

Public Service Through Communications



# The REACTer

January-February 2007



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*REACT* is a 44 year old non-profit international organization of communications volunteers. For most Teams, part of our mission is to coordinate community events by using our two-way radio systems. Over the years we have assisted at parades, walkathons, marathons, races of all kinds, fairs, car shows, fiestas, chili cook-offs, Special Olympics, etc. Examples of functions we may do are parking directions, crowd management, general information, VIP shadowing, first aid, radio contact with Police and Fire, security, lost and found, and reporting conditions. We are covered by a \$1,000,000 liability insurance policy. A few of the specific situations we may handle are:

1. Security. We watch property, vehicles, equipment, etc. While working one event a *REACT*er patrolling the area behind an outdoor stage found people who had no apparent business there. This was the location of trucks and trailers that had been left unattended and unlocked. These people were advised they were in a restricted area, and they left. At all kinds of events individuals may be found climbing over the fence or doing other things to gain access to areas where they don't belong.
2. Reporting. We observe problems and potential problems, and advise the event organizer or in some cases take action ourselves. At one event there was a power outage. A member discovered the cause and notified the event organizer who contacted someone who was able to restore power in no more than ten minutes. In parades we report float breakdowns or other holdups so prompt action may be taken.
3. Lost and found. When anyone reports a missing or found child to us, we advise the event organizer and/or Information Desk (this is where the *REACT* banner is hung). Details are then passed by radio to the stage where an announcement is made. Once a member came across a lost child, and an announcement was made several times. When no one appeared to claim the child, a *REACT* member suggested the announcement be made in Spanish. Immediately after this was done, the mother showed up. Does your Team have a bilingual member?
4. Routine announcements. A *REACT*er is always at the Information Desk, and may ask the *REACT*er who is at the stage to make other announcements that are requested by the event personnel. Some members will also have a cell phone to make calls if necessary.
5. Emergencies. A *REACT*er may be located with Police, Fire, and ambulance, and can be quickly notified to request assistance for injuries, accidents, malicious mischief, crowd problems, etc.
6. Escort. On request we will provide a radio escort for VIP's going to make a bank deposit.

These are just a half dozen functions *REACT* may provide. What other ones does your Team do? A complete guide is available at <[www.reactintl.org/pubs/Planning\\_Safe\\_Community\\_Events.pdf](http://www.reactintl.org/pubs/Planning_Safe_Community_Events.pdf)> It's free, and very comprehensive.

Revised and updated 11-4-06 from original dated 11-20-03

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**Publications Review Committee:**  
 Eric Hutchins, K7ELH  
 R.K. "Bob" Leef, KB6DON  
 RKL29@earthlink.net

**Editor:** Don Tarbet, KD1XU  
**Advertising Manager:** Ron McCracken, KG4CVL

**Editorial Address:**  
 The REACTer  
 5210 Auth Rd., Ste. 403  
 Suitland, MD 20746-4393  
 editor1@reactintl.org

**Circulation Address:**  
 5210 Auth Rd., Ste. 403  
 Suitland, MD 20746-4393  
 reacthq1@reactintl.org

**REACT International**  
 Dora Wilbanks, Office Mgr.  
 5210 Auth Rd., Ste 403  
 Suitland, MD 20746-4393  
 Voice: 301-316-2900  
 Fax: 301-316-2903  
 reacthq1@reactintl.org



# The REACTer

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## From Headquarters By Norman Kaplan



**Dora and I** hope all our members had a happy and healthy holiday season and will have a wonderful New Year.

A DSL line has been installed at RI Headquarters. The telephone numbers are now (301) 316-2900 for voice and (301) 316-2903 for FAX. The (301) 316-2901 number has been dropped. We have gone from an answering machine to voice mail. Don Manlove, the Region 2 Director, has volunteered to receive calls outside of business hours at (804) 439-3017 (page 9). All calls will be noted and forwarded to Headquarters by e-mail to be answered or the response filed by Headquarters.

Renewals for 2007 have gone out to each Team, and several have renewed for 2007. If your Team has **not** received your renewal packet, please contact Headquarters for a replacement package.

*REACT* International, Inc. needs approximately 4,400 members, depending on the interest on RI investments and donations, to support Headquarters and the *REACT* programs. Currently, RI has 2,700 members. Elsewhere in the *REACT*er, the first in a series of articles recognizing long-term members is published (page 4). These members, from 35 to 44 years in *REACT* and other

long-term members, are the institutional memory of the organization. They are the backbone on which *REACT* relies to get its work done. We need to recruit members to support and continue our work in emergency communications.

When RI sends out the 2007 membership cards, RI will send out a request for an Annual Monitoring report. This report is collated with other reports to form the 2006 *REACT* International Annual Report, the basis

for grant applications and the basis for our entry into the Federal Combined Charity Campaign and a report to the Department of Homeland Security. It is important that the report form be filled out and returned to RI. Information from the collated report is published in the "From Headquarters" article for all to see. If your Team number was not reported in the last article, please help your communications officer fill the report out by letting him know your statistics (hours monitored by service and calls by type and service). Event information should be gathered and made available by those Team members who did the event.

Next year, 2007, the Region 2, 5 and 8 Directors elections will be held. Now is the time to begin thinking about who is willing and able to perform the duties. The nomination form is available from RI Headquarters. Each Director nominee must be a member of a Team in the region in which he or she is running.

### CALENDAR

#### - Winter - 2007

-All Year: *REACT*'s 45th anniversary

-Jan. 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

-Feb. 5: Deadline for Mar-Apr, 2007 *REACT*er.

-Feb. 14: Valentine's Day

-May: *REACT* Month

*REACT* International, Inc., is seeking a volunteer to serve as Director for Region 8, which covers Calif., Nev., Utah, and Ariz. Most of the Teams in that region are in California. Suitable Candidates must reside in one of those four states and be a member of a Team in one of those four states. They must also have been a *REACT* member for at least 2 years. Typically members who have been serving at the Team or Council officer levels are good candidates for this position. The Board meets 2 times a year in person, other times via electronic means over the Internet. Interested persons should contact the *REACT* International office via email or phone. Referrals of possible candidates are welcomed.



# **REACTer SAVES ANOTHER REACTer's life**

By Ed Greany, RI Exec VP & CREST 25



Every year the CREST Communications *REACT* Team, assisted by other *REACT* members of Southern California, travel to Laughlin, Nevada, to assist with the Laughlin International (off-road) Rally and Motor Sports Festival by providing radio communications, medical assistance, and course safety, closure, and security (see RallyUSA.com). This is our ninth year of participation. One of our duties is to track the race cars from start to finish from one check point to the next, always knowing the area of the course each rally car is on.

The actual 2-day race consists of four stages and is done inside the Grand Canyon on the Hualapai Indian Reservation. Ever try to communicate from down in a valley or among high buildings? Try it inside the Grand Canyon where there is no cell phone or land-line phone service. In fact, there are no residences, businesses, or any other evidence of civilization except dirt roads without street signs to indicate where you are. You are literally on your own. It is a beautiful location which is normally off limits to all, but the Hualapai Indian Tribal Council has allowed the race to take place.

On the second day after the first stage was completed, the Team members were removing caution tape, wood stakes marking radio positions, and all other debris from our activity when we heard over our GMRS radios “EMERGENCY; EMERGENCY; ROLL OVER! “I need all EMT’s and the ambulance, NOW!” This was the call by Mike Greany,

CREST 210, who was the last vehicle in our line of volunteers leaving the course. At first, I didn’t understand the call since I was two cars in front of Mike and only one car – that of another of our members was between the two of us. The race cars had left on the track way ahead of us. So who rolled? Unfortunately, it was our member’s vehicle behind me and in front of Mike.

Paul Johnson, CREST 426, apparently drove over the hilly rise in the road to be met by a rough road surface of protruding rocks. Although the investigation continues, it seems his left front tire blew out and sent him out of control to the left road edge berm. He overcorrected and went to the right road edge berm which flipped the car over onto its roof causing Paul serious injury and unconsciousness. There were no other passengers in his van.

The next radio transmission from Mike was “I need the extraction tools!” As part of our planning, we had Champion Rescue Tools positioned on the stage course this year at the end of stage one. They proceeded to the accident scene. “NET Control, order the helicopter evac and hurry!” was the next order on the radio along with the GPS coordinates. These commands were monitored by our NET Control on the course and relayed to the Base Command NET Control back

in Laughlin at the hotel parking lot via an amateur HF radio frequency. The helicopter was coming from Kingman, Arizona with an ETA of 50 minutes.

One of the CREST EMTs cut the seat belt restraints and Mike revived Paul. At least Paul was no longer hanging upside-down in the crashed vehicle, but due to the damaged doors and the vehicle resting partially on the door frame, his safe removal was a challenge. Champion Rescue Tools arrived and the “Jaws of Life” was used to remove the driver’s door entirely. Now several *REACT* EMTs were able to put the necessary back support and neck brace into place and remove Paul onto a CREST medical backboard for transport.

We had loaned the rally ambulance a handheld GMRS radio to monitor us over the period of the race. The ambulance had arrived and Paul was loaded into it for a short ride to the top of the hilltop he had just driven over to the awaiting helicopter. It appeared our job was done except after the ambulance driving slowly for only about 100 yards, a radio call came out “I need the EMTs to the ambulance, NOW!” “Hurry! I need the EMTs to the ambulance!” The ambulance had stopped and so had Paul’s breathing. Mike jumped into his vehicle and raced to the ambulance. Paul was purple and not breathing. The ambulance attendants were unable to establish an airway. Perhaps Paul had swallowed his tongue. Mike did what had to be done and reestablished the airway and Paul was again stable for the remainder of the trip. The ambulance continued the remaining several hundred yards to the waiting helicopter and after the patient was transferred, the helicopter with flight nurse aboard evacuated Paul to a Las Vegas trauma center.



I am happy to report that Paul is recovering with a broken collar bone, cuts, scrapes and abrasions and is back home. His life was saved twice by Mike Greany directly but it was the combined effort of the entire CREST *REACT* Team. If it were not for proper event planning and prior race event experience, good trained EMTs, an excellent GMRS radio system including four temporary repeaters set up and monitored by Barry Flint, CREST 51 and Rob Clark CREST 89, a great HF net manned by Sal Santangelo, CREST 38 and John Seitz, CREST 44, and extraction tools loaned by Champion Rescue Tools and an ambulance

both on scene quickly from their staged positions, things might have turned out quite differently. After the rescue, Al Bell, Chris Barry, Kenny Edwards, and Keith Mills, all brand new CREST members and tow company employees, righted the wrecked car and towed it off the reservation and over 100 miles back to Laughlin headquarters.

I believe this may be the first time a *REACT* member’s life was saved by another *REACT* member.

## In Recognition of Longterm Members By Norman Kaplan

While going through the *REACT* International, Inc. data base, I noticed that the *REACT* International, Inc. membership is aging. We currently have 2700 members, 654 have been members for more than 20 years. I asked Johnny Stowers to list them for me. He did so and in recognition for their long service, I will be listing their names and Teams in a series of articles. First, congratulations to them and to their Teams. Also, each long-serving Team deserves recognition for their longevity and I would like to see articles on how they have managed to last. The members who have served the longest, follow:

**44 Years:**

**James E (Yogi) Bear**, Unattached Life Member

**43 Years:**

**James T Mitchell**, Las Vegas United *REACT*, Inc.

**42 Years:**

**James W. Rogers**, Coshocton County *REACT* Inc.

**Eugene Wilkins**, Coshocton County *REACT* Inc.

**Jack Carpenter**, Coshocton County *REACT* Inc.

**Lena M Branconnier**, Northern Rhode Island

**Peter Branconnier**, Northern Rhode Island

**Henry Funk**, Hagerstown *REACT*

**40 Years:**

**Reyno Feltner**, Mark Twain *REACT*, Inc.

**Paul F. Veen**, Unattached Life Member

**Robert W. Schroeder**, *REACT* of Greater Long Beach

**Chris Trautner**, Crest *REACT*

**39 Years:**

**Nathan Maryn**, Montgomery County *REACT*

**Walter L. Stewart**, Superstition *REACT*, Inc.

**Aaron M. Straus**, *REACT* of The Golden Gate Area

**Paul H. Raines**, Dallas County *REACT*, Inc.

**Jerry D. Brown**, Dallas County *REACT*, Inc.

**Bob Hitch**, Dallas County *REACT*, Inc.

**Warren Conlee**, Unattached Life Member

**38 Years:**

**Christene White**, Centinela South Bay *REACT*

**Ernst P. Hall**, Herndon *REACT*, Inc.

**Ed Greany**, Crest *REACT*/Crest Comm.

**Bert Horn**, *REACT* of The Golden Gate Area

**37 Years:**

**Allen B. Hanger Jr.**, Herndon *REACT*, Inc.

**Larry V. Luebben**, Unattached Life Member

**Edward McDonald**, *REACT* of The Golden Gate Area

**Mary Lou Nader**, Muskingum County *REACT*

**Bob Faust**, Centinela South Bay *REACT*

**William Edmiston**, Summit County *REACT*, Inc.

**Rolland I. Hopkins Jr.**, *REACT* of Greater Long Beach

**36 Years:**

**Bruce Wood**, Northern Rhode Island

**Kerry Cochran**, *REACT* of The Golden Gate Area

**Catherine L. Hopkins**, *REACT* of Greater Long Beach

**35 Years:**

**Dan E. Stewart**, Spencer County *REACT*

**Ted S. Kime**, Stephens County *REACT* Club

**W. R. Sutton**, Dallas County *REACT*, Inc.

**Patrick C. Sorensen**, Grand Island *REACT*

**Jack E. Griffey**, Heartland *REACT*, Inc.

**Allen E. Gasaway**, Spencer County *REACT*

**Joe Forbess**, Brownwood CB Emergency Unit

**Hero H. Suyekawa**, Unattached Life Member  
**John Nixon**, Dodge County *REACT*

To all of our long term members a hardy and heartfelt thank you. To those listed above a special vote of appreciation for your support.

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

*What you do is what counts.*

Send us your information at:

[editor1@reactintl.org](mailto:editor1@reactintl.org)

[reacthq1@reactintl.org](mailto:reacthq1@reactintl.org)

and don't forget Ron McCracken's column in *Popular Communications*:  
[ronmccr@hotmail.com](mailto:ronmccr@hotmail.com).

and the *REACT-L* list:  
See July-August, 2006 *REACTer*, but remember, it is gibbousmoon, not gtibbousmoon





# REACT News: Teams and Team Members

## HONOLULU REACT – OFF TO THE RACES

By C. C. “Rob” Roberts

From the first Sunday of September through the first Sunday of November, Honolulu REACT Team has been busy supporting events for the running community in Hawaii.

The Honolulu REACT Team includes among its members Motorcycling Amateur Radio Club (MARC) members Mike McQueen, KH7RD, and Rob Roberts, KH7MW. They are respectively vice president and president of the Team. Their loves of motorcycling and radio and the desire to enjoy both simultaneously, have created a synergism that has significantly enhanced Honolulu REACT Team’s abilities and flexibility in support of running events, walks, parades, and other mobile public service events. For these mobile events, the motors are invaluable for their ability to respond quickly to a problem, and if necessary, get there through the participants on the course without the danger that would result from using a four wheeled vehicle. The Team has five “motorcycle mobile units” on Oahu. However, only three of these are Hams.

For the public service events the Team uses General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) as the Primary Frequency on 462.675 MHz with a 141.3 tone via Rob’s personal repeater on the roof top of his 10 story condominium on Punchbowl Mountain, or a portable repeater on 462.725MHz that is on loan from the Pacific Northwest REACT Council. Secondary Frequency is 462.675 MHz Simplex and it also is Primary for events that are out of range of the repeaters. As backups, both 2 meter and 70 cm Amateur frequencies, as well as Citizens Band are used. Most Honolulu REACT members have their own personal GMRS licenses in addition to the Honolulu REACT Team’s grandfathered association license.



Team President C. C. “Rob” Roberts, Unit 4, KH7MW, patrols a running course.

On September 3rd, Honolulu REACT supported the Mid Pacific Road Runners Club’s (MPRRC) annual Kalaeloa (Barbers Point) 20 K Run (12 miles), which was conducted as two laps of a six mile course on roads and streets of the old Barbers Point Naval Air Station in the Southwest corner of Oahu. This is the first race of the Honolulu Marathon Readiness Series that runners use to prepare themselves for the Honolulu Marathon, conducted in December of each year. This year about 800 runners participated in this race. Race management was quite a challenge because there were insufficient special duty police officers to handle the necessary traffic control functions, and no course marshals. Additionally, no coning of a runners lane had been done on the busiest road on the course. Honolulu REACT undertook the traffic control and course marshal functions. A follow-up meeting was requested by Rob as Team president with the MPRRC current president and president elect to discuss these shortcomings so they could be prevented in future events.

On September 24th, Honolulu REACT supported the MPRRC Schofield Barracks 25 K Run (15 miles), conducted on the streets and roads of Schofield Barracks Army Post, the home of Tropic Lightning, the 25th Infantry Division (Light) which has seen much action in both Afghanistan and Iraq. There were approximately



1,000 runners in this event, which is also one of the Honolulu Marathon Readiness Series.



Honolulu *REACT* Team secretary Daughn O'Neill, Unit 30 monitors a critical intersection.

On Sunday morning October 1st, Honolulu *REACT* Team provided communications for the Windward Half Marathon which started at 5:30 AM in Kailua, on the Eastern side of Oahu. The race had approximately 1,000 participants, and due to various skill levels, were spread out over the entire race course. Conducted concurrently over parts of the same course with staggered start times, was also a 5 K Run and a Keiki (children's) 1 Mile Run, which started at 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM respectively.



Honolulu *REACT* member Mark Mitsuoka, Unit 27, NH7RK, conducting traffic control and acting as a course marshal.

On Sunday, October 8th, Honolulu *REACT* Team supported MPRRC's annual Tantalus 10 Mile Run which goes up and then back down Tantalus Mountain. The road is narrow with tight, blind turns, including several switchbacks, and a significant altitude change of approximately 1,500 feet. This event, due to its grueling nature, had

only 200 participants. One of the participants has celebrated his 85th birthday. He is a regular participant in the MPRRC races, who always runs in "flip flop" rubber slippers, so is affectionately known by all as Slipper Man. He is often the last finisher, but he always finishes.



Team vice president, Mike "Soda" McQueen, Unit 3, KH7RD, patrols the course of the Windward Half Marathon

Sunday morning, October 15th, found Honolulu *REACT* Team providing communications and race course safety to the MPRRC Niketown 30 K Run (18 miles), another of the Honolulu Marathon Readiness Series. The race started at 5:00 AM from Kapiolani Park in Waikiki, proceeded around the ocean side of Diamond Head Mountain through Waialae/Kahala, and onto Kalaniana'ole Highway along the shoreline out to Hawaii Kai. There it turned around and returned to Kapiolani Park by retracing the route into Kahala, past the Waialae Country Club (home to the Sony Hawaiian Open Golf Tournament). A little after 7:00 AM the ground shook with the effects of the 6.7 Richter earthquake that was centered nine miles northwest of Kailua-Kona on the "Big Island" (Hawaii), located about 250 miles Southeast of Honolulu. Within a few seconds all electrical power was lost throughout the state. As with all earthquakes anywhere in the Pacific, one of the immediate concerns in Hawaii is the very real danger of a tsunami (tidal wave), which is generated by the "shake." The Hams in *REACT* immediately began maintaining a listening watch of NOAA radio, the Oahu Civil Defense Net which was immediately manned by RACES per-

sonnel, and to the Honolulu Emergency Amateur Radio Club which is the local ARES affiliate. If the quake had generated a tsunami, there would have been about 30 minutes from the time of the quake until the first wave arrived at Oahu. The event was being conducted in the area which would be one of the first places struck by the tsunami. Luckily, there was no wave, and everyone was so advised by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center within just a couple of minutes. Very luckily indeed for Honolulu *REACT* Team since the majority of the race course is low lying, near shore, and therefore in a projected tsunami inundation area. With 1,200 runners on the course, and countless citizens without operating radios asking what was going on, Honolulu *REACT* was very happy that they did not have to begin helping with notifications of emergency evacuation.

Honolulu *REACT*'s next event, the MPRRC/Val Nolasco Half Marathon, was held on Sunday, November 5th, with over 1,400 participants. The event was conducted on a beautiful morning in paradise that truly was spectacular. It went smoothly and safely with the *REACT* units and the special duty Honolulu Police Officers working side by side. Working these events has fostered friendships between some of these police officers and the *REACT* members that have carried over into their private lives. This particular event proceeded without any major problems; however, Daughn O'Neill, Unit 30, did apply a little bit of first aid on one of the male participants who had fallen and abraded his knee and his hand. He just needed a little clean up and a band aid or two, but refused to have an ambulance called for him.

Honolulu *REACT*'s last event of the MPRRC/Honolulu Marathon Readiness Series will be Sunday, December 3, 2006. It is the MPRRC Sylvia Maartz (Sam's) Memorial 5K Run. Since it is the last formal race prior to the actual Honolulu Marathon, there is a very large runner participation expected. The Honolulu Marathon usually has in excess of 20,000 entrants, and historically at least a third participate in Sam's 5K.

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## About Your Subscription

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

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

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

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

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

## REACTERS SAVE A LIFE

On December 10th 2006, Chief William R. (Bill) Kofron and his wife Major Linda D. Kofron were awarded the Blue Knights International Lifesaving Award in Charleston, South Carolina. William, has been the Chief of Colleton County *REACT* 3153, in Walterboro, South Carolina since 1980 and also is the North Carolina State *REACT* Council Vice President. Linda is the Team Treasurer for Colleton County *REACT*. Both William and Linda are Certified Instructors in Basic Life Support.

The Citation with the award reads as follows:  
**For Life Saving : William Kofron, KStJ, Vice President SCIII Linda Kofron**

*Awarded by the Board of Governors*

(cont)



“William Kofron and his wife, Linda, were on a South Carolina III ride to Swan Lake in Sumter, SC on April 2, 2006. On their way back, there was an accident on I-95 South Bound, mile marker 67. They rode around the backed up traffic and found a young lady lying on the ground where she had lost control of her SUV and hit a tree in the median. She was bleeding from her head and both arms and both legs were ripped open. William and Linda stopped to assist and donned rubber gloves from their saddle bag. There were no medical personnel on site. The Kofrons proceeded to take action to stop her bleeding. By the time fire rescue personnel arrived, they had her stabilized and she was transported by helicopter to the hospital.”



God bless us all and let's hope for an uneventful, happy and joyous 2007.

Carolyn & Jon Mosby

### CLEVELAND COUNTY, North Carolina, REACT

It was a busy summer and fall for Cleveland County REACT. The Team works closely with the Sheriff's Department and with the Shelby City Police. “We are the eyes and ears for the Cleveland County Sheriff and City of Shelby Police,” says Capt. Jay Flora.

Between June 12 and November 21, 2006, the Team:

- Set up and/or participated in three SKY-WARN nets (9/10, 11/17, 11/21)
- Assisted police at a domestic violence scene (6/12)
- Directed traffic and otherwise assisted at traffic accidents (6/12, 6/17) The 6/17 event involved an overturned 18-wheeler and required major efforts on the part of the Team.
- Assisted at a Triathlon event (6/17)

### BLACKBERRY (California) REACT

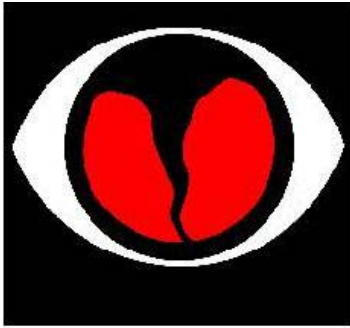
Blackberry REACT (Mountain View, California) has a tradition of meeting on the second Saturday of December, instead of our regular first Wednesday of every month. In December, our meeting consists of approving previous months minutes (By-Laws state that they have to be approved by the members) and holding election of officers for the coming year. The meeting is then adjourned and we enjoy dinner and good fellowship together. This year we provided the cake for dessert from our local bakery. It turned out so great, I had to share it with the REACTer.

Actively involved in the public service and emergency management support were Team members: Lloyd Idol (president), Spencer Jones (vice president), Janet Idol, Donna Jones, Glenn Johnson, Tommy Roof, Jay Flora, Susan Horn, and Wayne Ledford. They were thanked for their effort at a dinner sponsored by the City of Kings Mountain.

(more p 16)

### REACT International Office upgrades to hi-speed DSL Internet!

Thanks to some cost savings arranged by Director Manlove, our office has been upgraded from dial-up access too DSL access with a router to permit all office computers full time access to the Internet, allow wireless access by visiting directors during board meetings, and allow the computer services committee the ability to remotely service the office computers via hi-speed connection rather than their current 24k dial-up access. The new phone system included better rates on local and long distance calls made from the office, retained the primary voice and fax lines, and added a new voice mail system that isn't answering machine dependent. This allows voice mail messages to be accessed remotely if the office is closed or unavailable during emergencies. Oh, and to make the deal even better... our monthly expense has been reduced by about \$20 for telephone and Internet access.



# SKYWARN

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

## **Submission Guidelines for *REACTer*:**

We are in the process of updating our submission guidelines, but can offer the following. Electronic submissions are preferred. Send to:

**<editor1@reactintl.org>.**

Please photos. Your editor has only a dialup connection and can't handle large files. Paper submissions should go to:

**Don Tarbet  
144 Atkinson Rd.  
Bradford, ME 04410**

## **Emergency Communications Training**

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

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

\*\*\*

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

## **EDITOR'S CORNER Don Tarbet**

**This year** marks the 45th anniversary of *REACT* International (See Jim Koritzky's article in the November-December, 2006 *REACTer*.) Let's make some real efforts this year to recruit new members. (See Norman Kaplan's headquarters article on page 2.) And let people know what we do. (inside cover, pages 2, 8, 15)

We need to make ourselves visible to the public as a highly professional organization— and we need to communicate among ourselves. We are, after all, a communications organization.

Paul Jackson, Director for Region 4, addresses these issues in two short pieces (page 16). See inside front cover for an information sheet you can modify for distribution.

Let us know of your own recruitment efforts and of any plans you may have for the year. Remember also that May is *REACT* month.

The American Red Cross is still in the news, as is a FCC decision to drop the Morse Code requirement. (See page 15.)

**Don't Forget: The deadline for the March-April, 2007 *REACTer* is February 5, 2007.**



## 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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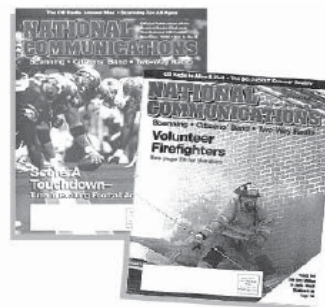
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## RI E-Mail & Website Changes in 2007

By Johnny Stowers,  
Computer Services Chair

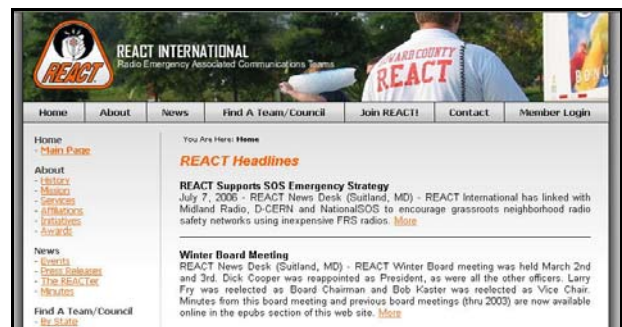
In the past 12 months there has been a noticeable increase in SPAM and refinement of methods used to both circumvent and defeat anti-SPAM filters. Despite the increased use of various filters and external pre-filter programs, the levels have increased. We've had committee chairs refuse to accept e-mail relayed through their committee address to their personal e-mail address, some to the extent that they have threatened refused to serve in such capacities simply due to the e-mail levels being received. At one point, AOL had blacklisted the RI email server because of reported SPAM being forwarded (legitimately) to AOL customers who were serving in a committee or board position.

Therefore due to increasingly excessive SPAM e-mail volumes being received by those using assigned *REACT* International Email addresses, all e-mail addresses have been changed effective immediately. Some of them had reported receiving hundreds of SPAM messages each day, despite the filters at the RI server and those of their own ISP. New addresses are listed below, and have been posted on the RI web site in a manner that will hopefully reduce or prevent the harvesting of such addresses by automated methods used by SPAMMERS. Most were changed by inserting a period between the person's first initial and last name, or by adding a "1" (one) to the end of the portion prior to the "@" sign. This change has been discussed by the RI Board of Directors and Officers and received their blessing. I think Chairman Larry Fry's exact comment to Lee Besing was "is it done yet?"

We are aware that there will be some initial confusion in conjunction with these changes, but if you help us by making sure you tell everyone (other than the hated SPAMMERS of course) about these changes, we can minimize that factor somewhat.

We have listed some of the more heavily used email addresses below, and the *REACT* International web site has already been updated to reflect them. The email addresses listed below are NOT case sensitive, so you can use a combination of upper / lower case. We've also changed the Board Server address from "board@reactintl.org" to "ri.board@reactintl.org" for the same reason. You will note that we've also changed the address for the office, to "reacthq1@reactintl.org."

By the time you read this article in the *REACT*er, the entire *REACT* International web site will also have been relocated to a different server, for both web and e-mail hosting, where we hope some new, more sophisticated (and expensive) filtering software will help us prevent overloading our officers / directors / chairpersons' email boxes.



The Computer Services Committee is also working to revise the current *REACT* International web site with a new design, new navigation structure to modernize what Lee Besing created back in 1995 and Wayne Barringer updated to the current format that we are currently using. Various members of the Computer Services Committee have strived to keep it updated over the years. But the time has come to make another major revision / update to the extent of needing to "throw out the baby with the wash water." David Perry has stepped up to bat with some new innovative design ideas and will be working with the Computer Services Committee to deliver you a new web site we can all be proud of. If you have the appropriate skills and wish to help us with the RI web site, or other Teams/Councils to develop their own sites, why not volunteer to help us?

And while we're writing about web sites, has your Team or Council updated your own web site lately? Some Teams and Councils have taken advantage of a special low cost offer by Lee Besing's company, Digital Fortress; <[www.DigitalFortress.biz](http://www.DigitalFortress.biz)> to get web site and email hosting for only \$5/month (\$60/year US) including the cost of a domain name registration. There are other free alternatives if you search for them, most will not offer domain name registration free of charge. Compare your various alternatives and then contact the Website Development Assistance Team (members of the Computer Services Committee and other web master skilled volunteers) by using the new email address of "websites1@reactintl.org" to make arrangements if you want any assistance.

**Officer / Director / Chair**

**2007 E-mail Address**

Dick Cooper, President	d.cooper@reactintl.org
Ed Greany, Vice President	e.greany@reactintl.org
Lee Besing, Secretary	l.besing@reactintl.org
Norman Kaplan, Treasurer	n.kaplan@reactintl.org
Chuck Thompson, General Counsel	c.thompson@reactintl.org
Larry Fry, Board Chair	l.fry@reactintl.org
Robert "Bob" Kaster, Board Vice Chair	r.kaster@reactintl.org
Don Manlove, Director, 2	d.manlove@reactintl.org
Fred Lanshe, Director 1	f.lanshe@reactintl.org
John Knott, Director 3	j.knott@reactintl.org
Kenny Jagdeosingh, Director 9	k.jagdeosingh@reactintl.org
Ron McCracken, Asst. Director 9	r.mccracken@reactintl.org
Paul Jackson, Director, 4	p.jackson@reactintl.org
Crichton "Rob" Roberts, Director 6	r.roberts@reactintl.org
Allan Friend, Asst. Director 6	a.friend@reactintl.org
Johnny Stowers, Computer Services	j.stowers@reactintl.org
Dora Wilbanks, <i>REACT</i> HQ	reathq1@reactintl.org
<i>REACT</i> Board List Server	ri.board@reactintl.org

**Committee**

**2007 E-mail Address**

Awards	awards1@reactintl.org
Bylaws	rules1@reactintl.org
Communications	communications1@reactintl.org
Computer Services	computer1@reactintl.org
Convention Site Selection	siteselection1@reactintl.org
Editor	editor1@reactintl.org
Emergency Communications Course	iwantecomm1@reactintl.org
FCC Liaison	fcc1@reactintl.org
Five-Year Planning	planning1@reactintl.org
Government Relations Liaison	govrelations1@reactintl.org
Junior <i>REACT</i>	juniors1@reactintl.org
Membership	membership1@reactintl.org

Public Relations  
Publications Review  
Training & Membership Development  
Voluntary Agency Liaison  
Ways & Means  
Website Development Assistance

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review1@reactintl.org  
training1@reactintl.org  
volag1@reactintl.org  
waysmeans1@reactintl.org  
websites1@reactintl.org

*Ed. Note: The computer committee asks that you note these addresses, but NOT enter them in your address book. It is from address books that spammers get many of their addresses.*

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## SILENT MICS

### RON CHENEY Dixie County REACT

On September 28, 2006 at 4:00 a.m., Ron Cheney of Old Town, Dixie County, FL became a Silent Mic. His Amateur Radio Call Sign was KF4NUM. Ron was a member of Lower Pinellas REACT since the mid or early 1970s, and continued as a member when the name was changed to Dixie County REACT. He was also a member of D.A.R.K. (Dixie Amateur Radio Klub). He was a volunteer member of the Old Town Fire Dept. and studied to be an EMT.

Ron was a member of the Sheriff's Advisory Committee of Pinellas County and worked in the St. Petersburg EOC during several hurricanes. He was also a member of the St. Petersburg Red Cross and Pinellas Eagles.

He was generous in many ways, both with time and equipment (which he loaned to organizations for emergency use). A number of times he loaned his

trailer to people suddenly homeless or burned-out. Ron spent more than 20 years volunteering in various groups and will be sorely missed.

We met him when we joined REACT about 35 years ago and have been friends for all these years. This was a most difficult notice to compose.

He leaves behind a brother, sister and a daughter, Tamera, and five grandchildren.

KG4TLW Albert J. Moccia, Jr.  
KG4TLX Sandra T. Moccia

### ERNIE HALL Herndon REACT, Northern Virginia REACT Club

Ernst P. "Ernie" Hall died October 31 at the age of 81. Ernie was REACT life member 491, a member of Herndon REACT (C332) for the last 30 years, and president of the Northern Virginia REACT Club.

Ernie was born in Clarksburg, W. Va., and graduated from West Virginia University in Morgantown. He received a master's degree in chemical en-

gineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 1953.

He moved to the Washington area in 1966 to work for the Federal Water Quality Administration which became part of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1970. He retired from EPA in 1992.

Ernie is survived by his wife, Chivy Renegado Hall, three children from his first marriage, and three grandchildren.

### GARY KRZACZKOWSKI, Cass County REACT, Indiana REACT Council

Gary Krzaczkowski, 58, Kewanna, Indiana, passed away December 31, 2006, after a short illness. He was an active member of Cass County REACT, Logansport, Indiana and the Indiana State REACT Council. Our prayers are with his family and his REACT family during this time.

Sue Barton, Secretary for the Indiana State REACT Council

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

### AMERICAN RED CROSS Don Tarbet

**The American Red Cross** (ARC) background check requirement for all volunteers is still causing controversy with opposition – and support – coming from all sides. Some *REACT*ers seem unconcerned; others have concerns. ARC is losing an unknown number of volunteers of all sorts.

First, the report in the last issue of the *REACT*er that volunteers would have to pay the fee for the check after a deadline was wrong. It is the local chapter who will have to pay. One individual outside *REACT* told me, “To hell with the fee. If I decide to go through this, I’ll make a donation in that amount.” Others might consider following this example.

The concerns among our members and others seem to center around: 1. Internet security, 2. the perceived arbitrary and inflexible nature of the requirement, 3. ever-increasing encroachment on personal privacy by government, non-government organizations, and corporations, 4. the feeling that this is more PR than substance, and 5. conflicting reports as to the extent and depth of the checks.

On the other hand: 1. The company doing the check has a good reputation. 2. The checks will provide a filter for new volunteers, 3. The volunteer can provide sideboards to the check as outlined on the company website (see last issue). 4. ARC is totally dependent upon its image – its PR – for its very existence. 5. ARC has insurance and liability issues.

If you have problems, get together with your chapter. They are really the ones you will be working with. We (Penobscot *REACT*) are doing so. Of course, in case of a wide-scale disaster, you may find yourself working with a completely different level within ARC. Nevertheless, start with your local chapter.

### FCC ELIMINATES CODE

**The FCC** is in the process of eliminating the Morse code Requirement for all classes of amateur license. As a result, all Technician class operators will get the same privileges as do Technicians who have passed the code exam. These are identical with those for the Novice class and will include phone and/or telegraphy on four HF bands.

Delegates at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) voted to eliminate the international agreement requiring code proficiency for access to international bands.

Most of the world’s military and other governmental services have either drastically reduced or eliminated code use.

ARRL reports that no effective date has yet been set. “...the effective date will be 30 days after the document appears in the *Federal Register*. Publication likely will occur in January, with the new rules going into effect in February.

### THANKS TO *REACT* IN CLEVELAND

I just wanted to write to say a big THANK YOU to the *REACT* Team in Cleveland that helped me to get my stalled vehicle off of a very dangerous highway in Cleveland last night. I do not know the name of the local *REACT* Team or the names of the guys that helped me, but I truly appreciated their timely response and help.

I was heading westbound on I-90 in Cleveland around 1:30 a.m. when my truck ran out of gas on a very busy bridge with no shoulder. I pulled over as far as I could and got out. A *REACT* car saw my flashers from the opposite side of the highway and immediately came over to me with cruiser lights and flashers, which helped to slow oncoming traffic. Shortly after that, a second *REACT* cruiser pulled up behind to help slow traffic. They were going to try to push my vehicle but the rear bumper was too high. The two

*REACT* cruisers waited until a AAA tow truck arrived and got me on my way.

I really appreciated the help your Cleveland Team provided.

I had never heard of *REACT* before but am glad that such a service exists. Keep up the good work and be sure to commend your Cleveland area team.

Sincerely,  
Mark Slater; Lakewood OH

*Ed note: Now let's hear from the Team involved.*

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## PRESENTING *REACT* TO THE PUBLIC

Paul Jackson, Director, Region 4

Keep your vehicles neat and clean. This is very important when you display *REACT* on your mobile units. If you represent your Team as a quality organization, it will demonstrate the Team's pride and may possibly attract new members. Uniforms should be neat and clean also, and try to smile when working fund raisers or parking lot traffic control – or anything else that puts you in the public view.



These actions will let the public know that our organization's activities are fun as well as providing volunteer communications services to the community. If you obtain a few members this way, please share the information with a Board member, so that the Board can discuss the possibilities for recruiting new members.

## MONITORING LOGS AND COMMENTS OR IDEAS

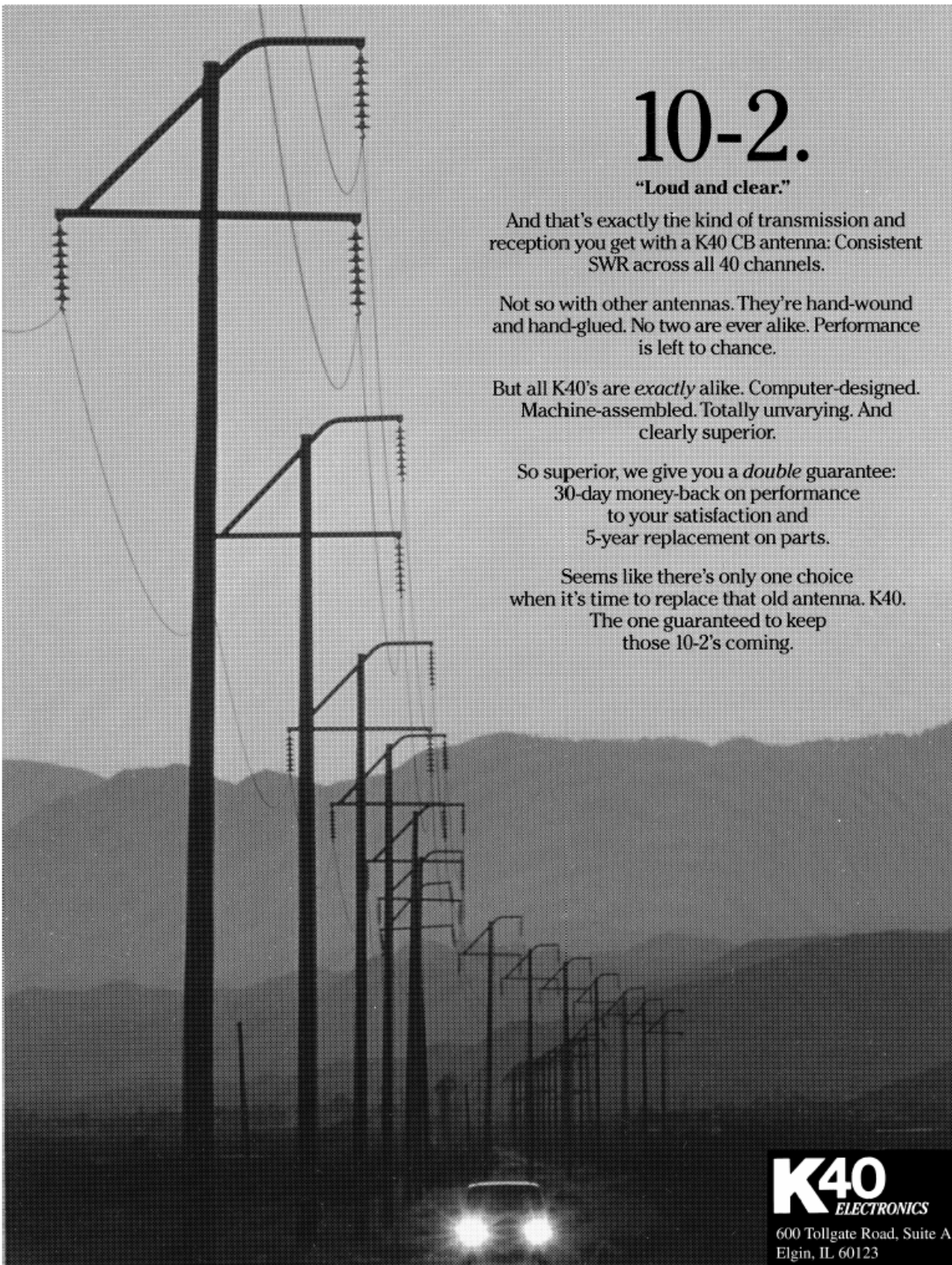
Paul Jackson, Director, Region 4

We need to start to turn in monitoring logs to Councils so that they can send them to Directors for the Region or to International Head-

quarters. By sending logs to Directors, you can keep them informed as to what is going on and give them information to share with Teams and Councils in their Regions and also to share at Board meetings. Remember, if we are kept informed, then we as *REACT* Board members can better represent you. Send ideas, comments, or anything that will help *REACT* to continue to help the public through Communications and help the organization to grow.

Let's hear YOUR ideas for helping *REACT* grow.





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