



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



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 Fdn.
- Cancer Society
- M. S. Society
- Audubon Society
- V.O.A.D
- State Agencies
- Humane Society
- American Diabetes Association
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society

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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Don Manlove,
President, RI



Members of *REACT*;

I hope your summer went well. I want to thank all the members that have sent letters and e-mails with comments, ideas, photos, and stories. As space permits, *REACT*er editor Don Tarbet will be using your submissions in an upcoming issue of the *REACT*er. It is great that so many things are being accomplished by our members all around the world.

With September being National Preparedness Month (NPM), I am aware that the Central Indiana *REACT*-CERT Team planned to set up a table at the United Way Community Fair and Day of Remembrance in downtown Indianapolis, IN. to hand out preparedness flyers from various partner agencies, and do some SOS drills sometime during this month. You may not know this, but they are one of our newest Teams. They came on board a few months ago. Check out their web site at <www.reactindiana.org> (*REACT*'s website of the month September 2008)

I hope your Team planned an event for your working area. Let us know.

Later in this issue you will find an article from Ed Greany, EVP, telling you about the radio purchasing program that *REACT* International is involved with the National SOS program. If you, Team members, or someone in your community is in need of a great GMRS/FRS, 22 Ch. Radio, at a GREAT price, check out the article. (Remember, you will need to get a GMRS license to use this radio on some of the GMRS channels.)

Since the last issue, many things have happen around the country with the weather. I hope we have seen the last of the major storms for this year. If your Team worked some storm or weather event (including training or response), please let us know about it, so as we may update the information database the office has.

Are you and your Team members staying on top of your training? The implementation of the Incident Command System and NIMS demands communications interoperability. Per federal, state, and local regulations, to be involved in any way, shape, or form, of any disaster incident. Teams need to consider the communications situation in their areas carefully, and to find an area where the Teams capabilities are needed. We need to study the new capabilities, and find out what we

can now provide, and then provide it well. You and the members of your Team must be NIMS/ICS compliance by 2009. Please check with your local EMA officials, or drop an e-mail to the Indiana State Training Coordinator, at <unit69@reactindiana.org> and he will assist you in getting the required training.

Well, that is about all the time I have for now. Remember, the members of the Board are here to assist you and your Team. Please check the contact page within this issue, or on the *REACT* International web site; <www.reactintl.org>. Please keep your notes and emails coming, we love to hear from you.



SOS - 123
Ed Greany
Executive
Vice President, RI

AMBITIOUS GOAL:



To provide every family in America with potentially life-saving Emergency Communications Kits

REACT and the National SOS Radio Network <www.NationalSOS.com> have announced a bold initiative to supply Emergency Communication Kits with Family Radio Service / General Mobile Radio Service (FRS / GMRS) two-way radios to *every family in America*. The national distribution of the Emergency Communication Kits by *REACT* coincides with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's "National Preparedness Month."

Each Kit includes a Midland 22-channel FRS / GMRS two-way radio, radio operations tutorial, and a "1-2-3 Emergency Communication Guide." In a hurricane, flood, tornado, earthquake, or manmade disaster -- or for individuals lost in the woods or stranded in automobiles due to severe weather, these Kits could be a supplemental lifeline to emergency assistance.

The cost of these Emergency Communication Kits is subsidized by *REACT* and the National SOS Radio Network. The delivered price per Kit is only \$10.99. Your Kits are available by sending a check or money order payable to *REACT* to PO Box 395, Corona, CA 92878. We are also working with a merchant provider to accept future credit card orders for your Kits and are expected to be ready very soon.

Since 1962, *REACT* has led major efforts in emergency communications and disaster-preparedness programs. Your EVP said, "We are proud to offer these Kits at our raw out-the-door cost. Our goal is to give every person in America the opportunity to have an active role in emergency-rescue operations should a dire circumstance arise. I encourage every *REACT* member to obtain a Kit and promote the program in their local community."

Eric Knight, founder of the National SOS Radio Network, said, "With proper training, these radios can be a valuable neighborhood-communications tool when traditional telephone and cell phone services fail. We endorse the neighborhood-communications plans as published at: <www.emcomus.org/commwp.html>."

In conjunction with this effort, *REACT* and the National SOS Radio Network are distributing to the media PSA radio spots and scripts to educate the public on their 1-2-3 emergency communication plan. Listen to 1-2-3 PSA announcement:

<http://www.nationalsos.com/National_SOS_hurricane_zone_audio_PSA_60_sec.mp3>. In

short, if someone is trapped in their home or lost (such as in their car or woods) without a working cell phone, at the top of every hour he or she should call on the radio's Channel 1 for 2 minutes and listen for 3 minutes -- hence "1-2-3." *REACT* and the National SOS Radio Network are encouraging local, state, and national emergency-rescue resources to monitor Channel 1.

In a REAL Emergency, follow these 3 steps:

- 1) Turn on your FRS radio to Channel 1. Broadcast every hour -- ON the hour with privacy tones turned OFF. Say your name, exact location, and the nature of the emergency.
- 2) Keep calling for 2 minutes. For example, "Emergency! This is John Smith. I am 12 miles South of Interstate 95 on Route 7. My car won't start. Please send help."
- 3) Listen for 3 minutes for an answer. If you don't hear one, save your batteries by turning off the radio and wait until the top of the next hour to call again.

It's as easy as "1-2-3." Call on Channel **ONE** every hour. Talk for **TWO** minutes. Listen for **THREE** minutes.

Contacts: Ed Greany, Executive Vice-President of *REACT* International, Inc. 301-316-2900. Eric Knight, Founder of the National SOS Radio Network 860-673-2502.

A VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE

By Don Manlove, President,
REACT International

On a sunny Monday afternoon, September 8, 2008, I was given the opportunity to represent *REACT* International by attending a ceremony for volunteer organizations at The United States White House. We were invited primarily because of our membership with National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD). *REACT* is proud to be one of the 31 national member organizations supporting NVOAD in its worthwhile efforts (See more information at: <www.REACTintl.org>).



While awaiting the President's arrival I had the opportunity to meet and visit with the leadership of other volunteer organizations from around the country, and was able to form networking contacts that should be helpful to *REACT* International in the future.

Did I get to see the President?

Yes, I did, and it was terrific. Our assigned seat was near the center front (third row from the front, fourth seat from the center aisle). You can see the back of my head in some of the media photographs. See me in the bottom left corner of the

photo below (photo courtesy of USA Freedom Corps photo by M. T. Harmon).



What Did President Bush Say?

The President spoke on the White House south lawn to a crowd of 1,800 people that included members of Congress, three cabinet secretaries, members of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation and the Corporation for National and Community Service board, state service commission directors, corporate social responsibility executives, and leaders and volunteers from Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, Citizen Corps, the Peace Corps, and Volunteers for Prosperity... and of course, *REACT* International.

"Volunteerism is strong in the country. But the truth of the matter is, the farther we've gotten away from 9/11, that memory has begun to fade," President Bush said. "And my call to people is, there's always a need. You should be volunteering not because of 9/11, but you should be volunteering because our country needs you on a regular basis. And so today I call upon our fellow citizens to devote 4,000 hours over your lifetime in service

to your country. You'll become a better person for it, and our society will be more healthy as a result of it."

The event looked at the advances in citizen service achieved over the past seven years and forward at the opportunity to grow service and volunteering in the future. The President recalled his inaugural address, where he asked Americans to be "citizens, not spectators; citizens, not subjects; responsible citizens, building communities of service and a nation of character." He concluded by saying "I am incredibly optimistic about the future of our country. And the reason I am is because I've seen firsthand the love and the compassion and the decency of our fellow citizens."

Did I personally get to talk one on one with the President?

No I did not, however the way security kept him on the move I did not observe anyone that got too close to him, other than a 3-star General from the Civil Air Patrol. I did get to be within five feet of him for a very short time, before he was moved on to the other side of the seating section.

Toward the event's conclusion, as we stood in yet one more line waiting to be let into the East Wing of the White House, I did make another brief sighting of the President from about 10 feet away.

We were being escorted out the front of the building to the Northeast Gate when that encounter happened.

I left the ceremony that day, proud that *REACT* International had been chosen to participate, and glad that I was able to represent all the other *REACT* members at this event.

For more information about NVOAD, visit <www.NVOAD.org>, click on "about us" and then "national members" to find our listing. The event was also sponsored / connected with the USA Freedom Corps, and more info may be found at <www.USAFreedomCorps.gov>.



Navy – Marine Corps MARS Signs MOU with *REACT* Teams in Texas

Press Release

By Lee Besing, N5NTG
and Bob Hejl, W2IK /
NNN0GBY2

In Texas, while it is obviously hurricane season right now, apparently it is also the season for cooperation between various radio communications agencies as well. On August 18, 2008, Charles

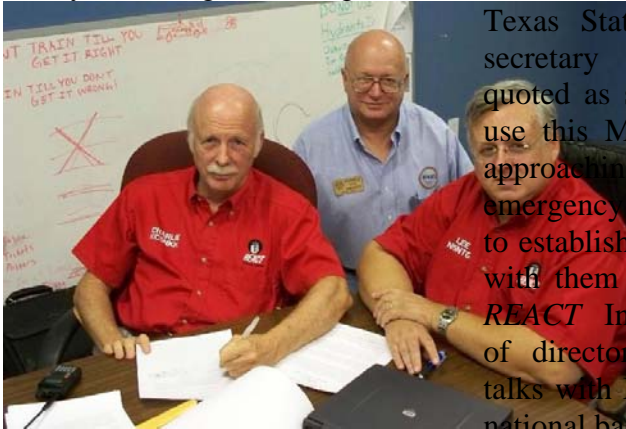
Land, president of the local San Antonio based Hill Country *REACT* Team, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the South Texas Navy – Marine Corps

MARS (Military Affiliated Radio System). Minutes later,

Texas State *REACT* Council Secretary, Lee Besing, signed a similar agreement with the Texas Navy – Marine Corps MARS.

This agreement was initiated by local MARS operator Bob Hejl, and supported by the MARS officers above him in their chain of command. Bob contacted *REACT* to ask if they

would be willing to sign such an agreement, and the rest is history. Ironically, the signing took place during *REACT*'s monthly meeting at the Bulverde Volunteer Fire Department, where the sign on the wall behind them said "Don't train till you get it right, train until you don't get it wrong."



{Photo Left – Right; Charles Land (KC5NKK) signing as president of Hill Country REACT, Bob Hejl, (W2IK, NNN0GBY2) representing MARS, and Lee Besing (N5NTG) signing as the secretary for the Texas State REACT Council.}

By signing this agreement, it opens the doors to joint operations, and sharing of equipment such as the radio equipped communications trailer operated by the *REACT* Team, or the many other resources provided by MARS. The wording of both agreements were similar, and basically provide a mechanism by which the two emergency radio organizations will utilize so that they can better communicate with each other prior, during, and after, emergency operations. To characterize one member's summary, he

said "we've agreed to play nice with each other and talk to each other." The agreement does not commit either organization to specific actions, but does create a framework to encourage communications between the local *REACT* Teams and local MARS units.

Texas State *REACT* Council secretary Lee Besing was quoted as saying "We plan to use this MOU as a basis for approaching other Ham Radio emergency agencies in Texas to establish similar agreements with them and will be asking *REACT* International's board of directors to open similar talks with MARS as well on a national basis."

Both groups are comprised of volunteer radio operators, normally licensed Amateur Radio operators (also referred to Ham Radio operators or Hams), who have agreed to use their two-way radio skills to help their communities in time of need, or in the case of *REACT*; also for public service events. There are nearly two dozen organizations in the San Antonio and Central Texas area who utilize Ham Radio in their missions. More information about such local Ham Radio groups may be found at www.SanAntonioHams.org.

The Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) is a Department of Defense sponsored program, established as separately managed and operated programs by the Army, Navy-Marine Corps and Air Force. MARS members are

volunteer licensed amateur radio operators who are interested in providing auxiliary or emergency communications to local, national and international emergency and safety organizations, as an adjunct to normal communications. Last month in late July, a Navy – Marine Corps MARS unit in the south Texas Rio Grande Valley was very instrumental during Hurricane Dolly when 6 out of 10 key Ham Radio voice type repeater towers in that area were knocked off the air by the storm and loss of power. The MARS unit (Ray - NNN0VHO) stationed down at Harlingen was able to maintain radio communications through out Hurricane Dolly and send messages via HF digital modes on Ham Radio up Bob Hejl's station, and then Bob relayed them to Amateur Radio Operators located in the San Antonio Emergency Operation Center (manned by another ham organization called ARES) and to the Texas State EOC up in Austin, Texas. Information in the reports included such facts as updated info about local area flooding of major streets and highways, damage to structures and infrastructures, availability of emergency vehicles to respond to calls during the storm, and weather reports as the hurricane passed through his area.

***REACT* Teams are independently organized groups of radio operators** using multiple modes of communications, including Amateur Radio, FRS & GMRS radio, and in some areas of the country,

CB radio. *REACT* Teams are known for working public service events and playing a supporting role to other agencies and organizations, such as the Bexar County ARES who provides the primary manpower for the local American Red Cross and the San Antonio EOC. *REACT* Teams are only chartered thru *REACT* International, Inc. <www.reactintl.org>, which provides for their 501(c) 3 non-profit status and liability insurance coverage. *REACT*'s stated mission as listed on their website is as follows: "*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.*"

The following is an extract from the statewide agreement MOU, which is likely to be used a basis for establishing a nationwide agreement in the near future. The local MOU was worded very similar in nature, focused on Central and South Texas operations.

PURPOSE

1. This purpose of this document is to state the terms of a mutual agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) between Texas State *REACT* Council (Radio Emergency Associated Communication Teams) and Texas Navy-

Marine Corps MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System), that will serve as a framework within which both organizations may coordinate the development of protocols and procedures for communication in emergency and disaster situations. Each organization comprises volunteers and professional staff in support of their respective educational and technical programs and efforts. It is intended that this agreement will promote joint coordination and exercise of the resources of both Texas State *REACT* Council and Texas Navy-Marine Corps MARS to recognize the potential and capability of individual members of both organizations to facilitate the flow of information to and from the public during disaster and emergency situations.

RECOGNITION

2. Texas State *REACT* Council recognizes Texas Navy-Marine Corps MARS as a service of radio operators affiliated with Military Affiliate Radio System, organized in the interest of military radio communications for the benefit of exchanging information with, but not limited to, Military systems, FEMA, DHS and other governmental agencies. MARS was organized for the establishment of networks to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies.

3. Texas Navy-Marine Corps MARS recognizes Texas State *REACT* as a public service or-

ganization of private radio operators, which provides radio communications to local communities during emergencies. The Texas State *REACT* Council coordinates and encourages its local Teams to cooperate in efforts with other emergency organizations including the police, FEMA, NOAA, RACES, ARES, NVOAD, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross. Texas State *REACT*'s local Teams engage in other activities include participation in safety radio assistance for community events, and developing the use of radio services as additional sources of communications in emergencies. Texas State *REACT*'s primary mission is to support local Teams who will improve their communities through the provision of voluntary, two-way communications that serve the interests of public safety.

PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

4. In order that the parties may cooperate and utilize their resources from time to time to optimum mutual benefit to both parties, the following principles and methods are agreed upon:

4.1 The parties will correspond with each other and exchange certain materials and engage in certain activities in order to encourage and broaden interest, understanding, and appreciation of radio telecommunications technology and its value to the public in emergency situation.

4.2 The parties will work to establish protocols and procedures that foster safe and efficient radio services communication to help the public during emergencies and disaster relief. The parties, through these protocols and procedures, will try to eliminate duplicative or technically inferior service to the community in emergencies.

4.3 The parties will work with each other in times of emergency or disaster to meet the communications needs of the public.

4.4 The parties will generally encourage ongoing liaison with each other and urge members of both organizations to develop increasingly effective communications and cooperation.

Information about Hill Country *REACT* Team may be found at <www.HillCountryREACT.org>. Information about Texas State *REACT* Council may be found at <www.TexasREACT.org>. Information about the Navy – Marine Corps MARS may be found at <www.navymars.org>. Each of these groups is accepting applications for more interested volunteers at this time. Visit their website for details.

Contact info for the authors:

Lee Besing, N5NTG -
<n5ntg@HillCountryREACT.org> or
210-771-7075 Bob Hejl, W2IK
/ NNN0GBY2 –
<alonestaryank@aol.com> or
210-822-2105

Submission Guidelines for *REACT*er:

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

Faxes can go to Jim Koritzky at (207) 942-8067

We welcome your ideas (though we much prefer complete stories), but decisions as to when and whether to publish must remain ours. If you want immediate feedback, you must so specify and include, in the case of hardcopy submissions, a stamped, self-addressed return envelope. Things do fall through the cracks, so sometimes a note of inquiry is in order.

Suggestions as to regular features would also be welcome. And letters... Send in your letters to the editor.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Don Tarbet

We are still looking for *REACT* logo ideas. Contact George Holmes: <react6395@yahoo.com> with your ideas for a *REACT* logo and a 50th anniversary patch?

Don't forget that National Preparedness Month was September. National Crime Prevention Month is October.

Recent months have showed us once again how important *SKYWARN* is and how important it is to be prepared, both in the home and with a travel kit.

How long could you live at home without power and without outside contact? I checked and was not happy with the answer, although we could go at least a few weeks. But not with comfort.

How about homes housing individuals with special needs? Check the Penobscot *REACT* page: <<http://www.mainmarketplace.com/react/penob.html>> for a link directed at blind populations. It has often been said that we must assure that we are not part of the problem before we can become part of the solution.

Also, see Ron McCracken's article on translation and the accompanying link to emergency medical translation (also off the Penobscot *REACT* site). These are problems we may have to fact unexpectedly.

Welcome to Ed Kerby, new Director for Region 4.

FEMA is now requiring a special ID card. Stay tuned.

Preparedness Month is September, but preparedness is an ongoing issue. Each issue of the *REACTer* contains reports of a series of emergencies that Teams have had to face. The key to handling these emergencies – and disasters – is preparedness.

What does your Team do to prepare for what you may be called on to face? Maybe an SOS drill? Maybe FEMA compliance? An information booth? A disaster drill? An information session for volunteers? SKYWARN training?

Plan and prepare. Let us know how you plan to meet your preparedness needs for 2008 and the years to come.

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

Send us your information at:

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

Those who are responsible for community preparedness presentations or for preparedness activities 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 a set of instructional videos. This set is designed 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, is 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

SKYWARN IN CLEVELAND COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

By Chief Jay Flora
Cleveland County
REACT

<react-unit-14@hotmail.com>

On July 7 and 8, Cleveland County REACT in Shelby, North Carolina put up the SKYWARN net because of tornado warnings. On the seventh, Chief Jay Flora patrolled looking for funnel and wall clouds.



He observed the storm hitting Lawndale and Fallston. The storm also hit east of Cleveland County causing significant damage. Assistant Chief Spencer Jones monitored radios.



On the eighth patrol continued with Flora and Jones carrying out duties. The storm downed trees and power lines all over the county and neighboring counties. Jay Flora was there to help direct traffic watch houses of absent officials, and report to the National Weather Service. J



Jay Flora directs traffic

Forming a REACT Team in a Whirlwind

By C. L. Hankins II and Karen Barajas,
Incorporator, Central Indiana REACT-CERT

The Central Indiana REACT-CERT Team came to be quite literally in a whirlwind; the evening of May 30th of 2008 saw Indiana being pounded by Thunder Storms and Tornadoes, with the members of Team 6137 square in the middle of the action.

It had all started a couple of months earlier when several of us had begun talking about how we should start a REACT Team in central Indiana. A Team that would monitor Citizen Band (CB) radio, work with the different county emergency management agencies, do disaster work and work with non-governmental agencies involved with disasters, as well as working with the various Amateur Radio groups in the area.



We processed our paperwork, filed of incorporation papers, and filed out Team charter with REACT International all during REACT Month. We wanted everything to be in place when we held out first meeting.

Then two days before our start-up meeting we got the stark reminder that we live in Indiana. Our Saturday May 31st meeting had to be changed to a day later because several of our new Team members were aggressively working at disaster sites in Central Indiana.



With nine people present we held our formational meeting, temporary officers were elected, start-up by-laws voted on, and our existence formalized. Then it was back out the door to assist the public we had just reaffirmed our aspiration to help.



In the three months that have followed that assembly, we have increased our membership to fifteen Regular, five Probationary, and four Honorary members, held two training classes, three general business meetings, hosted five ICS classes, established contacts with various ESF groups or non-governmental agencies, discussed MOUs and MAAs with other agencies, and set up our web page <www.reactindiana.org> not to mention assisting four motorists and making reports of infrastructure or traffic control device problems.



Central Indiana *REACT*-CERT has a varied and diverse membership that is growing everyday as you may see on the website under "About Us," and we are looking forward to a gratifying future of serving Central Indiana.



Ramsey County REACT By Paul Oby

Hospital Drill

On June 26 Paul Munns and Paul Oby of Ramsey County *REACT* in St. Paul, Minnesota, as well as a representative from the Minnesota Association of Emergency Managers, many doctors, nurses and other hospital staff assisted in a hospital drill. *REACT* provided ham radio communications between 7 locations in the Twin Cities area that are staffed by other hams.

The scenario was a major terrorist attack on a downtown high rise office bldg involving 500 people with numerous injuries. This drill was to ensure that everyone could communicate with each other in an emergency if the phones were down – and we did.

Two 2 meter repeaters and one simplex frequency were used with great success.

It is planned that by the end of this year every Minnesota and Wisconsin – at least western – hospital will have a ham station in it and operators available at any given time.

To support this goal the Veteran's Hospital in Minneapolis holds two ham license classes every year and has a large turnout.

Parade

On July 4th Paul Munns, Brian Flaherty and Paul Oby provided ham radio communications for the 4th of July Afton, Minnesota, parade. Afton is a small river town about 25 miles east of St Paul.

This was the first time the parade has used hams, and things went so well that the Mayor and parade officials want us back next year and they may contact us for other events as well.

In the monthly newsletter that the city of Afton sends to all its residents, Mayor Julia Welter says "I would like to thank members of Ramsey

County *REACT* for volunteering to help walk the parade route to ensure safety. Their willingness to assist is very much appreciated.”

PRESS RELEASE
Waterloo *REACT*
Enhances Communi-
cations capabilities
Thanks to \$39,800
OTF Grant &
\$45,000 Equipment
Donation from M/A-
Comm Canada

Waterloo, Ontario – September 3, at a special meeting, Waterloo Regional *REACT* introduced their new radios, thanks to a \$39,800 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) and a \$45,000 equipment donation from M/A-Comm Canada. Elizabeth Witmer, MPP for Kitchener-Waterloo, joined OTF representative Peter Hinchcliffe in congratulating *REACT* at a special meeting of the organization.

“I am delighted that Waterloo Regional *REACT* is receiving a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation,” said MPP Witmer. “This funding will enable the volunteer organization to continue playing a vital role in the emergency response system for the region of Waterloo.”

The OTF grant and M/A-Comm donation was used to purchase new radios that will enhance the organization's technological capacity and its support to over 40 community events attended by 40,000 people across Waterloo

Region annually. “We are deeply honoured and grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation and M/A-Comm for their outstanding commitment and contribution to public safety in our community,” said *REACT* President Rick Weisler.

Established in 1972, Waterloo Regional *REACT* provides a “safety umbrella” at over 40 community-sponsored events per year, as well as providing volunteer support and specialized equipment to the various emergency services at over 30 emergency scenes per year. It offers services such as CPR, AED, and Oxygen – all of which are provided by volunteers who are certified at the First Responder and First Aid qualification levels.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For over 25 years, the Foundation has supported the growth and vitality of communities across the province. It continues to strengthen the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives. For more information, please visit www.trilliumfoundation.org.

M/A-Comm is the supplier of the Region of Waterloo's voice radio system.

For more information, please contact: Kirk Walker
Waterloo Regional *REACT*
519-747-1891
kirkwalk@rogers.com
Give anybody ideas? - Ed

M'aidez! Mayday!
By Ron McCracken

“Hello. Do you speak French?” Not too often is that the greeting when you answer the phone. “Some,” I answered hesitantly.

“I'm going to put a fellow on the line. Tell him that everything is fine. We are sending the help he needs.” With that, there was a click and someone began to chatter excitedly in French.

RI president Don Manlove was the first voice. A French gentleman from Quebec was the second. His family was returning from Disney World with a fifth-wheel. On I-95, near Richmond, Virginia, a flat on the trailer stopped them.

The Quebecker found a 7/11 and tried to explain his problem. In came president Manlove for his nightly coffee. Staff asked him to try to help the man. You can imagine the interesting conversation.

After five minutes and some radio calls, a brand new *REACT*er on Don's Team had arranged to have the flat repaired. Quite the introduction to life as a *REACT*er. Now the task was to inform the man that all was well.

Don hit on the idea of calling me in Ontario. He knew that all Canadians speak French fluently (not). The Quebecker's efforts at English and mine at French worked. After 45 minutes, the family was back on the

road headed for home. They may never leave Quebec again.

Well done, Richmond-Metro REACT. That's why they call us REACT International.

Why not let your Regional Director and RI know of any talents you have in that line.

*Also, check the Penobscot REACT website
<<http://www.mainmarketplace.com/react/penob.html>> for a link to a multi-*

language translation guide for emergency medical terms.

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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 for information about downloading the manual online.

IDEAS WANTED

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

September - October 2008

-October: National Crime Prevention Month
-All year: Logo design
(see July-August Issue)
-All year: Recruiting

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Do let us know what is happening with your Team. Your input will help us recruit. Let the *REACT*er know. Got ideas for articles? Let us know about that, too.

Silent Mics

Ronald V. Kennedy Sr.
Punxsutawney *REACT* Team
By Treasurer, *Mary L. Murray*
Punxsutawney Radio Emergency Service, Inc.

Ronald V. Kennedy, of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, long time member and supporter of Punxsutawney Radio Emergency Service, Inc., (Punxsutawney *REACT* Team Number # 3522) passed away

Sunday June 08, 2008 in Mulberry Square Elder Care & Rehabilitation Center in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

Ronald had passed away after a lengthy illness. During his retirement years, Ronald had been extensively involved in volunteer work efforts not only with our Team, but also with the local Community Action RSVP Senior Corps for many years which he garnered volunteer of the month award. He was a Sunday School teacher until his illness. Ronald also had been an avid bowler for many years; and, he enjoyed hunting and fishing. Ronald made his life fit the needs of the team. He participated in traffic control, the bi-annual safety breaks, and attended meetings on a regular basis. He was proud to be a member of Punxsutawney *REACT*.

He loved Punxsutawney *REACT*, doing volunteer work and just helping people. He will be sadly missed by his family, friends, member's and his pet cat called "Tiger." He is now a member of God's Traffic Control Team.

Our prayers go out to anyone that his life had touched throughout his life.

**Silent Mic - Robert Bankins
Submitted by Bill Kofron
Colleton County REACT,
North Carolina State REACT Council**

Mr. Robert Allen Bankins, 55, of Winston-Salem died Thursday, July 17, 2008, at his home. He was born March 15, 1953, in Hanover, New Hampshire, the son of the late Luther Allen and Phyllis Drew Bankins. Mr. Bankins was a member of Central Tabernacle Church where he taught Sunday School. He was a firefighter at Triangle Volunteer Fire Department, Station 16, for five years and was president of Forsyth County *REACT* Team 2802 for many years. He completed three tours of duty in Vietnam with the U.S. Air Force. He was preceded in death by 10 sisters. Survivors include his wife, Tracie Bankins of the home; five children, Justin and Cody of the home; Bobbi and husband Ben of Greensboro; Rachael and husband Erik of New Hampshire; and Veronica of South Carolina; 16 grandchildren; three sisters; a brother; two sisters-

in-law, Chris of Mount Airy and Tammy of Sparta; a special cousin, Mike; and many special nieces and nephews (you will know who you are). He will be missed by five dear friends, T.J., Cheryl, Treava, Phil and Pete; and many more. The funeral service was conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 26, at Hayworth-Miller Silas Creek Chapel, with the Rev. Sandra Bovender and Dan Calhoun officiating.

**REACT International, Inc.
Special Meeting of the Board of
Directors
Held August 9, 2008 @ 3pm ET
Electronic Meeting via Skype**

Directors / Officers Present

John Knott, Region 3, Chairman
Don Manlove, Region 2, President
Stan Walters, Region 1
B.F. Jennings, Region 6
Bob Kaster, Region 7
Joseph Toth, Region 8
Kenny Jagdeogsingh, Region 9
Ed Greany, Exec. VP
Norman Kaplan, Treasurer
Charles A. Thompson, General Counsel

Directors / Officers Absent

Lee Besing, Secretary
Region 4, Vacant
Larry Fry, Region 5

Visitors:

Johnny Stowers (CA)
Dick Cooper (NJ)

1. **Call to Order** 03:00pm ET by Chairman Knott
2. **Roll Call** was conducted.
3. **Quorum** – 8 of 9 director positions are filled, President is also a director so only 7 votes possible at start of meeting. Those present were Region 1, Region 2, Region 3, and Region 7. (Note – Region 8 joined meeting in progress) Non voting officers present in-

cluded Executive VP, Treasurer and General Counsel. Quorum was established with 7 of 8 possible votes represented.

4. **Director Election Results** – The board voted to seat John Knott as director for Region 3, Frank Jennings as director for Region 6 and Kenny Jagdeosingh as director for Region 9 in accordance with the results of the election.

Motion made by Region 1, second by Region 2, to accept the results of the election and seat Region 3, 6 and 9 directors immediately. **Motion Passed.**

5. **FRS Radio Proposal** – Mr. Greany discussed the concept of getting an FRS radio into every home emergency kit at a low cost. Midland radios are simple with 22 channels, no PL tones and no calling tones. Our basic cost under \$10. Discussion held. Priorities were:
 - a. Getting FRS radios in every home
 - b. Gaining positive PR and name recognition for RI
 - c. Possibly earning income for *REACT* International

CREST *REACT* (California) has offered seed money to Mr. Greany to facilitate the purchase of the first batch of FRS radios under this program.

Motion made to authorize Ed Greany to work out details and proceed with program with National SOS and proceed with project. **Motion Passed.**

6. **Future of *REACT*** – Discussion held regarding the need to cut expenses from current budget. Director Manlove proposed that the Suitland office be closed and relocated, saying we could staff it with volunteers if it was located elsewhere. Discussion held about current office hours which are 6am-3pm ET, Tuesday thru Thursday, closed Friday thru Monday. Current lease contract expires December 31, 2008, but we need to give 30 day notice if we intend to move.

7. **2009 Membership Dues** – Discussion held regarding the possible impact of either reducing or increasing dues for 2009.

Motion made to set the US and Canada dues structure for both Family and Junior members at \$15(US) effective with the 2009 Renewals. **Motion Passed.**

8. **Future Meetings** - Next electronic meeting set for September 7, 2008 at 7PM ET. Secretary to notify all directors / officers in accordance with bylaw requirements.
9. **Future FEMA ID Card Requirements** – Treasurer Kaplan reported that effective 2009, FEMA will require permanent plastic ID cards for people going to declared emergency and disaster sites. Card must have magnetic strip. Current paper *REACT* membership card insufficient for meeting this new requirement.

10. **Meeting adjourned**, @ 5:23 ET, sine die.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Stan Walters, Region 1 Director,
Formatting and editing by Lee Besing, Secretary

The Board of Directors represents *you*. They must keep you informed, but *you* must also keep *them* informed as to what you are doing, what ideas you have, and what your needs are. They can't act in a vacuum.

Don't forget to let them know what special abilities, skills, etc. you and your Team can contribute to the overall effort.

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 – 2008

Officers

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Title</u>
Don Manlove	Cell (804) 439-3017 <d.manlove@reactintl.org>	President
Ed Greany, KB6DOL	HP (760) 868-8113 <e.greany@reactintl.org>	Executive Vice President
Lee W. Besing, N5NTG	Cell (210) 771-7075 <l.besing@reactintl.org> Fax (866) 261-3598	Secretary
Norman L. Kaplan, N3LDM	(301) 316-2900 <n.kaplan@reactintl.org>	Treasurer, Assistant Secretary

Board of Directors

<u>Board of Directors</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Title/Region Assigned</u>
Stan Walters	HP (717) 235-7826 <s.walters@reactintl.org>	Vice Chairman: Region 1 ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI, NY, PA
Don Manlove	See above	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
Ed Kerby, Jr.	HP (419) 227-3334 Cell: (419) 979-3816 <e.kerby@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
B.F "Frank" Jennings, N7TRL	HP/Fax (360) 779-4125 <b.jennings@reactintl.org>	Region 6 AK, HI, WA, OR, ID, MT, WY
Robert Kaster, Jr.	HP (405) 735- 8577 <r.kaster@reactintl.org>	Region 7 AR, LA, NM, CO, KS, MO, OK, TX
Joseph Toth	HP (760) 242-0886 <j.toth@reactintl.org>	Region 8 CA, NV, UT, AZ Region 9
Kenny Jagdeosingh	HP/Fax (868) 628-2886 Work (868) 628 2886 <k.jagdeosingh@reactintl.org>	International Teams

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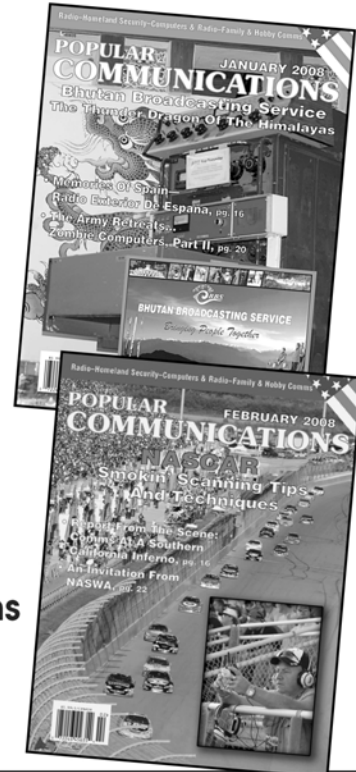
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