faced by *REACT* on the international scale. "We have to recruit," Koritzky says. "And we have to change with the times. Technology has changed, and we need to adapt to the changes. When it first appeared, FRS was seen as a threat. Now we use it all the time. It serves a need and helps us recruit volunteers. Not only has technology changed, but the ways people use it has changed. People have different interests than they did years ago. We have to be aware of the changes and adapt to them."

Jim is retired from a varied career that started as a welder in the 1950s and ended with him working for a security company. His background with *REACT* helped him in this occupation. "I used a lot of the material I got from *REACT* workshops," he says.

For the future, he hopes to keep *REACT* active and moving in Maine. With retirement he gained more free time which he hopes to devote to *REACT*-ivities.

## CALENDAR Spring - 2006

- February 20: President's Day (US)
- March 3-4: Annual *REACT* Board Meeting in Suitland, Md.
- March 15: Deadline to File for Director
- April 8: Deadline for May-June *REACT*er



# SCHOLARSHIPS

*Some REACT members may qualify for one or more of the following scholarships: The requirements are all different, so read carefully.*

**The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc.**, a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer fifty-four (54) scholarships for the academic year 2006 - 2007 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds three of these scholarships. Ten are funded with the income from grants. The remaining forty-one (41) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2,500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training

classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2006, from:

Diane Zimmerman, AA3OF  
Chairman, Scholarship Committee  
FAR Scholarships  
Post Office Box 831  
Riverdale, MD 20738

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

The Foundation encourages all qualified amateurs to apply for these awards.

The following awards will be available for the upcoming academic year:

1. There are three (3) Silent Key Memorial Scholarships, which pay \$2,500 each, available to U.S. Residents, pursuing any course of study leading to a Bachelor's degree. Preference will be given to residents of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Northern Virginia.
2. The Richard G. Chichester Memorial Scholarship pays \$1000. Applicants must be

members of the ARRL and recommended by an ARRL-affiliated club (they need not be a member of the club). There is no restriction on the course of study. Applicant must be pursuing a Bachelor's degree. Preference will be given to Texas residents living in the metropolitan areas of Austin, Kerrville or San Antonio. Minimum license requirement - General Class.

3. There are three (3) Radio Club of America Scholarships, which pay \$1,000 each. Applicants must intend to pursue studies in electronic engineering or electronic technology toward an Associate or Bachelor's degree and be U.S. citizens. Preference will be given to applicants taking courses in Wireless Communications. Minimum license requirement - General Class.

4. There are sixteen (16) Quarter Century Wireless Association Scholarships, three of which pay \$1,500 and thirteen of which pay \$1,000. There are no restrictions on the course of study and applicants must intend to seek an Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate degree. There is no residence area preference. Applicants must be recommended by a member of QCWA, but may not themselves be members of QCWA.

5. There are two (2) Young Ladies' Radio League Memorial Scholarships that pay \$1,500 each. Applicants must hold at least an FCC Technician Class or equivalent foreign authorization and intend to seek a Bachelor's or Graduate degree from a U.S. college

or university. There are no residence or course restrictions. Preference will be given to female applicants.

**6.** The Ralph V. "Andy" Anderson-K0NL Scholarship pays \$1,000. There is no restriction on the course of study, but preference will be given to applicants pursuing a degree in Journalism. Applicants must be residents of the U.S. or its territories. Applicants must be seeking a Bachelor's degree. Minimum license requirement - General Class.

**7.** The Columbia Amateur Radio Association, Inc., Scholarship pays \$1,000. It is available to Maryland residents pursuing a Bachelor's degree in any course of study.

**8.** There are five (5) Baltimore Amateur Radio Club Scholarships, 4 pay \$1000 and 1 pays \$1,500. Applicants must be Maryland residents. For three of the 4 - \$1,000 awards, preference will be given to those who have successfully completed one year of college or have been previous winners of this award. The fourth award, which is reserved for an entering first year student, will be renewable for three years if the student remains in good academic standing throughout the period. The fifth award, paying \$1,500, has been designated as the Ernie Dobos Memorial Scholarship with preference given to a Baltimore City resident. Applicants must be pursuing a Bachelor's degree.

**9.** The Tropical Hamboree Scholarship sponsored by the Dade Radio Club of Miami, Florida pays \$1,000. Applicants must be Florida residents

pursuing a Bachelor's degree. There is no restriction on the course of study; however, preference will be given to those studying electronics or science-related fields.

**10.** The Rose Ellen Bills Memorial Scholarship pays \$2,000. There is no restriction on the course of study. Applicants must be a resident of the U.S. or its territories pursuing a Bachelor's degree. Minimum license requirement - General Class

**11.** The Frederick Amateur Radio Club Scholarship pays \$1,000. There is no restriction on the course of study. Applicants must reside within 150 miles of Frederick, Maryland; preference will be given to qualified applicants from Frederick County, Maryland. Applicant must be pursuing a Bachelor's degree.

**12.** The five (5) 10-10 International Net, Inc., Scholarships pay \$1,000 each. Applicants must be licensed Radio Amateurs having HF privileges. There is no restriction on the course of study. Applicants must seek an Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate degree. Non-US amateurs are also eligible. Applicants must be a 10-10 member or provide a recommendation from a member of the 10-10 International Net.

**13.** The WARAC Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Milwaukee, Wisconsin, pays \$1,500. Applicants must be Wisconsin residents pursuing an Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate degree in any course of study.

**14.** The Kevin Barry Perdue Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Kay Craigie-N3KN and Carter Craigie-N3AO, pays \$2,000. Applicants must pursue a Bachelor's degree with a course of study in the liberal arts, humanities, or social sciences from a U.S. college or university.

**15.** The South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Scholarship pays \$1,000. Applicants must be Wisconsin residents and intend to seek an Associate or Bachelor's degree from a college or university in the U.S. Preference will be given to applicants studying Electrical Engineering or related technology.

**16.** The Nanticoke Amateur Radio Club Scholarship pays \$1,000. Applicants must hold a license with HF privileges. Preference will be given to those studying Architecture, Engineering, Electronics, Science or a related field at an institution of higher learning in the U.S. Applicants must pursue a Bachelor's degree. Residence requirement - Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, or Virginia.

**17.** The Murgas Amateur Radio Club Scholarship pays \$500. Applicants must be residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and seek a Bachelor's degree from a U.S. college or university. There is no restriction on the course of study.

**18.** The Lawrence E. and Thelma J. Norrie Memorial Scholarship, pays \$2,500. Applicant must be a U.S. resident. Preference will be given to Juniors, Seniors and Graduate

students with an academic Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher who are pursuing a Bachelor's or higher degree in science or engineering. Minimum license requirement: Any Class with HF privileges.

**19.** The Ernest L. Walker, WB3DVL, Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society Memorial Scholarship pays \$1,000. There is no restriction on the course of study. Applicants must pursue a Bachelor's degree. Applicants must reside within 150 miles of Baltimore, Maryland. Preference will be given to Maryland residents.

**20.** The Robert E. True Memorial Scholarship pays \$1,000. Applicants must be residents of the state of Ohio seeking a Bachelor's degree at a US college or university. Preference will be given to those pursuing courses in Electrical Engineering or Electronic/Computer Technology.

**21.** The Free State Amateur Radio Club Scholarship pays \$1,000. Applicants must be U.S. citizens residing in the State of Maryland and holding a valid FCC Amateur license with HF privileges. There is no restriction on the course of study. Applicants must seek an Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate degree from a college or university in the United States.

**22.** OZAUKEE Radio Club Scholarship pays \$1,000. It is available to Wisconsin residents pursuing a Bachelor's or Graduate degree in any course of study.

**23.** The Claude H. Haring, Jr., W3IIM Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc. pays \$2,000. There is no restriction on the course of study. Applicants must intend to seek a Bachelor's or Graduate degree, and reside in the Eastern Pennsylvania or Southern New Jersey ARRL Sections.

**24.** The Dwight Weller, KB3LA, Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Phillip Karn, KA9Q, pays \$1,000. Applicants must intend to seek a Bachelor's degree in any branch of the engineering or physical sciences. There is no residence requirement.

**25.** The Chuck Reville, K3FT Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Phillip Karn, KA9Q, pays \$1,000. Applicants must intend to seek a Bachelor's degree in any branch of the engineering or physical sciences. There is no residence requirement.

**26.** The Joann Hoch, N3FTC, Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc. pays \$2,000. There is no restriction on the course of study. Applicants must intend to seek a Bachelor's or Graduate degree, and reside in the Eastern Pennsylvania or Southern New Jersey ARRL Sections.



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## Three Board of Directors Elections

**Board elections for Regions 1, 4, and 7 will be held this summer.** If you are a member of a Team in either of these regions, please contact Larry Fry via email <LFry@reactintl.org> or fax 608-757-2379 with your suggestions for Director. Don't be shy – you can nominate yourself! See also nomination form in this issue. Nominations are due at *REACT* Int'l headquarters by March 15, 2006.

**Region 1** includes Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, and Pennsylvania. **Region 4** includes Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. **Region 7** includes Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.

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

**Let your regional representative** on the board know what is going on with your Team and your council. Ask what you can do to help them. Thank them for attending Board meetings and serving as your representative.



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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](http://www.authorhouse.com)

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



Barbara autographs book at Texas State REACT Council meeting

## New ATV Repeater in Laurel, Maryland

By Al Brown - KZ3AB

Laurel, Maryland, is slated to become a center for amateur radio television (ATV) activity in the near future.

Members of the Chesapeake Amateur Television Society (CATS) and the Laurel Amateur Radio Club (LARC) have been working together since late 2005 to establish an amateur television (ATV) repeater in Laurel, Maryland.

Although the Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society (BRATS) has an operational ATV repeater located in northeastern Baltimore City, Laurel is on the fringe of its coverage area.

The Metrovision ATV Club in Alexandria, Virginia, used to have an ATV repeater that covered Northern Virginia and Washington, DC, with Laurel on its fringe, but the Metrovision ATV repeater suddenly went off the air more than five years ago. It is hoped that the Laurel ATV repeater will help to fill in some of the void left by the loss of Metrovision's ATV repeater.

The Laurel ATV repeater will allow a low-powered amateur television signal to be rebroadcast over a wide area - 20 miles or more. ATV operates in the UHF portion of the radio spectrum and the range is limited to line of sight distances.

Last summer members of LARC demonstrated the advantages of point-to-point ATV to officials of the City of Laurel during a simulated disaster drill and secured the support of local government officials.

CATS member John Watson, NY3K, contacted LARC member Allen Brown, KZ3AB, and through their efforts, the two clubs joined forces in a mutual effort to establish an ATV repeater in Laurel.

Members of CATS needed a location high enough for their ATV repeater to provide the

widest possible coverage area. Members of LARC also needed this type of support to ensure that ATV pictures could be reliably received at the Laurel Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during a local emergency or drill.

Don Vann, head of the Dimensions Health organization's facilities, which includes Greater Laurel-Beltsville Hospital, gave his approval for the ATV repeater installation on January 20th in support of this public service venture.

Watson, Brown and members of CATS, including Ken McCue, K3UQQ, Jim Busick, KB3JJW, Rodney Douglas KD3DV, Stan Novak - K3DRP, Tom Farrell, W3RCJ and Grady Ball, WB3JUV, as well as LARC members Jim Cross WI3N and Joe Craven, N3TZA, have been working to construct and install the ATV repeater atop the Greater Laurel-Beltsville Hospital located on Van Dusen Road at the western edge of Laurel.

The antenna height above average terrain (HAAT) at the hospital will be approximately 150 feet. This will allow the ATV repeater coverage area to include the eastern halves of Howard and Montgomery Counties, Baltimore City and the southern half of Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, most of Prince George's County, Washington, DC, and portions of Northern Virginia.

The Laurel ATV repeater will receive ATV pictures on a frequency of 434.000 MHz and retransmit them on a frequency of 421.250 MHz. Initially, the output power will be 20 watts peak-envelope-power (PEP). Future plans include increasing the transmitter output power to 200 watts PEP.

A ten-pole vestigial sideband (VSB) filter will be used to prevent emissions below the lower limit of the amateur radio allocated frequency band, 420.000 MHz.

Antenna polarization will be horizontal in order to minimize the possibility of interference with commercial or government two-way radio systems and to avoid adjacent channel interference

from the vertically polarized BRATS ATV repeater.

The Laurel ATV repeater is expected to be fully operational by the end of February 2006.

Updates will be posted on the CATS website <catsatv.home.comcast.net/index.htm>, the LARC website <<http://www.larcmd.org>> and on Jim Cross' ARRL MDC Section Manager webpage <[home.comcast.net/~kz3ab/WI3N/index.htm](http://home.comcast.net/~kz3ab/WI3N/index.htm)>.

## FROM ARRL

**ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN**, of Judsonia, Arkansas, will be the League's president for the next two years. He'll succeed Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who chose not to run for a fourth term in the uncompensated, volunteer post. Haynie is a long-time member of Dallas County REACT C-622

Harrison, 47, said he believes Amateur Radio is looking at a different society--and pool of potential licensees--in the 21st century than in the past.

"One of the things we need to do over the next few years is realize that Main Street USA is not the Main Street USA it was years ago," Harrison commented after the vote. "We all remember those days when we became interested in radio and the magic that it provided to us. The magic is still there, but Main Street has changed."

Harrison says this means that the League needs to focus on doing a better job of attracting the average person on the new Main Street of today "into the magic of Amateur Radio." *From ARRL Bulletin 2, January 20, 2006*

**Idaho Telecommunications Company Getting Out of BPL** (Jan 27, 2006) -- IDACOMM, a telecommunications subsidiary of Boise, Idaho-based IDACORP, has bailed out of BPL. While the company has not been providing BPL service on a commercial basis, it has been cooperating with IDACORP subsidiary Idaho Power in a Boise test, and it had partnered with IBM and electric utility CenterPoint Energy to help design, install and operate a BPL pilot project in

the Houston, Texas, area. IDACORP Chief Executive Jan Packwood says the company has "fully explored the BPL opportunity" and believes that it has "significant long-term potential," but utilities have not been flocking to adopt the technology. From ARRL website <[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)>.

**Injured miner Randy McCloy, KC8VKZ, moved to rehab facility** Randy McCloy, KC8VKZ, the sole survivor of the January 2 Upshur County, West Virginia, coal mine tragedy was moved to HealthSouth Mountainview Regional Rehabilitation Hospital in Morgantown on January 26. McCloy's condition remains fair. The explosion at the Sago Mine killed 12 other miners and left the mine filled with deadly carbon monoxide.

**ARRL Board Ramps Up Focus on Grassroots Lobbying, Disaster Planning** The ARRL Board of Directors will place even greater emphasis on the League's nascent grassroots lobbying effort. Implemented last year, the Grassroots Legislative Action Plan involves direct contact with lawmakers in members' home districts and motivating legislative support for Amateur Radio-related legislation through letter writing by members.

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# ICE STORM

By Don Tarbet

**This is why I came to Maine.** A soft, fresh layer of snow covers and freshens the old pack, and the falling flakes soften the starkness of the winter woods behind a moving lace curtain. The only sign of human presence on this back road is the road itself. Well, an occasional powerline cuts across the track or follows it for a stretch, and here and there a horsechestnut tree in what was once the yard of a long-vanished farm whispers to me that it is 'from away'. So am I.

Yes, this is what drew me away from the mud and gray of southern winters. The downside came when I had to shovel two feet of snow off 200+ yards of driveway in order to get to work one evening. And the ice...

Not that ice problems are unique to northern latitudes – the worst road ice I ever encountered was in North Carolina, and horrendous photographs of Georgia in the throes of a devastating ice storm have circulated widely. But here it is a several-times-a-year event, though it rarely gets as bad as it did during the ice storm of 1998. That storm buried Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and northern New York under up to two inches of ice that brought down trees, powerlines, animals, and people. According to the University of

Nebraska website, <<http://snrs.unl.edu/amet451/bartlett/icedamage.htm>>, damage to forests alone may have exceeded a billion dollars. Damage to farm production, increased workplace hazards, multi-week power outages, and disruption of transportation add to the total.



(NOAA photo)

The National Weather Service (*Winter Storms, the Deceptive Killers: A Guide to Survival, NOAA/PA 91002, ARC 4467*) say, "Winter storms are considered deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. People die in traffic accidents on icy roads. People die of heart attacks while shoveling snow. People die of hypothermia from prolonged exposure to cold."

And, of course, official lines of communication were overstrained, and the volunteer community jumped in. Power was out in some locations for as long as two weeks or more. I was lucky; we had power back in three days.

Radio volunteers manned shelters, supplied and transported materials, and transported storm casualties to hospitals, according to ARRL Section Manager for Maine, Bill Woodhead, N1KAT. The ef-

forts were acknowledged with thanks by then-governor Angus King.

While the 1998 ice storm was highly unusual, many areas have several milder events per year. As of this writing (January, 2006), central Maine has had at least four ice events serious enough to produce transportation disruption and some deaths. In fact, one – that promises to be short-lived – is happening outside my window at this moment. And that doesn't count the straight snow events.

Freezing rain is the most common cause of ice damage, though melting and refreezing of road surfaces can cause major disruptions. According to NOAA, Freezing rain is: "Rain that falls onto a surface with a temperature below freezing. This causes it to freeze to surfaces, such as trees, cars, and roads, forming a coating or glaze of ice. Even small accumulations of ice can cause a significant hazard."

The University of Nebraska says, "Freezing rain is a specific form of precipitation, as is rain, drizzle, sleet, and hail. It is the result of water particles falling as ice pellets encountering a layer of warm air where the particles melt into rain. However, before the rain hits the ground, it goes through cold air before reaching the surface of the ground. The droplets are cooled, forming supercooled drops, drops that are cooled to below freezing temperatures. When these supercooled drops hit the ground,



they thin out and freeze, instantly, forming a thin film of ice.”

Which means you get a layer of ice all over everything, a layer that makes driving, even walking, almost impossible. And you don't always have warning. I've had the experience of sitting down rapidly more than once on encountering an unexpected – and unseen – thin layer of ice.

Exceptional events, severe or prolonged, place heavy demands on official responders. For this reason, trained volunteers may be desperately needed. So be prepared. Find out what your team could do in the event of this or any other disaster, and then prepare for the most likely disasters for your area. The rules of ice storms are similar to those for other weather events, but they include shovels and saws in cars, maybe a bag of cat litter to spread for traction, warm clothing, and of course – the standards. Make sure your jump kit is up to date, and that you and your team have a plan. Don't go off half-cocked. Stay inside unless you're needed; don't add to the burden.

And, on that note, see to the security of yourself and your family first. You can't help others unless your own house is in order. Have a plan. A wide variety of home preparedness plans exist. Lake County *REACT* of South Dakota has a detailed version on its website at <http://www.lakecountysd.com/lepc/preparations.htm>. See also this issue.

The Maine *REACT* Council also has preparedness information linked from its web page: <http://www.mainemarketplace.com/react/>.

Any time spent planning and training will pay dividends eventually. Remember, it isn't a matter of 'if', it's a matter of 'when'.



(Photo CNEWS)

## Skywarn and your *REACT* Team

By Bob Pickering  
Flagler County Assist *REACT*  
Team 4800

One of many missions of Flagler County (Florida) Assist *REACT* is Skywarn. Skywarn is a program that any *REACT* Team can get involved with. Skywarn is not just for hams. It is for everyone. Flagler County's Skywarn operations include both hams and GMRS operators on separate nets that relay information to the National Weather Service in Jacksonville. The NWS responded to the hard work by the *REACT* volunteers:

*Flagler REACT Team Members,*

*You are such a vital component of the severe weather*

*warning process when strong weather is threatening Flagler County. On behalf of the NWS, thank you for volunteering your time and services to your community and the NWS during potentially dangerous weather events. Your timely and accurate ground truth reports are very much appreciated.*

*Sincerely,*

*Angie Enyedi  
Meteorologist, NWS Jacksonville*

To get involved in Skywarn in your local area, contact your closest National Weather Forecast Office and ask to speak to the Warning and Coordination Meteorologist. For further information also see skywarn's website: <http://www.skywarn.org/>.



(Look closely and you will see a funnel cloud that was reported by *REACT* volunteers to the National Weather Service.)







# DIRECTOR, REGIONS 1, 4, or 7 CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

Complete and mail to:  
**REACT International, Inc.**  
**5210 Auth Rd. Suite #403**  
**Suitland, MD 20746**

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT**  
**Must be received by March 15th**

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/ Zip/ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Employment \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  Male  Female Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_

Children (sex, age) \_\_\_\_\_

Team #  Name \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Date nominee joined REACT \_\_\_\_\_ Date joined present Team \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Team #   
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Team offices served (position/dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Council offices served (position/dates) \_\_\_\_\_

International offices/committees served (position/dates) \_\_\_\_\_

International conventions attended (year/location) \_\_\_\_\_

Experience with other non-profit corporations or public agencies (position/dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Communications capabilities:  CB  GMRS  Amateur  Internet E-Mail  Other

## CANDIDATE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1. Be a current *REACT* member registered with *REACT* International Headquarters for a minimum of three (3) years.
2. Be a member of a team in the region they will be representing.
3. Be 21 years of age or older.
4. Have demonstrated leadership experience at *REACT* Team and/or Council level, other non-profit corporations or public agencies.

**NOMINEE'S STATEMENT AND PHOTO FOR PUBLICATION:** In 300 words or less, on a separate sheet of paper, typed, please state what you, if elected, can bring to the Board that will help the Teams, how you can best serve the interest of *REACT* members and any views you have on *REACT* matters of importance (include plan(s) of action). You may also comment on your additional public service and organizational affiliations and your skills or experience related to the position sought. *If you desire your photo published, please include photograph.*

**NOMINEE'S DECLARATION:** I certify that all the information contained is true, complete and accurate and that I meet the minimum requirements as set by the *REACT* International Bylaws. If elected to the Board of Directors of *REACT* International, Inc., I agree to uphold the objectives of *REACT* to the best of my abilities, to attend all Board meetings (at least two per year) and to fulfill my term. I understand that *REACT* International will pay only my approved expenses for Official *REACT* International business. I understand that, if elected, I will probably be required to pay my own expenses. If selected as a nominee, I will do my best to attend the *REACT* International Convention in July of this year (if a convention year) at my own expense.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Nominee Statement Enclosed:

Nominee Photo Enclosed:

## OPTIONAL TEAM / COUNCIL ENDORSEMENTS

Endorsed by: Team/Council Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Officer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Endorsed by: Team/Council Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Officer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Endorsed by: Team/Council Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Officer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Endorsed by: Team/Council Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Officer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

## Editor's Corner

By Don Tarbet

The big news is that Board elections are right around the corner. We offer reminders throughout this issue – including right here. Those of you from Regions 1 (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, and Pennsylvania), 4 (Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio), and 7 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas) need regional representatives to the *REACT* International Board of Directors. Got anybody in mind? Use the nomination form in this issue to present your candidate to your Region and to *REACT*.

In this issue we continue with our series on natural disasters. There is no place in the universe free of such events. Maybe hurricanes, ice storms, and tornados are not a big threat in your area. But then, wildfires may be. Anybody from Southern California or another location subject to wildfires want to write an article on these destructive events?

As we have found, official response to both natural and man-made disasters can be spotty. Finger-pointing becomes an art form. And we, as volunteers feel pretty smug about our efforts. But should we? Are we really doing all we can? Do official agencies

really know what we can do? And can we really do it? ARRL is lobbying congress on behalf of Amateur Radio. Are we doing all we can to lobby federal, state, and local agencies on their *own* behalf? Government can't do it all; nor should it. You won't always get an excited welcome from public agencies. There is the suspicion of the professional toward the non-professional – some of it justified. There is turf protection. But we can't begin to break down those barriers until we try. Does your Team have a plan and an approach? Don't promise more than you can produce, and make sure you are on solid ground with anything you suggest, but get the word out.

And how about our own preparedness? How many of us have worked through the *REACT* Emergency Communication Course or its equivalent? How many of us have our own home preparedness checklist up to date – and checked? How many of us have our jump kits ready for immediate deployment? How many of us... Well, you get the idea.

Actually, I suspect that most of us are in pretty good shape. Oh, there may be a few things we have let slide, batteries we haven't replaced, generators we haven't exercised, things like that. Well, let's make it an ongoing resolution to attend to those things on a regular, planned basis.

Our teams have been busy. Let us know what you have been doing. Even if what you have

to report happened a few months ago, it's still news to those who haven't heard about it. In this issue we hear about Teams who work with SKY-WARN, Teams helping out kids, preparedness drills, public service recognition, and more. Keep the news items and stories coming. And keep up the good work.

Note also the education scholarships offered to young ham radio operators. Do you know a *REACT* member who might qualify for one of these? Do *you* qualify for one of these? Read through the whole list carefully. The requirements vary considerably.

We now have the *REACT*er almost back on schedule. By the time you read this, all back issues should at least be at the printer and just about ready for your inspection. Thanks for your patience.

---

### From Headquarters (from page 2)

I would hope that those teams that do provide event coverage and additional communications, other than monitoring, do an after action debriefing. These are written reports that include, at a minimum: the event name, who was the event organizer, the event contacts, who provided the service (as well as how long they worked), what services were provided, what went well, what went wrong (potential training hints), and what frequencies were used. Additional training can be scheduled from

these reports. These reports, along with monitoring reports, indicate what a team did throughout the year. This information is needed when going for grants. It is the basis for a team's calendar of activities. The calendar should include the event, the number of workers, the time spent on the event and a description of the event activities. RI would be interested in each team's calendar for the previous year. Today it is 2005. After action reports are the basis for articles for the *REACTer*, for Ron McCracken's Popular Communication article, for RI so other teams can learn from your event, and local public relation pieces.

In the post 9/11 world, non-profit organizations, such as *REACT* and the other NVOAD organizations, are being called upon to do more. They are asked to be better trained and have that training documented. If you have not taken the *REACT* training and the DHS IS training, please do so and let RI know of the courses that you passed. Take the DHS IS training, especially if you want to volunteer for disaster and emergency operations. Paperwork has become very important. RI can no longer operate without the team reports.

## BLACKBERRY *REACT*

**Blackberry *REACT*, Incorporated** (California) recently announced that the sponsorship of their communication van

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has been taken over by the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. This has been in the planning stages for several months and became a reality when the vehicle was signed over.

The van, referred to as "MECC" (**M**obile **E**mergency **C**ommunity **C**ommunications) is to be used at events such as Art/Wines, Connoisseur's Market Place, Street Festivals, bike events, walking and running events, Air shows, etc. Wherever communications are needed for community support helping with security, medical, lost and found items or simply monitoring radios to assist a motorist or boating enthusiasts.

MECC is primarily equipped for disaster response and is capable of sustaining continuous communications using several radios simultaneously over a long period of time. This will be important during fires, such as the Lexington Reservoir and Oakland Hills events, earthquakes, flooding or any other major disaster involving the public. It would become the Control Point for local **CERT** (Citizens Emergency Response Teams) communications with emergency agencies.



## Silent Mics Compiled by Dora Wilbanks

**Nathaniel Cox** of Whiteside County *REACT*, #4714, passed away on Sept. 30, 2005. He was a charter member of the team and served on the Board of Directors for 17 years. He will be greatly missed by his Team members and the community.

**Sherman Dillberg** of Oklahoma County *REACT* passed away recently. He was a founder of the Team, a WWII veteran, supporter of scouting, Little League coach, and original sponsor of a trailer used for safety breaks and mobile command post.

**Ruth Purviance:**  
Spencer County (Indiana) *REACT*, Team C149.

**Arthur E. Cole:**  
Spencer County (Indiana) *REACT*, Team C149.

**Ruth A. Gates:**  
Champaign County (Ohio) *REACT*, Team 4517.

**James T. Boady:**  
Coshocton County *REACT*, Team C575.

**Donald Miles:**  
St. Cloud (Minnesota) *REACT*, Team 3791.

**Anthony Van Bergen:**  
Muskegon County (Michigan) *REACT*, Team 3880.

**Pauline Endicott:**  
Martin County (Kentucky) *REACT* Rescue Squad, Team 2369.



# 10-2.

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\*Collaborative frequency band used on US waters \*\*Typical operation: 5% TX (1H), 5% ID, 90% standby.

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