



The REACTer



Well deserved awards – P. 4

From the President – 2

From Headquarters – 3

***REACT* Awards – 4**

Summer Board Meeting – 4

***REACT* News – Teams and Team Members – 5**

***REACT* PFOG – 11**

Silent Mics – 13

“Unattached Life Member?” – 14

REACT-L – 15



The REACT involvement list



We provide:

Communications support for community activities

Marathons
 Fairs
 Halloween patrol
 Walkathons
 Parades
 Cart races
 Bike rides
 Chili cook-off
 Tractor races
 Hot air balloons
 Triathlons
 Drag races
 Air shows
 Motorboat races
 Road rallies
 Radio classes
 Fireworks displays
 Safety breaks
 Canoe races
 Radios for Mexico
 Animal evacuation
 Traffic reports
 Amber alerts
 Neighborhood Watch
 National celebrations
 Easter Seal run/walk
 Special Populations Programs
 Vehicle Assistance
 Search and Rescue



American Red Cross



Communications support for agencies and organizations

American Red Cross
 Salvation Army
 Missing person searches
 March of Dimes
 Emergency Operations Centers
 News media
 Fire watch
 Special Olympics
 Toys for Tots
 Red Flag Patrol
 Sheriff's Department
 City Police
 Sky Warn and NWS/NOAA
 Accident reports
 Flood watch
 CERT
 School Districts
 Park Departments
 Disaster emergency drills
 Ministry of Transportation
 National SOS
 U.S. Coast Guard
 Hurricane Watch
 Emergency Rescue Unit Fdtn.
 Cancer Society
 M. S. Society
 Audubon Society
 V.O.A.D
 State Agencies

THE REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams) MISSION

We will provide public service communications to individuals, organizations, and government agencies to save lives, prevent injuries, and give assistance wherever and whenever needed.

We will strive to establish a monitoring network of trained volunteer citizen-based communicators using any and all available means to deliver the message.

Communications volunteers needed. Information at: www.reactintl.org and (301)316-2900

REACT International Officers

President: Dick Cooper, N2LMK
Executive Vice-President:
 Ed Greany, KB6DOL
Secretary: Lee W. Besing, N5NTG
Treasurer:
 Norman Kaplan, N3LDM
General Counsel:
 Charles A. Thompson, N5IAG

Board of Directors

Chairman:
 John Knott, N4JTK
Vice-Chairman:
 Don Manlove

Region 1: Fred J. Lanshe, N3QLU
Region 2: Don Manlove
Region 3: John Knott, N4JTK
Region 4: Paul Jackson
Region 5: Larry Fry, K9FRY
Region 6: Crichton "Rob" Roberts, KH7MW
Region 7: Robert Kaster, K5MIE
Region 8: Joseph Toth
Region 9: Kenny Jagdeosingh
Ex Officio: Dick Cooper, N2LMK

Publications Review Committee:

review1@reactintl.org
 Daughn O'Neill, Chair
 Eric Hutchins, K7ELH
 R.K. "Bob" Leef, KB6DON

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

Volume 41, No. 4 July – August 2007

Board/Officers.....	Inside Back Cover
REACT service	Inside Front Cover
From the President.....	Dick Cooper 2
From Headquarters.....	Norman Kaplan 3
Awards	Dick Cooper 4
Summer Board Meeting	4
REACT – Teams and Members	5
Calendar	5
Advertiser's Index.....	9
REACT PFOG	Wayne Barringer 11
Silent Mics.....	13
"Unattached Life Member?".....	Ron McCracken 14
Editor's Corner.....	14
REACT-L	Ron McCracken 15



Well deserved awards P. 4

The REACTer (ISSN 1055-9167) is the official publication of REACT International, Inc., a nonprofit public service corporation. © 2005 RI. All rights reserved.

Mailed at Periodicals Rate at Suitland, MD, and other mailing offices. **POSTMASTER: Send address changes to REACT, 5210 Auth Rd., Suite 403, Suitland, MD 20746-4393.**

The REACTer is published bimonthly (six issues per year). The subscription price is included in members' dues. Subscription rate for nonmembers is \$7.50 per year (U.S.).

REACT Teams or Councils may reproduce articles in their publications if proper credit is given.

Articles and photo submissions are welcome, but cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage. We are not responsible for unsolicited materials. Please see our **Publication Guidelines** at www.REACTintl.org for more information.

For information regarding advertising, please contact the Advertising Manager at the e-mail address or the Suitland office address shown at left.

The REACTer is available on-line, in full color, at www.REACTintl.org.

Photo Credits: Unless otherwise specified, photos are from the Team featured in the accompanying article or from RI.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dick Cooper



Well, here I am again talking about the future of *RE-*

ACT. Seems like this is a subject that can go on forever because the future goes on forever. By the time you read this article, there will have been an impromptu meeting of a few members of the Board of Directors to discuss possible solutions to some of the problems that face *REACT* today. Getting back to the “*REACT* of yesterday” will require a lot of work by a lot of members and will take some time. For instance, many of the items relating to training, Team management and Team operations have been allowed to stagnate without updates. Imagine if you don’t change the spark plugs in your car for 200,000 miles. If your car still runs it certainly won’t run efficiently. Updating many of these items is only part of the current *REACT* situation that needs to be corrected.

I feel that the future and success of *REACT* hinges around 3 main areas - membership recruitment and retention, public relations, and finance (not necessarily in that order). Of course we all know the importance of getting new members, but cer-

tainly don’t overlook your existing members in the process. You must keep current members busy and satisfied with *REACT* in order to keep them as members. Recognition or certificates for achievements in monitoring, event hours, and other things is only one way to maintain members’ interest. Make them feel more like a part of the Team by using their abilities and talents. Public relations is simply letting the public know that *REACT* exists and what we do or what we are doing on an ongoing basis. The best type of article is the one that tells about *REACT*’s involvement in a local event. Of course you have to submit the press release in the proper format to the newspaper or other media in a very timely manner to get it published. You may be able to talk to an editor to get ideas about how to do this or visit your local library. *REACT* has a 30 second PSA (public service announcement) that can be purchased from RI for a minimal price and given to various media for PR purposes. This PSA has video as well as audio. In reality all 3 of the areas listed above go hand in hand and any growth (in *REACT*) can’t happen unless all 3 areas receive immediate and intense attention. Local membership and public relations are 2 areas where Teams can help the most so look for more articles and how-to tips concerning these areas in *The REACTer*.

Do you know the name of the *REACT* Regional Director that covers your state? Do you know

how to contact him/her when needed or do you just call the RI office? Do you know the responsibilities of a Regional Director? The answers to these and many other Board-related questions have been answered in various *REACTer* articles, summaries of minutes of the Board of Directors and may be available on the RI website at <www.reactintl.org> under “Board of Directors.” Simply stated, the RI Board of Directors consists of the RI officers and 9 Regional Directors plus the President. Each has the same list of responsibilities but in a different geographic area of North America and the world (breakdown on RI website). The Directors’ primary emphasis is on membership growth and retention within their region, but they are also available to assist Teams and Councils with questions concerning Team and Council operations, growth and problems. You will find a list of the Directors’ names inside the front cover of each *REACTer*. The name, photo, contact information and geographic coverage area can be found on the RI website. The RI office can give you contact information if you are unable to obtain it. You’ll be surprised how much the Directors will be able to help you. Your Director can also be your voice to the Board of Directors as they are all voting Board members. I encourage you to contact your Director today.

The last concern that I will discuss is that of member in-

involvement in *REACT*. This is a membership organization – always has been and always will be. This means that all operating funds come from the membership and everything that is done in the name of *REACT* is done by members. We don't have banks of employees that do our work or magically get members into *REACT*, all of that is done by you the membership and that means that *REACT* is YOUR ORGANIZATION! In other words the current membership must work to get more members, keep the members we have, help with public relations and all of the other duties that must be done within *REACT*. Don't always wait for the Board to do it because the RI Board of Directors has bigger "fish to fry" on the RI level. Get involved today.

From Headquarters By Norman Kaplan



REACT International Headquarters is going to its summer hours: 0700 through 1530 hours EDT on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This schedule will run through September 15, 2007.

Additional Teams that have reached 100% renewal are: CA: 6100, C373, new Team 6130; CO: 6122; IN: C261; KS: 4208; NY: 4938; and OK: 2620.

Insurance costs for July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 will be \$10.50 per member. As Treasurer, I am recommending to the Board of Directors that *REACT* International maintain its current \$11.00 fee per member to the Team.

Hurricane season has started. The Gulf of Mexico and East Coast states are at risk, as always. *REACT* amateur members may be called upon for high frequency communications during this season. Please make sure that your equipment is deployable.

It has been several years since the last *REACT* 5-year plan was developed. *REACT* International will be going through this exercise again. If anyone has any interest or comments, please send them to *REACT* International. Your thoughts are important.

The *REACT* brand has been emergency communications through CB radio. Currently, from the Monitoring Reports filed with *REACT* International, CB radio is still important but it is no longer the only radio frequencies that we use. GMRS and amateur radio use are growing. It is time that our brand be changed to cover emergency communications without the mention of the frequency. Your thoughts are welcome.

A reminder, if you use the *RE-*

ACT trademarks, please send a copy of the item with the trademark or an individual item to *REACT* International. As the trademark owner, we need to keep track of their usage.

Let us know about any 45th anniversary plans your Team is working on or has completed

National Preparedness Month (U.S.) is September.

Does your Team have any plans? Maybe an SOS drill? Maybe FEMA compliance? An information booth? A disaster drill? An information session for volunteers?

Whatever you plan, let the public know; and let us know.



REACT Recognition Awards

By Dick Cooper



Saturday June 16, 2007, was a special day in *REACT* for 2 reasons. The first reason was a meeting of RI treasurer Norman Kaplan and *REACT* president Dick Cooper to discuss possible solutions and timelines concerning some of the problems facing *REACT* today. We met at the RI office in Suitland, Maryland. Saturday afternoon's session was very productive and we felt that there were many good suggestions that came out of the meeting. These ideas, along with the accompanying plans of action and timelines, will be presented to the RI Board of Directors at their summer board meeting on August 25, 2007.

After lunch Norman and I prepared for our meeting but before we started I presented a plaque and a \$50 dinner certificate for Topolino's Restaurant from the RI Board of Directors to Dora Wilbanks in appreciation for the 9 years of dedicated work that she has done for *REACT*. Many *REACT*ers have talked to Dora about various subjects from renewal questions to Team problems and everything else. She is always available to all members, to help them in whatever way she can and never makes members feel like their call or inquiry doesn't matter. These traits are hard to find and we are fortunate to have her. Congratulations Dora.

The other presentation came as a surprise to most people, including many on the board. The *REACT* International President's Award was presented to

Norman Kaplan in appreciation for his countless, valuable hours of volunteer service at the RI office in Suitland. Norman and his wife Elaine live in the DC area and he goes into the office 2-3 days a week to help Dora and work with projects and situations that may come up from time to time. Many times Norman can give quick answers to questions or inquiries due to his vast experience in *REACT* and on the board. Occasionally he represents *REACT* as our official *REACT* Liaison to various organizations' meetings and functions. Congratulations Norman

After the meeting, Norman, Elaine, Dora, Mary (Dora's friend), Fred Lanshe, my wife Mary, and I went to Topolino's Restaurant for dinner where we celebrated the award presentations. In the photo accompanying this article you will see a fuzzy little bird on the fireplace holding a sign that says "Tell Me Again How Lucky I Am To Work Here. I Keep Forgetting."

We all thank you, Dora and Norman – Ed.

REACT Intl. Summer Board meeting

The **Summer Board** Meeting of *REACT* Intl. will be held Saturday, August 25, 2007 at:

Drury Inn
555 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214

All members are welcome to attend. Please RSVP through Board Chairman, John Knott, or Vice Chairman Don Manlove, ASAP so that they can request a larger room if necessary

For John: Home (321) 438-5952
Mobile (321) 438-5952
<j.knott@reactintl.org>

Contact Don at: (804) 439-3017
<d.manlove@reactintl.org>

Call for reservations: 615-902-0400:
Group Reservation #: 2007719

To reserve online, go to www.druryhotels.com, click on **Book it Fast**, then enter group number **2007719**.

Please call 1-800-325-0720 to make your individual group reservations. Please specify the **Hotel location** and reference your **Group Name**.

CUT-OFF DATE: Reservations received after **Wednesday, August 1, 2007** will be provided on a space-available basis at prevailing rates.
804/439-3017

CALENDAR

July - August 2007

-August 5: Deadline for September-October 2007 *REACT*er.

-August 25: Summer Board Meeting, Nashville, Tenn.

-September: National Preparedness Month

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

REACT News: Teams and Team Members

Air Capital *REACT* Responds to Greensburg, Kansas, Tornados

On Friday, May 4, a F5 tornado hit Greensburg, Kansas, leaving death and destruction in its wake. According to Fox News, City Administrator Steve Hewitt estimated 95 percent of the town of 1,500 was destroyed and predicted rescue efforts could take days as survivors could be trapped in basements and under rubble. It was a localized disaster, and REACT's role was limited, but significant. Please note the comments below by Ron Mayes about what is – and is not – needed – Ed.



Ron Mayes, President of Air Capital *REACT* #4208 of Wichita, Kansas reports upon returning

from the scene, "I started my day at 7:00 AM loaded with radios, antenna, cable, wireless access points, and materials to help with radio communications and wireless data (internet) and completed around 5:00 PM and then drove the 113 miles back to my office. It's now around 8:00 PM. My services at the Disaster Area included: Attending a Meeting in Havilland, Kansas (10 miles East of the Disaster area - nearest town) with Kansas VOAD organizations in a general overview meeting conducted by Dee Smith, Kansas VOAD Director and Kansas Salvation Army Disaster Response Leader. In this meeting I provided information on available wireless internet and cellular service and offered two way radio communications to any agency or group that needed it. From there I met with FEMA on site representative, Red Cross, and several other Volunteer agencies. (Salvation Army HAMS affiliates were the only ones operating in the disaster.) I then provided several FRS - GMRS radio sets complete with chargers to the Salvation Army Disaster group to pass out and utilize as needed for persons needing short range communications....

While speaking with the Greensburg city manager, I provided several more FRS - GMRS radio sets with chargers for their use as needed. I attempted to determine through contact with all the agencies involved that I could find if they needed radio communications assistance or two way radios to use for their operations. Through most of my visit

with various agencies I provided my contact information and mentioned *REACT's* willingness to help wherever possible when requested....

This disaster area will take a long time to recover as schools, motels, restaurants, government offices, hospital and medical facilities are now gone and need rebuilt.

Residents of Greensburg were elderly and worked at these government offices or businesses. For an agricultural community with no other major industry it will be interesting to see what happens. In fact there was much discussion that without the ongoing support of government, insurance companies, and major cash donations, this town may go away. As always in a major disaster many want to send used clothing or just show up to help. Unfortunately, this isn't what's needed. Interested persons who want to help should donate cash to their favorite charity and designate such donation for the relief of Greensburg, Kansas. Unattached Volunteers (not trained or associated with any Major Agency) are being stopped and routed to a processing center to determine their capability and the need for such.

... between Federal, State and County Government Disaster Responders they have the latest in wireless communications on their well equipped motor homes. Cellular service was strong in the area as two COWS (Cellular on Wheels) were in place and the Cellular towers just outside of Greensburg weren't affected. All the Federal Government vehicles, and there were a significant number (I saw over twenty four) had two way satellite communications, extended radio masts with antenna and the latest in upper frequency radios, wireless internet access, video camera feeds, and more. Most every volunteer or agency worker had a cellular phone and many had two way radios of their own system.

Thus, it would appear the need for *REACT* and HAM operators has diminished significantly over the past twenty years. In fact FEMA and Federal Agencies were asking the local phone guys for T-1 feeds for their operations, not just DSL. Overall, I believe FEMA and many of the major Disaster

Response Agencies have learned and improved significantly since Katrina.”

AKYAT LINIS MT. KANLAON 2007

(A clean-up drive and Communication Assistance to Trekkers and Mt. Kanlaon Authorities)

Audie Michael Litrada
REACT NEGOR 6118

REACT Negor organized a Clean up drive and communication assistance at Mt. Kanlaon National Park named “AKYAT LINIS MT. KANLAON '07” in cooperation with *REACT* Pasayaw, Philippines, City Government of Canlaon and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Office of the Protected Area Superintendent. There were two groups composed of 9 volunteers who climbed to the summit to meet our objectives and the responsibilities given to us based on the special permit issued by DENR. We were to conduct roving, monitoring, cleanup, and information and evidence gathering regarding illegal trekking and /or illegal forest activities within the park during the week of April 2 to 9, 2007.



Trail map



Trek to the summit

Our group used the entrance to the northwest part of the Park, reaching the summit after a two day hike and picking up some garbage left by irresponsible trekkers. We passed the Enchanted Garden called Harden sang Balo, a very beautiful natural garden, and five old craters which now form a beautiful lagoon. We set up our monitoring camp at a western saddle forest area below the crater and hung up our antenna to contact the base

camp monitoring team and the other *REACT* groups in the park.



Camp site



From left: Audi Michael Litrada with PNRC Team

The group collected approximately 50 lbs. of garbage along the trail and from the camping area, garbage were brought down for proper disposal giving us an additional load while descending from the summit. There were no untoward incidents, despite some observed illegal forest activity like illegal logging, cutting of rattan along the trail.



Volunteers classify the garbage

Mr. Julie Rex Molavin, Protected Area Superintendent, extended his gratitude to *REACT* for being there.

SOS Drill: Try One

Ron McCracken, RI Public Relations Chairman

Hearty congratulations are in order. Two *REACT* Teams led the way and launched the first series of *REACT* 'SOS Drills' during our recent 45th anniversary *REACT* Month celebrations.

Las Vegas United *REACT*, Nevada, and *REACT* Lake Simcoe, Ontario, were those Teams. Air Capital *REACT*, Kansas, was to be another. An F-5 tornado that demolished nearby Greensburg, Kansas disrupted Air Capital's plans. Their response to that disaster took priority.

Hopefully, Air Capital *REACT* will be among many Teams to join in a second series of SOS

Drills in September during National Preparedness Month. Plan to take part. The smallest *REACT* Team can carry off a Drill.



All an SOS Drill requires is an FRS radio, a notepad, and a comfortable chair in a public area. Ron McCracken helps with the first-ever *REACT* SOS Drill, during *REACT* Month. *REACT* Lake Simcoe held simultaneous Drills in Keswick and nearby Sutton, Ontario. Two weeks later, Las Vegas United *REACT* held the second *REACT* SOS Drill, manning several sites in that city. Both Teams plan repeats to involve more FRS owners in their own emergency safety. How about your Team?

No Big Deal

The SOS Drill itself is a cinch. Each of the Teams found that. A single *REACT*er can man the SOS monitoring station to receive check-ins from FRS operators within range. Of course, it's more fun to have company so you can spell one another with the monitoring.

Both *REACT* Teams, in fact, monitored at multiple locations. Las Vegas monitored from several positions across that city. Lake Simcoe established monitoring sites in two neighboring small towns to allow greater participation.

SOS Drills are much like the 'radio nets' that many Teams conduct. Instead of Team members signing in, the public signs in. Each caller simply gives his location so *REACT* monitors can log it and later plot it on a map.

The purpose of the Drill is to determine the range of the callers. It also demonstrates to them that in an emergency, with phones down, they would be able to communicate with others to render or seek help.

To allow comparisons, SOS Drills are held on Saturdays between 1 and 3 p.m. Choose a monitoring spot in an open, public area like a park or

town square for visibility. You want passers-by to ask questions.

Be sure your *REACT*ers are in uniform. You may want to post signs about the Drill, or your Team banner, at the monitoring site. These steps will give your Team more good publicity for its efforts.

Publicity the Key

The prime lesson learned from the initial series of SOS Drills was that heavy publicity is essential to success. Citizens must know that the Drill is happening in order to take part. Each Team now realizes that it must do much more publicity before its next SOS Drill. This is where you must focus your Team's efforts.

Publicity. Remember that key word. It will determine how successful your Team's Drill will be. Issue a news release. Then, follow up after a few days with phone calls or visits to those who received the release/s. That is essential, the Teams quickly learned from these Drills. Without follow-up, the publicity your Drill needs simply may not happen. Success hinges on heavy publicity.

Encouraging Results

Both Teams made contacts with FRS operators during the SOS Drills in their areas. They made fewer contacts than expected. This underscored the need for greater publicity to increase awareness of the Drill.

Beyond the actual SOS contacts made, Teams found considerable activity on other FRS channels by scanning those during the Drills. It was clear that many other people had FRS radios but were unaware of the SOS Drills.

The best recommendation for SOS Drills comes in the news that both Teams already plan to repeat their Drills. Lake Simcoe will conduct another SOS Drill next *REACT* Month. Las Vegas may try another as early as this September during National Preparedness Month.

Both learned well from their first experiences. You can bet that there will be a lot more publicity leading up to their next round of SOS Drills.

Just Say 'Yes'

Once your Team decides to mount an SOS Drill, the rest is easy. Try one in National Preparedness Month. It is the ideal time since SOS Drills are all about preparedness.

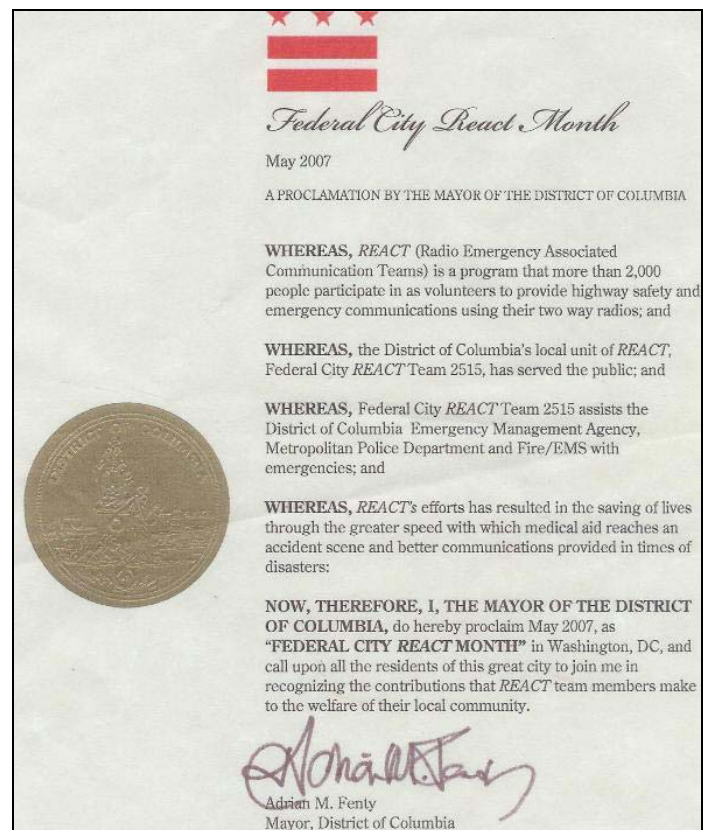
However many contacts you make, you will have helped those people in their preparedness. Word will quickly spread. Like these ground-breaking *REACT* Teams, once your Team has given it a try, you too will be busy planning your Team's next SOS Drill.

(more Team news page 11)

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

Send us your information at:
editor1@reactintl.org
reachq1@reactintl.org

And don't forget Ron McCracken's column in *Popular Communications*:
ronmccr@hotmail.com.



NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

- Access over 4 million frequencies for your scanner
- Toll free "help line" for your programming questions
- Opportunity for FREE classified advertising
- Learn new and interesting ways to use your scanner, CB and FRS radios
- Keep up with the "latest and greatest" happenings within the industry
- 40 colorful pages in each issue

To subscribe to **National Communications**, call toll free 1-800-423-1331, log onto our web site at www.nat-com.org or mail to: PO Box 291918, Kettering, OH 45429
A full year's subscription (6 issues) is only \$21.



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

We accept:



For a free preview of **National Communications** log onto www.nat-com.org



SKYWARN

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

Advertisers Index

Cook Towers.....	8
National Communications.....	7
Popular Communications.....	Back Cover



Submission Guidelines for *REACT*er:

Check our submission guidelines on the website. Electronic submissions are preferred. Send to:

<editor1@reactintl.org>.

Please reduce 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 Communica- tions Training

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

The *REACT* EComm program is available only to *REACT* members. See the EComm Flyer at:

<<http://www.reactintl.org/committees/EComm%20Flyer.pdf>> for more information about the Emergency Communications Training and Certification Program. *REACT* Members should send e-mail to: <IWantEComm@reactintl.org> for information about downloading the manual online.

If you have more training ideas and want to volunteer to help the Training and Development Committee, contact Tom Currie, committee chairman, at: <training1@reactintl.org>

NO TESTING REQUIRED!

Ham radio type repeater operation for the whole family without taking a test! A simple FCC part 95 GMRS license covers everyone in your household. No testing required, just a simple form that may be completed on the internet.

Complete GMRS (UHF) repeater packages at discount prices. Also mobiles, handy-talkies, base stations as well as commercial lines and antennas all available at discount prices. Licensing assistance available. Beldon coax, hard line, repeater and base station antennas.

Communications of all types -- amateur, police, fire, EMS, business and SWL.

Please give us a call or drop us an email today!

COOK TOWERS, INC.
877-992-2665
cooktowersinc@aol.com

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.

**Prince Georges
County REACT**
William Riley

Prince Georges County REACT, Team 2106, provided communications for Bowiefest at Allen Pond Park in Bowie, Maryland, on Saturday, June 2, 2007 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Shown below is the Team's information booth. Pam Riley, N3XFL, is seated behind the table and Don Anderson, WPQQ-565, is visible to the left. Other participants were Ed Brown, KA3ZPE, Fred Johnson, WPYU-847, Bill Riley, N3SNU, and Alan Williams, KAQD-2440.



Bowiefest is attended by some 3000 people. During the event, Pam, N3XFL, noticed a commotion about 5 booths away, and alerted Bill, N3SNU. Bill investigated and found a woman, who had recently undergone a knee replacement, had fallen and could not get up. Bill, who is an Emergency Medical Technician, evaluated the patient and requested an ambulance. City of Bowie Park Rangers and members of the Civil Air Patrol booth nearby

also responded. By the time the county ambulance responded, the patient had been assisted into a chair and decided to refuse further treatment. During the remainder of the day, the Team relayed information requests concerning one performing group that didn't show up on time, and one lost parent.

On May 26, 2007, the Team provided communications support and staffed street barricades for the City of Bowie "Memorial Day Parade." Members participating included Ed Brown, KA3ZPE, Don Anderson, WPQQ-565, Pam Riley, N3XFL, Bill Riley, N3SNU, Fred Johnson, WPYU-847, and Alan Williams, KAQD-2440. The members arrived at Acorn Hill Park between 9 and 10 a.m. to receive assignments. The parade stepped off at approximately 11 a.m. and lasted until approximately 1 p.m. Each REACT member participating saved the City of Bowie the overtime pay it would have taken to have a city employee on duty for the parade.

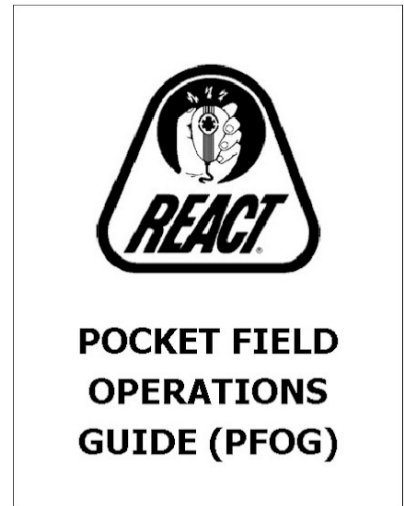


(more Team news P. 16)

REACT PFOG

Wayne Barringer,
KB6UJW, KAG0370
President Orange County
REACT

Field operations frequently result in the need for information, perhaps either in a specific area or to contact someone. I can also attest (from personal experience) that as we get older, some things are more difficult to remember than others (when I remember what those are, I'll write again).



One solution the Preparedness + Readiness Committee of Orange County (Calif.) REACT #6125 came up with is the pocket field operations guide (PFOG). The original idea was to develop one specifically for our Team members, but we discovered that it might be a viable tool for other Teams if we made a few modifications.

After removing all of the references for our secret handshake and other very critical items

(like who was left standing on the grassy knoll), we set about the task of "reformulating" our project and making it presentable for others. We began this project using Microsoft Word2000, but realized there were some "features" we wanted to include that seems more problematic than what our intelligence would easily absorb, so we explored the idea of converting the document over to Microsoft Publisher2000, and decided this would be the route we would take. There are probably lots of others options out there, but since one of our members was already pretty familiar with Publisher, we took the path of least resistance (and ultimately let them do all the work!).

OK, back to our project. One of our challenges was to "test" it out on individuals that would provide us with suggestions that allowed us to continue forward and create a meaningful and useful tool. Several local *REACT* members submitted ideas, as well as a few "not so local" members...among them Tom Currie from Louisville (KY).

As expected, Tom did not disappoint us, giving us more than we expected but not more than we could use. He actually created a prototype new document just to provide us with a working example so we could visualize what he meant as we read his comments and suggestions. His critic and comments were

welcomed and we hope this acknowledges our appreciation.

Back to the PFOG, we tried to include lots of "free space" to write down comments or notes, and wisely we selected an appropriate heading for notes...it's called NOTES! Obviously, we were neither original nor creative, especially as the project neared closer to completion.

The final product is a PDF published on our Team's web site <www.OCREACT.org> as a free download. Each printing of the PDF file produces two copies of the PFOG, but care must be taken when printing because the page numbers are collated to be printed back-to-back. For a very large Team, we would recommend that you print one copy, take it to a local copy store (like a Kinkos or other such service), and have them duplicate, cut, staple and fold it for you. If you have a local school with a newspaper staff, they may also have the facilities to do it for you at lesser cost.

Because we're in Orange County, we printed the front, inside front, inside back and back cover pages on Orange paper, but your Team could easily pick another color they prefer. We printed all of our copies directly using the laser jet printer, and yes, it took a little extra time because we printed one page at a time, and had to keep turning the pages over to

print front-to-back...but it was well worth it.

When you download the file (only 253K), you'll discover it's fourteen (14) pages long, but actually the document is twice that size (front and back), and don't forget...you'll be getting two full PFOGs for the effort of one. The document prints to a 8.5" x 11.0" sized sheet of paper, but since that size includes two PFOGs, after you print the entire document, you can cut the 8.5x11.0 in half, making two PFOGs that are 8.5" x 5.5" in size. After you've completed that, you should staple the document in the middle, and then fold it to a final size of 4.25" x 5.5" and then distribute it to your members.

If you like what you see, send an e-mail to the Committee. They would be glad to hear something constructive. However, if you have suggestions for Version 2 (not scheduled or being considered right now), I'd like to hear from you.



SILENT MICS

Dallas County *REACT* Loses Founding Member



One of Dallas County *REACT*'s (DCR) founders, Paul H. Raines, DCR 12, RI Life Member 436, died on 23 February 2007. Born in Dallas on 21 November 1917, Paul was 89 years old.

Paul was an FBI Special Agent for 17 years, and later served as VP-Trust Officer for Mercantile National Bank. He graduated from Terrill School for Boys (now St. Marks School), and had a B.A. and J.D. from SMU. When DCR decided to incorporate in 1969, Paul wrote the original Bylaws and applied for and obtained the corporate charter.

Although never active with DCR, Paul played an important role in DCR activities. In 1970,

using his contacts, he arranged for a small maintenance room on the 33d floor of the Southland Life Building to be made available to Dallas County *REACT* -- this was the home of Dallas County *REACT* Central for 25 years where more than 500,000 calls were handled on CB Channel 9. When youthful shenanigans caused the building management to banish DCR in 1974, Paul used his influence and DCR was allowed to stay until Central was closed on 5 July 1995.

When many DCR members desired to become active in GMRS use, Paul met with a local philanthropist and arranged for a \$5,000 grant which DCR used to buy a batch of used Motorola radios, which after repair by Bernie Parker K5BP/DCR 112 and Jim Hopper W5EBQ/DCR 149 were used by DCR members for many years.

In 1981, when dissension racked DCR, and the GMRS system was at risk, Paul joined with several DCR members to create React Communications Corporation and served as its president and a trustee for more than 15 years. RCC took over operation of the GMRS system and has made it available at no charge to DCR members ever since. RCC also provides DCR's amateur radio UHF and APRS repeaters.

Though not known by most DCR members, Paul Raines

was an important part of our organization for almost 40 years. Behind the scenes, he was always helpful, always ready to assist.

Paul was predeceased several years ago by his wife Margaret, his companion of 72 years. He is survived by his daughter Carol Spruiell and her family, including two granddaughters. Graveside memorial services were held at Restland Cemetary on Monday, 5 March 2007.

Stanley Forker
Sue Barton, Sec.
Indiana State
REACT Council

It is with deep regret that the Indiana State *REACT* Council must inform you of the sudden death of their President, Stanley "Stan" Forker. He passed away, early June 19, 2007. He has been an icon in *REACT*. He loved *REACT* and what it stood for. He had been President of Cass County *REACT* for over 10 years and President of the Indiana State *REACT* Council for over 5 years. He will be missed by all those who knew and loved him. Our prayers go out to his family and the Cass County *REACT* Team.

Cards may be sent to the family at; 719 Plum St., Logansport, IN 46947.

“Unattached” Life Member?

Ron McCracken, LM-152

What an excellent project the ‘Salute to Long Service’ in recent issues of *The REACTer* has been. As you glance at it, however, a persistent and puzzling term recurs: “‘Unattached’ Life Member.”

It appears puzzlingly often. The only reason for an ‘Unattached’ *REACT* Life Member that makes any sense is very serious illness that prevents an individual from operating a radio. Have we really that many seriously ill *REACTers* who are no longer able to operate radios?

I recall vividly a young *REACTer*, confined to an iron lung, who helped save a life or lives with her radio. She persevered in her service to *REACT* and her community despite such a profound disability. I don’t know her name, but her dedication and her resolve as a *REACTer* made an indelible impression on me.

That young lady in mind, and Norman Kaplan’s statistical report (May-June, P.3) confronting us, it seems all ‘Unattached’ Life Members face an urgent challenge to come to *REACT*’s aid. When we became Life Members, we pledged to actively strengthen *REACT* in every way possible.

I can’t recall the wording, but basically Life Members commit to maintaining a strong *REACT* Team in their communities. If they move, Life Members commit to joining or forming *REACT* Teams in their new communities.

As we celebrate our 45th Anniversary, it is incumbent on each ‘Unattached’ Life Member to renew that commitment to *REACT*. Attach yourself to an existing *REACT* Team where you now live. If none currently exists, find two or more friends and neighbors to help you establish a Team for your town. Your *REACT* experience is valuable, and needed.

Take a look, too, at the RI committee openings listed by the President on P.2 of the same edition. Where can you serve to best help move RI into the future? Remember that girl. Make a difference. Swing into action.

When we signed up as Life Members, we didn’t sign up for an extended sabbatical. Hopefully, we signed on for a ‘life sentence’ in active service to our communities and to *REACT*. Each of us needs to honour the commitment we made, now as never before.

Editor’s Corner Don Tarbet

First, I’d like to welcome John Knott as Chairman of the Board of Directors. We are looking forward to working with you.

And thanks to Larry Fry for his years of dedicated service. Hope to continue working with you in whatever capacity you choose.

Congratulations to Norman Kaplan and Dora Wilbanks. The awards (P. 4) are well deserved. Our thanks to both of you for your dedication to *REACT*.

Director from Region 1, Fred Lanshe N3QLU, KAC8012, has finished IS – 100 and become a DHS-FEMA Disaster Assistance Employee. How is your Team coming with the FEMA courses?

Chuck Thompson reports that there is a free study guide for the entry level amateur radio Technician license available for either download or use online at:

<<http://www.sanantoniohams.org/pubs/TechnicianStudyGuide2.0.pdf>>. This guide looks pretty good and might be useful for those seeking a path to a ham radio license – or, perhaps, for those teaching courses.

Lee Besing picked up an evaluation of the response to Katrina from another list, originally posted by Jerry Reimer, KK5CA. The evaluation was done as a study by the Natural Hazards Center, at University of Colorado-Boulder whose Quick Response Program sends social science researchers to disaster sites where they conduct interviews with people who were on the scene.

While there is always a question about anecdotal research, this one seems fairly thorough and addresses some of the problems, perceptions, and misconceptions that have been heard elsewhere. It is sobering and tells us some of the things we know already – and some of things we should know, but sometimes forget. It is worth a look:

<<http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/research/qr/qr189/qr189.pdf>>.

Other reports from the center can be found at: <<http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/research/qr/>>. While I do not necessarily endorse everything said, I do expect some of this material to be useful in our drills and instruction here in Penobscot County.

Ron Mayes' presents a more optimistic evaluation in his report on the Greensburg, Kansas, tornado (P.5). He feels that we have learned some lessons from Katrina and are now in better shape to cope with disaster. On the other hand, it must be remembered that the Greensburg event was highly localized, and cell phone towers right outside town were left standing.

Tom Curie reminds us that this is the 25th anniversary of RI receiving the President's Volunteer Action Award.

REACT Kaamulan (Philippines) has an excellent website. Take a look and sign their guestbook. <<http://www.reactkaamulan.org>>.

Did your Team put the Amber Alert ticker on your website? Penobscot *REACT* did, and it took about 15 minutes from entering the site in the browser to getting it on the page. If I can do it, you can do it. <<http://www.codeamber.org/>>

Postings to REACT-L tell what happens when antennas get too close to power lines: One dead; one badly burned. Safety always comes first.

Look at the proclamation on page 8 for one reaction to *REACT* month.

REACT-L: You Need It Ron McCracken

Are you part of REACT-L? You can't afford to be without it today. It is the list that enables you to communicate almost instantly with other *REACTers* around the world.

Oddly, at last word *REACTer* and computer guru David Moore (Louisville, Kentucky, Metro *REACT*), who has provided REACT-L for us, reported only about 150 *REACTers* are list members. Out of some 2000 *REACTers*, that is not good. Most of us have e-mail or can get it free. That is all it takes to join REACT-L.

No Computer?

You don't even have to own a computer. You can visit your public library once a week or

more to use computers there and get your mail. You can read and answer it right there. You can also print it to take home, but that will likely cost you. In any event, lack of a computer is no barrier to being part of REACT-L.

Things happen so quickly now that you need REACT-L to keep current. It supplements The *REACTer* much as TV news supplements the newspaper. REACT-L allows you to get speedy answers to questions, or ideas that can benefit your Team.

For example, REACT-L members knew about National Preparedness Month details months ago. Their Teams and Councils were able to register in May while you may only be learning about this now. NPM registration takes place online, so you still need access to a computer to benefit.

It's Easy

To join REACT-L, just send an e-mail to:

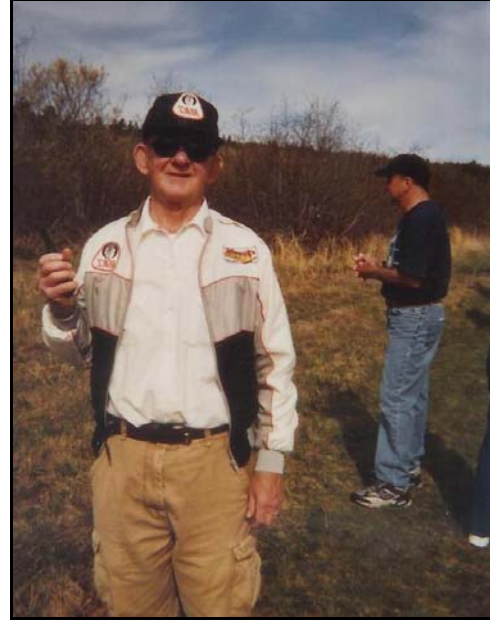
<REACT-L-Request@gibbousmoon.com>.

On the subject line type the one word SUBSCRIBE. In the message area, type the same one word SUBSCRIBE. That's it. You should begin receiving posts very shortly. To begin sending messages, the address is: <REACT-L@gibbousmoon.com>.

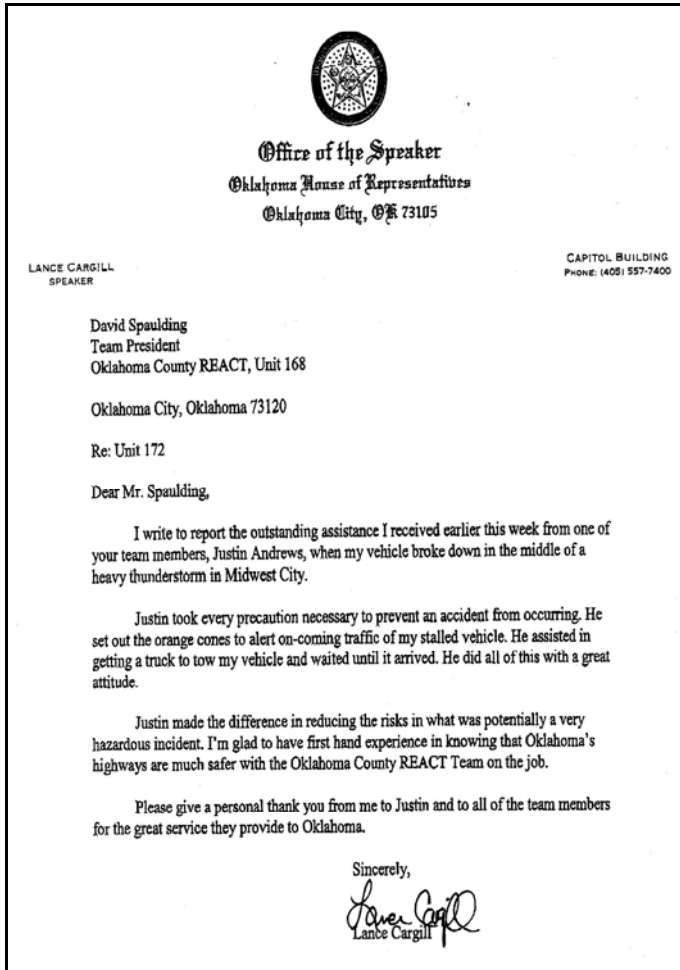
Join today. Hopefully, David will soon be able to report that almost all 2000 *REACTers* are REACT-L subscribers.

Oklahoma County *REACT*

You never know who you could be helping. During recent thunderstorms, Justin Andrews, Oklahoma County *REACT* Unit 172 and wife Rachael Andrews, Unit 272, stopped to help a vehicle stalled on a major thoroughfare. The vehicle stopped running in the traffic lanes and was a hazard to traffic, as well as in danger of getting hit. Justin and Rachael stopped, activated their overheard warning lights and placed traffic safety cones in the blocked lane to direct traffic away from the scene. He made sure the occupant was ok and taken care of by assisting with getting a tow truck. Only after he had taken all of these steps did he learn that the occupant of the vehicle was the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives Lance Cargill.



Jim Koritzky, Penobscot *REACT*, assists at program for blind birders at Fields Pond Nature Center of Maine Audubon. Jim also handled photography of this and other events at the nature center.



Ramsey County *REACT* (Minn.) information booth



REACT International, Inc.; 5210 Auth Road - Suite 403; Suitland, MD 20746
(301)316-2900 Office (Dora Wilbanks) <reacthq1@reactintl.org> (301)316-2903 Fax
<http://www.reactintl.org>

Contact Directory—OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2007

Officers

Dick Cooper, N2LMK

Contact

HP (609)888-3506
 <d.cooper@reactintl.org>

Title

President

Ed Greany, KB6DOL

HP (760) 868-8113
 <e.greany@reactingl.org>

Executive Vice President

Lee W. Besing, N5NTG

Cell (210-771-7075
 <l.besing@reactintl.org>
 Fax (210)680-2680

Secretary

Norman L. Kaplan, N3LDM

(301) 316-290
 <n.kaplan@reactintl.org>

Treasurer

Chuck Thompson, N5IAG

HP (214) 368-8223
 <c.thompson@reactintl.org>
 Fax (214) 691-2322

General Counsel

Board of Directors

Fred Lanshe, N3QLU

Contact

HP (610) 434-3235
 <f.lanshe@reactintl.org>

Title/Region Assigned

Region 1
 ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI, NY, PA

Dan Manlove

HP (804) 439-4017
 <d.manlove@reactintl.org>

Vice Chairman, Region 2
 DE, NJ, MD, VA, KY, WV

John T. Knott, N4JTK

HP (321)438-5952
 <j.knott@reactintl.org>

Chairman of the Board, Region 3
 TN, NC, SC, MS, AL, GA, FL

Paul Jackson

HP (614) 781-9036
 <p.jackson@reactintl.org>

Region 4
 MI, IN, OH

Laurence O. "Larry" Fry, K9FRY

HP (608)752-4547
 Fax (608)757-2379
 <l.fry@reactintl.org>

Region 5
 ND, SD, NE, MN, IA, WI, IL

Rob Roberts

HP/Fax (808)524-5171
 Mobile (808) 864-2828
 <C.Roberts@reactintl.org>

Region 6
 AK, HI, WA, OR, ID, MT, WY

Robert Kaster, Jr.

HP (405) (405) 735- 8577
 <r.kaster@reactintl.org>

Region 7
 AR, LA, NM, CO, KS, MO, OK, TX

Joseph Toth

<j.toth@reactintl.org>

Region 8
 CA, NV, UT, AZ

Kenny Jagdeosingh

HP/Fax (868) 628-2886
 Work (868) 628 2886
 <k.jagdeosingh@reactintl.org>
 Mobile (868) 762 9021

Region 9
 International Teams

Listening is only half the fun...

POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

is the other half.

The World's largest, most authoritative monthly magazine for Shortwave Listening and Scanner Monitoring. Read by more active listeners than all other listening publications combined!

If you enjoy radio communications, you'll love

POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

Get fast home delivery of Popular Communications and save \$30.93 a year over the newsstand price. Save even more on 2 or 3 year subs.



FOR FASTER SERVICE FAX 1-516-681-2926

Name _____ Call _____

Email: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

- 1 year 12 issues....\$28.95 (Save \$30.93) 2 years 24 issues....\$51.95 (Save \$67.81) 3 years 36 issues....\$74.95 (Save \$104.69)

Canada/Mexico—one year \$38.95, two years \$71.95, three years \$104.95. U.S. Dollars.
Foreign Air post—one year \$48.95, two years \$91.95, three years \$134.95. U.S. Dollars.

- Check Money Order MasterCard VISA AMEX Discover

Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery

Popular Communications

25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801 Telephone (516) 681-2922 Fax (516) 681-2926

www.popular-communications.com