



The REACTer



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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



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

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The REACTer

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Getting the word out Summit County REACT – p. 7

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.

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The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of REACT International.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dick Cooper



Soon it will be time to renew your Team for 2008. Cer-

tainly if you have any questions about the registration packets that you will receive, call the RI office or call your regional director. Director contact information is on the RI website at <<http://www.reactintl.org/bod.homepage.htm>>.

There are several forms in the registration that you are asked to complete and return to RI. These will help us to tell the *REACT* story and include your Team in the process. The number of hours of public service, monitoring and other activities are very important in this process. If *REACT* is to grow, then we need this information.

It is very important that you include your email address and Internet information in the renewal packets. There is more and more pressure to send more information via email. It is much more cost effective and gets information to members much quicker than writing, publishing and mailing articles. As seen in another article in this issue, the cost of postage for mailing *the REACTer* has jumped up dramatically. Some members have even mentioned

that the *REACTer* should be sent via email. Currently past issues of the *REACTer* are available on the RI website. The board knows that more people have email addresses than our records show, but some members don't want to give RI that information. Your address is kept confidential and is not sold. If you have any questions or concerns you can email <lbesing@reactintl.org>. Thank you for your support.

REACT has made it through 45 years of communications service provided by thousands of members to thousands of local communities throughout the world and we will be around for many more. Many Teams and members have changed forms of communication over the past few years due to changes in technology and local needs. It's no secret that the future of *REACT* will demand more changes and we must try to anticipate these changes to be ready for them. Your thoughts concerning the direction of *REACT* are very important in this decision making process.

Changes will be made at the *REACT* International level also. I don't know exactly what these changes will be, but redefining what *REACT* is will be one of the topics for future discussion. Another topic will be the use of increased and expanded public relations to tell the New *REACT* Story to more people. Teams will be asked to help RI in this effort by telling the New *REACT* Story on the local level. We will try to give you as many

tools as possible so that you can do this. Members will also be asked to participate on committees or assist committee members. Your help is necessary for success.

All of these efforts are intended to raise the public awareness of *REACT*. Currently many people aren't even aware of *REACT* – or they think that we just went out of existence. Other people know about *REACT* but they think that we are a CB group. Little do they know that we use many various forms of communication to carry out the tasks that Teams and members are asked to perform. At the August board meeting in Nashville the RI Board will discuss various options that will develop into the New *REACT* Story. With an organized plan and the help of all members we can tell everyone of the NEW *REACT* face and identity.

Submission Guidelines for *REACTer*:

Electronic submissions are preferred. Please keep manuscripts under 800 words without prior arrangements. Send to:

<editor1@reactintl.org>. Please reduce photos if you can. Paper submissions should go to:

Don Tarbet
144 Atkinson Rd.
Bradford, ME 04410

From Headquarters

By Norman Kaplan



Due to the increase in postal costs, *REACT* International, Inc., has to increase its shipping and handling costs. Shipping and handling charges for Canada are now \$4.60 for the first pound and \$3.05 for each pound or fraction of a pound over 1 pound. Shipping and handling charges for other countries are now \$13.00 for the first pound and \$12.00 for each pound or fraction of a pound over 1 pound. In the United States and U.S. Possessions, \$4.60 for weights up to a pound and \$.75 for each pound or fraction of a pound thereafter.

Due to our increased cost for the following items, RI will be increasing the price for:

- 3 inch patches: \$1.35
- 10 inch magnetic signs: \$4.50
- REACT* litter bags: \$19.00
- Not Just Another Radio Club: \$19.00

Price list prior to 2007 without these adjustments will be hon-

ored. Any Team needing a current price list, please request one from the RI office.

Ohio Team C-575 has now 100% renewal. The following Teams are new charters:

- 6126 *REACT* of Northern Arizona, Ash Fork, Ariz.
- 6127 Tampa Bay *REACT*, Seffner, Fla.
- 6128 *REACT* of Lake County, Leesburg, Fla.
- 6129 Greater Lima *REACT*, Lima, Ohio
- 6130 Los Angeles County *REACT*, Glendale, Calif.

The Internal Revenue Service has asked *REACT* International, Inc., to forward a new reporting requirement. Teams that currently do not file an IRS Form 990 will have to electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard, with IRS annually. This means that all *REACT* Teams will now have to file an annual report with the IRS. This will require an employer identification number (EIN). Teams who do not have an EIN may get one by calling 1-800-829-4933. When you get your EIN, please send the number with your Team number to *REACT* International.

The e-Postcard will require the Team to provide basic information such as Team name and address, any other names the Team uses, a Web address if it has one, the name and address of a principal Team officer, and a statement that the organiza-

tion's annual gross receipts are still normally \$25,000 or less. Organizations must submit the e-Postcard electronically. Many libraries have access to the Internet and you can file through the library system. There will be no paper form. The IRS is developing an electronic filing system for the e-Postcard. Filing procedures will be publicized on the IRS website <www.irs.gov/eo> when the system is completed and ready for use.



SKYWARN

Still not doing Skywarn? See page 15.



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.

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

Send us your information at:

<editor1@reactintl.org>
<reacthq1@reactintl.org>

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

Those who are responsible for community preparedness presentations or for preparedness activities, you may find the following information useful. This may also be of interest to Public Information Officers, Emergency Management personnel and the Public Education community.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has made files for the *Ready* Campaign's publications available to the public to download at no cost. As a result, organizations can reproduce these materials and help expand the reach of this critical information.

There are three areas of the preparedness focus: Individual & Family Publications; Business Publications; and Ready Kids Publications.

Information concerning this material can be found at the following website:

<www.ready.gov/america/index.html>

<www.ready.gov/america/publications/allpubs.html>

Ordering Publications: Individuals or organizations who would like to order printed copies of *Ready* publications can do so by calling **1-800-BE-READY**. Multiple copies can also be requested by calling the **FEMA Warehouse at 1-800-480-2520**

Videos Available Also

In order to encourage Americans to prepare themselves, their families and their communities, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with The Advertising Council, has created instructional videos to help educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all kinds of emergencies. The first set of instructional videos, released in English and Spanish, are designed to detail how American families get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies in their community.

Homeland Security and the Ad Council have also created additional instructional videos with specific information for pet owners, older Americans and individuals with disabilities and other special needs.

To view all of the Ready Campaign's Instructional Videos go to:
<<http://www.ready.gov/america/about/instructional.html>> .

REACT News: Teams and Team Members

Evergreen REACT

Members of Evergreen REACT supported the 2007 Classic Car and Hot Rod show in the Greenwood district of Seattle June 23rd. Almost 500 cars and other vehicles attended. REACT members assisted the show personnel in aligning and parking the myriad of vehicles along a one mile stretch of Greenwood Avenue. Many of the restored and customized vehicles were positively beautiful. Rain had been forecast to dampen the

activities but the only showers were light and before judging was accomplished. The Team used GMRS and FRS radios for the event.

We have had several successful Krispy Kreme sales and planned to provide parking guidance for a major 4th of July Picnic.

Middle Georgia REACT Responds to Tornadoes in Central Georgia

March 1, 2007

On Thursday, March 1, 2007, severe thunderstorms moved across Central Georgia, producing several tornadoes that resulted in significant damage in several counties. The National Weather Service would later confirm that at least 14 tornadoes touched down in the Central Georgia area that night.

At least two tornadoes caused fatalities (in Taylor and Sumter Counties), while others caused injuries. According to survey teams from the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Peachtree City, Georgia, the tornadoes ranged in intensity from EF0 to EF3.

In Crawford county and Bibb county, the tornado track began about 4 miles east of Knoxville and ended about 1 mile east southeast of Lizella, a distance of approximately 8.5 miles. The tornado was rated an EF3 and had a maximum width of a quarter mile. The heaviest damage occurred along Sandy Point Road in Crawford County, and there were a total of nine injuries.

Middle Georgia REACT members responded immediately and began assisting with directing traffic around roads closed by damage and clearing roads blocked by trees. In all, 17 REACT members put in a combined total of 130 hours.



Middle Georgia REACT members Don Spradlin and Robert Edwards assist Bibb County Sheriff's Deputies with diverting traffic around roads closed by damage.



President Jody Thaxton later said he was proud of the Team's response and was thankful that Bibb County did not receive damage as severe as Americus in Sumter County. The hospital there was heavily damaged and had to be evacuated; however, the evacuation of patients was significantly complicated by the destruction of the entire ambulance fleet as well as the local Red Cross Chapter's office.

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

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

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA ALBERT LEA REACT PROMOTES REACT MONTH

By Elaine Larson

For the past several years, the local Team has utilized store windows in Albert Lea where we get good public exposure to promote REACT Month. A contact telephone number along with the Team's web address is displayed. We've received some very favorable comments.



In addition, the Mayor proclaims May as REACT month in Freeborn County. Also, as part of REACT Month, the Team presents recognition certificates to individuals who perform acts of heroism during the year. This year certificates were presented to three individuals who were instrumental in saving the life of a young woman involved in a serious car accident last fall.

Still from Minnesota

Paul Oby of Ramsey County REACT reports that he has been busy helping with relief efforts after the bridge collapse in Minneapolis-St. Paul and following recent flooding. In fact, he's been so busy he hasn't had time to write much about his activities.

SUMMIT COUNTY REACT (OHIO)

From Denise Jenkins
The Suburbanite

Summit County REACT has been in the news. These photos and captions courtesy of the Suburbanite. The first appeared in the June 4 issue as part of the Springfield-Lakemore Community Days picture page. The second was in the June 25 issue and was with an article about the Lakemore Council meeting where the radios and chargers were presented to REACT.



SUMMIT COUNTY REACT Radio Emergency Associated Communication Teams (REACT) President Bud Ball, left to right, Mark Starcher, Operations Director Charles Queen and Trustee Dale Hendershot explained their work to festival attendees. For more information, visit www.reactintl.org.



DONATION AS THANKS. Lakemore Police Chief Ken Ray proudly handed the radios and chargers to representatives of Summit County REACT, President Winfred Ball, Trustee Dale Hendershot, Trustee Wayne Burketh and Operations Director Chuck Queen.

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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>

CALENDAR

July - August 2007

-October 5: Deadline for November-December 2007 *REACTer*.

-September: National Preparedness Month

September 3: Labor Day (US, Canada)

October 8: Thanksgiving Day (Canada),
Columbus Day (US)

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

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.

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.

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SILENT MICS

William Robert (Bob) Stone 1921-2007

By Charles A (Chuck) Thompson
DCR Unit 44, KAD4253, N5IAG
Secretary/Treasurer, Dallas County *REACT*.
General Counsel, *REACT* International, Inc.



REACT International, Inc., announces with deep regret the death of former President and Chairman of the Board, William Robert (Bob)

Stone, 85, of Eureka Springs, Arkansas. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Vivian Adele Dowie Stone and two daughters, Pamela Harris and Wendy Peterson. He was predeceased in 1979 by his daughter Linda Janise Stone. He is also survived by his sister Barbara Holtz and six grandchildren.

Bob was born 28 July 1921 to Edward and Daisy Stone in Smith Center, Kansas, and died on 8 May 2007. According to Mrs. Stone, he fell this past spring, resulting in a broken hip from which he did not recover.

A 1943 graduate of Harvard University (B.S. in electrical engineering), during his career he was employed by General Electric, Hunt Electronics, IBM, AB Dick, and E. F. Johnson.

Mr. Stone came to *REACT* International in 1983, when he joined the Board of Directors as an "At-Large Director." At-Large Directors (now "Out-

side Directors") are appointed to supplement the elected Field Directors in areas where they have special expertise. Bob Stone's expertise was in management and communications, as he had successfully held high management positions in E. F. Johnson, General Electric, and other large corporations. Not only was his background in management used in support of RI, his contacts in the communications industry were often very important. He recruited a number of At-Large Directors, assisted several committees, and help guide *REACT* through significant changes in office location, office management, and membership programs.

In 1998, Bob participated significantly in the reorganization under which *REACT* International, Inc., currently operates, and served for 18 months as an Outside Director and Chairman of the Board before retiring from 17 years of dedicated *REACT* service in July 2000.

(Thanks to former RI Field Director and General Manager Ron Mayes for furnishing information which was included in the above- CT)

Marshall Spear

By Charles Land, KC5NKK
President, Hill Country *REACT* #4804

I'm saddened to report that Marshall Spear KB5BGT, formally of Travis County *REACT* #3022 (Austin, TX), became a silent key as of June 27th. Marshall was born in 1922, was a Pearl Harbor survivor, and he and his wife Gloria had been living in Thomaston, Maine helping his daughter run a Bed and Breakfast for the last few years.

From the Austin American-Statesman of 7/1/2007: "Marshall Newton Spear passed away on June 27, 2007 at Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine. He had been residing at the Togus Nursing Home in Augusta, Maine since January of this year. He is survived by his wife of 58 years,

Gloria Gould Spear; his two daughters and son, Sandra Olson and husband Ron Olson (Thomaston, ME), Sonya Prewitt and husband James Prewitt (Round Rock, TX), and Eric Spear and wife Hye Jin (Augusta, ME). He had five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Marshall was born in 1922 in Perham, Maine and graduated from Washburn High School. At the age of 19, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was a Pearl Harbor survivor. After attending college in Boston, he joined the Air Force and served for 29 years, retiring as a Major in 1969. He then worked for the Department of Human Services in Austin, Texas for another 15 years, retiring in 1984. During all his adult years he worked off and on at H&R Block and did income taxes for the public until 2003, when he finally retired at the age of 81. Marshall was a Shriner and also did volunteer work with *REACT* in Austin, Texas a ham radio operator. He had progressed to the 32nd degree as a Mason. He will be missed by his family, and many friends.”

9-YEAR-OLD USES CB TO SAVE FATHER

By Ed Greany, Executive Vice President, *REACT* Intl.

A **trucker’s** nine-year-old son, a trucker on CB and a Good Samaritan are being credited with bringing a tractor-trailer to a halt after the trucker blacked out for unknown reasons at the wheel. The event occurred on Tuesday, Aug. 6, on U.S. Highway 30 in the town of St. Helens, OR, in the afternoon.

Trucker Matthew Lovo Sr. told “Land Line Now” on XM Satellite Radio he was doing about 25 mph through town – with his son Matt riding along in the passenger seat.

“I had just got off the phone with my wife, and that’s actually the last thing I remember,” Matthew Sr. said. “The next I remember, I was sitting

on the side of the road on the asphalt, and the paramedics and police officers were talking with me. And that’s when they told me what (my son) did.”

His son, Matthew Jr., said at first, he thought his dad was joking around – then realized he wasn’t. So, he tried steering and got on the CB radio and called out for help. A trucker responded, telling him to turn the key off. He slowly guided the truck to the side of the road. Immediately, a man walking by was able to jump in the cab and help.

That man who jumped in was Chris Howard, who saw the rig veering dangerously into the oncoming lane and ran to catch up with it.

“I jumped up on the step of the truck and opened the door and pulled myself up toward the compartment,” Howard said. “I actually got a little bit confused looking at the dash – there were quite a few knobs and buttons on there, and I’m not used to that. I realized that there were regular pedals on the floor, though, so I just stepped on the brake.”

The St. Helens police chief has publicly praised the boy for his “bravery and cool demeanor” and Chris Howard for “a heroic act.”

Matt’s dad has a few words of praise for his son, too. “You’re not going to get a more proud father in America today,” Matthew Sr. said.

ON THE CITIZENS BAND

By Guy Wells, KI4SDY

A few years ago, I read an excellent article in the *REACTer* that documented the obvious. There are more citizens band radios in use today than any other type of two way radio. Why, then, are we having such a difficult time recruiting and maintaining *REACT* membership. The answer is simple. We have drifted away from our primary mission, and, as a result, the public has drifted away from us. This has transpired at a time when natural

disasters and national security has repeatedly presented opportunities for us to serve the public and demonstrate the contemporary usefulness of *REACT* as a volunteer organization.

What was our primary mission? Our original primary mission was to monitor channel 9 on the

citizens band and answer emergency calls for help. This mission put *REACT*ers in direct contact with the public on a daily basis. The public knew they could count on us for assistance when it was needed. You cannot buy that kind of positive publicity at any price. When we were fulfilling our primary mission, membership recruitment and retention was not a problem. The public came to us. The radio industry supported our goals. Official recognition from public safety agencies was automatic. Local governments even erected CB channel 9 monitoring signs. It appeared *REACT* would always be a useful and available safety net for the public.

So what are my suggestions? How do we rejuvenate *REACT* and return it to its place of public usefulness? First, we have to hunt where the ducks are! Every *REACT*er should commit to monitoring CB channel 9 no matter what other communications equipment he or she may be using. *REACT* Teams should require members to own and properly install citizens band equipment. It should also be a requirement for affiliate members. Teams should conduct weekly nets to test their CB radios. If the public hears these nets being conducted, it will generate interest and participation.

I hope to continue writing articles on CB stressing its benefits and limitations. Equipment, antennas, and FCC regulations are topics that need to be addressed.

If I have gotten your attention, you may want to invest in a CB radio in the near future. Look around for a new or used AM/single sideband radio. You can use this equipment to monitor channel 9 for emergencies, communicate locally with truckers and travelers on AM and talk at longer ranges on sideband without a repeater.

Editor's Corner:

By Don Tarbet

Let's think about renewing our commitment to public service. That's what makes us what we are. And then let's get the word out. If there is any theme to this issue – and recent issues – that's it. Let's renew our commitment and then tell the world about it. Read the President's article in this issue!

Be involved in your community. Monitor channel 9. Volunteer for public service events. Get involved in emergency planning. Make use of FRS, GMRS, MURS, CB, ham – and smoke signals, if need be. Use whatever it takes to get the job done, as we've said before. We spend a lot of time talking about "the big picture." But the big picture can be awfully blurry unless it is made up of a lot of little pictures, pictures of individuals giving their time and expertise to solve problems – often before they arise.

In this issue also we take a walk down memory lane. Jim Koritzky found some photos of past conventions that we present here. And we found some others. Do you remember these? Do you know where they were? When? We'll post the answers in the next issue. The conventions are important; they help us to remember who we are, to know we are not alone in our efforts, and to plan for the future. Let's not ignore them.

Also in this issue we continue with our examination of roles that can be fulfilled by persons with disabilities. Tom Behler is a blind ham operator who serves as Emergency Coordinator for his county as well as RACES officer. Obviously Tom is deeply into emergency and disaster planning and response. Equally obviously, he does not intend to let his blindness interfere with his service to the public. Here he describes some of the roles that can be filled by blind communicators.

(Continued on page 13)

Role of Blind Volunteers in Emergency Management and Response

Tom Behler, Mecosta County Michigan Emergency Coordinator/RACES Officer

My name is Dr. Thomas Behler. I am a professor of Sociology at a medium-sized State University in Michigan. I also am a blind amateur radio operator who currently serves as Emergency Coordinator and RACES Officer for my county.

For many blind individuals, life is often spent finding creative ways to get around various problems or obstacles, some mundane, but some very significant in terms of their scope and implications. Much of life is also spent in search of opportunities for making significant contributions to others and to the broader society out there.

If there is one thing that blind folks like me have found, it is that amateur radio, and its related involvement in emergency services, provides an arena that is ripe with opportunities for the visually impaired. There is an incredible variety of functions that a blind individual can perform in this public service arena. Some of the most important functions that immediately come to mind are:

1. Serving as “net control” for an emergency communications net;
2. Monitoring communications from the National Weather Service, or other served agencies, and reporting important messages to the ARES/RACES or *REACT* net;
3. Providing outsiders with important information on available local services and facilities as needed;
4. Receiving and passing messages via the broader “National Traffic System,” in a more wide-spread emergency situation.

And, perhaps most important, many of the above-noted service functions can be done from one’s home station, or at least from a fixed location.

In addition, meaningful involvement opportunities don’t end here. Consider, for example, an emergency medical situation. A blind person who has had First Aid or CPR training could be extremely helpful in advising volunteer first responders on the best way to handle a medical emergency, until the official EMT’s arrive. Or, how about basic reporting and planning functions and activities? Many blind folks, by necessity, are extremely organized people, and feel very comfortable in a reporting and/or record-keeping job. In this day and age of computer technol-

ogy, reports and records are readily communicated to sighted individuals, so long as the blind individual has the computer technology at his/her disposal.

The list goes on and on, but hopefully the reader is getting the message. Blind individuals can play many extremely valuable roles in emergency response and management situations, as long as they are given the opportunity to do so. With a little creativity on everyone’s part, these contributions can be just as meaningful as those made by sighted or non-disabled responders.

UNIVERSAL QSL CARD

Robert McGuane,
KB1BXQ, WPVB820

Amateur radio operators and some citizen band radio operators will be familiar with the QSL card used to acknowledge a radio contact between two radio operators. (As many will be aware, the term QSL comes from the Q-signal, QSL, a code meaning “receive” or “acknowledge.”)

Recently, there has been some criticism from the amateur radio community that some of the inter-radio service cooperative programs, e.g. between Family

Radio Service (FRS) radio operators and FRS capable amateur (ham) radio operators, assume too high a degree of cooperation and claim exaggerated communication distances.

In my opinion, this criticism lays down a challenge that may be answered with a tried and true, 2-way radio tradition, namely, the QSL card. Not only to save printing costs but also to document different 2-way radio capabilities, cooperation and good will between different radio services, I propose making QSL cards which are universal or all-purpose.

In designing a QSL card, this ham radio operator built upon the required elements of the amateur radio QSL card, that is, the amateur radio call sign in large letters, together with a form for the logged information regarding the radio contact: "QSO with (call sign), date, time, frequency/band, mode, and signal report (RST)." To this was added the heading, "Universal QSL Card for Amateur Radio, & Alternative Communications," together with a reference to the ARRL Emergency Communications Handbook which uses the term, "Alternative Communication Methods" to describe useful 2-way radio services other than amateur radio.

Call signs for other radio services were printed in smaller letters below the FCC amateur radio license call sign in large

letters. (Non-ham, FCC licensed GMRS and former FCC licensed citizen band radio operators may wish to follow a similar pattern with their principal call signs.) Note that the ARRL Emergency Communications Handbook is one of several references which support continued use of the former FCC citizen band license call sign, and use of the convention for a systematic, license-free citizen band call sign: K + initials + residential U.S. Postal Zip Code. Furthermore, FCC rules neither require nor prohibit use of a systematic call sign for the Family Radio Service, and distinguished leaders in the 2-way radio community seem to support use of systematic call signs, e.g. the zip code based system, for license-free radio station call sign identification merely as a matter of good 2-way radio practice and procedure rather than as a matter related to licensing or organizational policy.

Note: the addition of a line designating the radio service in which the radio contact was made is key. At the bottom, allow some space for comments.

An additional benefit of this card is to publicize REACT and our role in emergency communications. If you are planning to use it that way, make sure that your Team name and REACT contact information is included. If you do not have a REACT call(s), adjust accordingly. You can print them for a few cents

each using any of a number of computer programs. And then, present them to public officials; use them as sympathy cards; use your imagination. – Ed

Editor's Corner – cont from page 11

Tom and your editor cooperated in defining roles blind volunteers could fill on a CERT team. This brief outline is now part of an drive to develop a cadre of visually impaired volunteers in Northern Maine. This effort is expected to help protect a vulnerable population as well as to enhance the preparedness and response capabilities of the community as a whole. We hope that what we do here will be transferable to other locations and to other vulnerable populations. Penobscot REACT is part of this effort.

We would love to see other stories on people who do not let disabilities interfere with their desire for public service.

And we look to the future. That's what we are really about, isn't it? Again, read the President's article in this issue.



SUGGESTIONS:

From Ron McCracken

An EOC Director recommends having a wind-up AM-FM radio and a wind-up flashlight in your emergency preparedness kit. They are tools your Team can also recommend to the public at its NPM safety events and in its NPM media releases.

Radios are now available for \$15 and the flashlights for about \$8 at most large retailers, he said. They reduce the need for spare batteries and free up those you have for use in other items. He had given a flashlight to his kids to test its ruggedness and it stood up well. Now you know.

Has your Team/Council posted its tentative NPM events to the national NPM calendar? Now is the time. Months of free publicity for you. Even if you have to cancel an event later, list it now and update the calendar as required. Best wishes.

Are you active or retired military? A reader of our *REACT* column in PopComm wrote to let you know that if you are a member of <www.SGAUS.org> you can get free help with your NIMS courses required by FEMA. Civilians are also eligible to join. You can visit their website for further details. Others on your Team can also help

you with the NIMS courses. Good practice for them.

From ARRL contest log 7/11/07:

“If you notice a local broadcast tower that seems to have one or more navigation warning lights out, ask your nearest FAA office (usually at the bigger airfields) to check recent NOTAMs (Notice to Airmen bulletins about nav-aid status and the like). If the bulbs on those towers are burned out, they may not have yet been replaced. Until they are replaced the NOTAM contains a bulletin that the tower is dark, assuming the FAA has been notified as required. Notification from the public or paid tower-watchers helps avoid navigational hazards. The FAA can also be contacted toll-free at 877-487-6867 or 888-225-5322. Try to have exact geographic location, the station's call sign, or other information that will help them identify precisely which tower you are reporting. (Thanks, Bob W9GE and Don KW7R)”

National Preparedness Month Media Release

By Ron McCracken, RI Public Relations Chairman

Is your family ready? (Full Team Name) hopes so since

September is National Preparedness Month.

A major storm is all it takes anytime. Power can be out for days. Telephone service, including cellular and computer access, can be gone too. Stores without power or computers won't be able to offer you much.

That's why *REACT* encourages you to be ready. You need a good stock of essentials like water, canned foods, fresh batteries and other supplies on hand all the time. *REACT* encourages you to stock up during National Preparedness Month.

REACT will be offering checklists to help you. Pick up a copy at the Team's safety display on (date) at location). Other safety information will be available as well. *REACT*ers will be able to answer your questions about emergency communications too, so be sure to ask.

“Consider a wind-up flashlight and a wind-up AM-FM radio to reduce your dependence on batteries. Both are inexpensive now and available at major retailers,” explained *REACT* president (Name).

Those handy little FRS (Family Radio Service) walkie-talkies are valuable safety tools too in an emergency. They can keep you in touch with nearby friends and neighbors. The same is true of CB or GMRS radios, so keep them handy and

in good working order as part of your readiness kit.

REACT always welcomes new volunteers to its ranks. You can help with safety radio communications on behalf of our community. To learn how you can put your radio to good use helping with walkathons, parades and other community events, as well as emergencies, call (phone number) or send an e-mail to (address).

Contact: (Your name and phone)

Fill in contact information and modify to meet the needs of your Team. Include some of the Homeland Security material in your display – Ed



Are you a **SKYWARN** **SPOTTER?**

Do you know someone who is?



SKYWARN Shoulder Patches are available again!

One to four patches are \$3.00 each; five or more patches ordered at the same time are \$2.75 each. Prices include mailing costs. Copyrighted design.

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Make check or money order out to: **MSCRT**

All proceeds go to the Maryland State Council of REACT Teams, Inc. and will be used to further SKYWARN and other programs supported by REACT.



MEMORY LANE:

How good is YOUR memory? Jim Koritzky, Penobscot *REACT* President happened to have some photos lying around from former RI conventions. We also picked one from a recent *REACT*er. Can you identify times and places? Answers will be in the next *REACT*er.



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