



The REACTer



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Don Manlove,
President, RI



My fellow
REACTers,

With summer upon us in full swing, and the weather acting crazy in all parts of the country, I know that most Teams, in the affected areas have hit the ground running. If you have a story or photo(s) of your Team in action, get them to the editor. That is, after you all catch your breath.

During the past few weeks, I have been in class on the Internet, on various subjects from weather to radio support to public safety response by volunteers to grant writing. All the things that I have learned during these classes will be passed along to your Team leaders in the Team Topics that come out from RI office the months that you don't get the *REACTer*. So, at your Team meeting, don't forget to ask your Team leadership about Team Topics.

Over the past few weeks a few new Teams have joined our ranks. Please join me in welcoming these new members to the *REACT* International family. You will find them listed further back in this issue. If a new Team is near you, please drop them a line. I am sure you all remember starting out, doing

things by trial and error. So, a word from a neighboring Team just might help take the edge off on getting up and running.

I have received a few calls and e-mails from various members regarding the various radio systems that are out there, and what we use here in the Richmond VA area. First off, the Team that I belong to uses GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service). This service can run you some big bucks. Radios, licensing for members, tower space, repeater(s), cabling, and power can add up very quickly. If your Team is going to go this route, talk to a radio shop in your area for guidance. You may find that they may help you out by using an existing system for a small user fee, per member each month. Another step that you can do, as a Team, is go for a Team business license from the FCC. Now, don't forget, there is a fee from the government for this. Do your homework; talk it over with other Teams that have a radio system. Check out the internet for ideas and help. One of the sites that we use for equipment is <www.gmrsoutlet.com>. Also, there are various user groups on YAHOO web site that are great for information. If you buy from an on-line web store site, make sure of the equipment you are buying is FCC type accepted. Why? We do not want anyone to get the wrong equipment and not be able to use it for your activities. Another great web site is <www.mygmrs.com>; here you will find listings for systems in about 30 states. If your Team does get a system up and

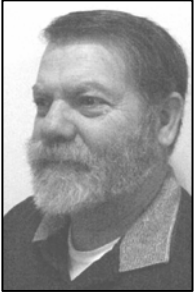
running, this is the place to let other GMRS users know about it.

Did you know that you can use the FCC data base to find licensed GMRS users by zip code? This can be a way for your Team to find new members. Just drop them a card in the mail, to see if they are interested in stopping by on your meeting night. Need help with that letter or card? The computer guru, Johnny, will be placing a form letter on the website called THE NEXT STEP, which can be downloaded for your Team to use. Well that is all the time that I have for now. Please keep the cards, letters, emails, and phone calls coming. I want to hear from you. Be safe out there, and remember

**when seconds
count...*REACT***



From the Executive Vice President Ed Greany



The year is half over – already

The year 2008 is half gone and I wonder what your

Team has accomplished in the first half. Have you contacted your local Red Cross chapter? Have you created a disaster kit for your home? Have you considered how to increase membership in the next six months? Have you considered accepting a position on any of our working committees?

These things require planning and initiative to succeed. For *REACT* to survive we need growth and for growth we need determination and a plan of action. We can't forget the need for training either. Have you or your Team members completed the ICS and NIMS courses yet? The website for these independent study courses is <<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>>. Some courses only take about an hour while others may take a few days to complete. The nice thing is that you can print a Certificate of Completion when you successfully complete the exam. Let's also not overlook our very own Emergency Communications (ECOMM) *REACT* course available to all *REACT* members in good standing.

These are only a few ideas to boost your Team into action if you haven't already begun. Why not conduct an SOS drill using FRS radios? See <www.nationalsos.com> for details. It's fun, educational, and informative for the public and you may get a new member or two out of it. Last, please let us all know what you have done or are doing for the Good of *REACT*.

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

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

Have you contacted George Holmes:

<react6395@yahoo.com>

with your ideas for a *REACT* logo and a 50th anniversary patch? He'd like to hear from folks from all regions; let this be an organization-wide effort.

New possibilities keep arising for publicizing *REACT* in general and your Team in particular. See elsewhere in this issue.

Severe weather seems to be with us as always. SKYWARN in Maine sent out warnings about thunderstorms expected for amateur radio Field Day. And they were right. By the way, how do YOU protect your equipment from nearby lightning strikes? And it doesn't have to be all that nearby. I learned the hard way a few years back. So protect yourself and join the SKYWARN effort. That effort seems to become more and more important as time goes on. Check any issue of the *REACTer*; you'll probably find instances of the importance of SKYWARN.

In Maine, much of the SKYWARN effort is carried on through the NWS station at Gray, but some goes through Caribou in the far north. Penobscot *REACT* works primarily through Caribou, but I am assured the two NWS stations talk to each other. A new Team being developed in the southern part of the state works through Gray (stay tuned for further in-

formation). Whoever you work through, your participation could save lives and property.

May was *REACT* month. This issue gives some insight as to what Teams did during that month. If you haven't sent us your information, please do so. And don't forget that National Preparedness Month is September. National Crime Prevention Month is October.

As noted by several *REACT* members:

On November 24, 2008, a new federal regulation (23 CFR 634) goes into effect mandating that anyone working in the right-of-way of a federal-aid highway must be wearing high-visibility clothing that meets the requirements of ANSI / ISEA 107; 2004 edition class 2 or 3. This requirement will apply to all emergency responders.

Follow the 23 CFR 634 link for further information.

Recruit! We have been talking about it, and we will keep doing so. Check this publication and Internet news list for information and ideas.

**August In
Tennessee
From the desk of:
Don Manlove, President,
REACT International**

Did you know that some members of the Board of Directors

are going to be in Tennessee the last week of August (24 to 28) this year? We are going to be at the Bearskin Lodge which promises the best that nature has to offer in Gatlinburg with its unique mountain charm located at the entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. At Bearskin Lodge you'll find state-of-the-art amenities among its traditional mountain craft decor and massive log beams. Downtown Gatlinburg shops, restaurants, and attractions are just outside your door.

Now you are probably asking yourself, why are they going there? Well I am here to tell you that we all need a break from our daily grind and have to let our hair down once in a while! This is an unofficial *REACT* meeting / round robin get together on the future of *REACT*. Any member of *REACT* is more than welcome to come on down, and put his or her 2 cents in. We will meet you at poolside, riverside, balcony, or just about any place that has a few chairs to sit on or pull up to a table.

Why did we pick this place? It is family friendly. That's right, bring the family with you. We all need a vacation – kids too. I do believe you will find that what the lodge has to offer will keep the kids out of trouble while you are relaxing. We were trying to find a location that was kind of in the middle of the east coast part of the country so more people have a chance to get there without paying an arm and a leg for gas. The room rates start out at

\$60.00 a night and go up. So if you are up to a few nights, or all week long of clean air and good company, give the Bearskin Lodge a call, or visit the web site for your reservations.

<www.thebearskinlodge.com> or phone 1-877-795-7546

Gatlinburg became a lodging destination many years ago and our lodge will take you back to a time when visitors came to enjoy the clean mountain air and cool streams of Gatlinburg. Those days are here again as you can look at the bubbling mountain stream from your balcony or enjoy a hike into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park right from our door step. While at our Gatlinburg lodge, take a float on our own meandering lazy river, or a dip in our swimming pool that looks out at Mount LeConte.

Save your gas and leave your car in our free covered parking garage and take the trolley to all of Gatlinburg, the National Park or the attractions of Pigeon Forge, Dollywood, Dixie Stampede and outlet shopping. You can simply walk to the many fine craft shops, boutiques and restaurants that line the village streets of Gatlinburg, as we are located on the south end of downtown Gatlinburg. Remember, to bring your ideas and thoughts, and help us make a difference. And please drop me a line if you are going to come to the Bearskin Lodge.

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>

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 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

Anatomy of a National SOS Drill

By Stanton Walters

Director, Region 1

President, York County REACT

York County REACT of Pennsylvania held its second National SOS drill on Saturday May 17, 2008. Here is what we did and how we did it.

We started by selecting a location with good height above average terrain. We went to the property owner and asked for permission to use the site we had chosen. In our case, we have to thank The York Water Company for letting us setup in Reservoir Park, elevation 650 feet. From our selected location we had line of site into our target area, the City of York Pennsylvania. We had to hike in to our sight so we had to carry all our gear about a half mile. Coming in it was all downhill. Guess what that meant going out again? We arrived in the parking lot at 12:00 p.m. and hiked in to our base site.



We deployed our improved portable mast and antenna array. Our portable mast is made from four, five foot sections of metal mast from Radio Shack. A guy line bracket was made from three aluminum stud plates purchased at the hardware store. These were bolted together to form an opening in the middle and this assembly was placed on the mast just above the clamp between the second and third mast sections. The guy lines are three thirty foot lengths of yellow nylon rope with carabineer clips at one end. The carabineer clips hook on to the guy line bracket half way up the mast.



The mast was assembled fully on the ground. All sections were clamped together. At the top we had an FRS ladder-line J-pole inside a length of PVC tubing suspended from a boom. Next we had a GMRS three element beam and finally a dual band Amateur J-pole at the top. We did not use our GMRS beam so we did not run a coax feed line for it this time. We ran to feed lines to the antenna we were going to use during the drill and tie wrapped them to the mast. With one Team member holding the base of the mast in place, we raised the mast and pegged in the guy lines.



We used an Icom IC-F21GM for our small GMRS base radio and a Yaesu FT-60R for our ham station. Why the ham rig you ask? Well, think about it. If this had been a real incident we would have communicated with the general public in the downtown York neighborhoods and then relayed that information up onto the Amateur net which would be running if there was a real disaster. All those FRS users would be reporting on conditions in their neighborhoods. This information would provide responders with a much better picture of what was happening. That's why we do the drills.



We were able to communicate with people all over York. Our long distance contact was 4.5 miles away and was confirmed at 500mw FRS. We announced the start of our drill at 1:00PM and cleared with our last contact a little after 3:00PM. Visit <www.geocities.com/yorkcountyreact> to see a map of our contacts and related information. We took down our mast, packed it all into the bags and cases we brought it in, cleaned up our trash and hiked out. We made extra sure to leave no trace of our presence. That way we will be welcome back to that site again. There will be more pictures, our press release and our script at the web site.

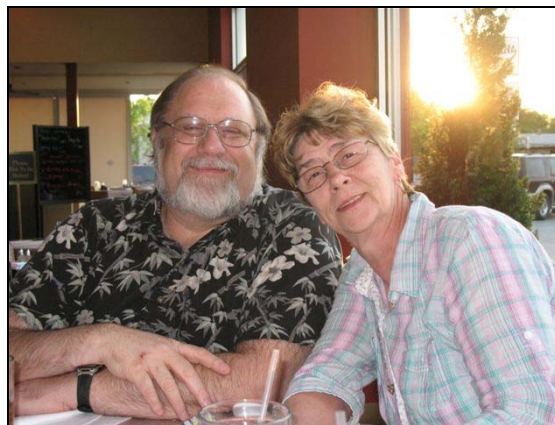


Stan talks on the Yaesu FT-60 while Brenda logs the contacts

We didn't really need the mast, we could have done it all just with the F21GM in hand due to our excellent elevation but it was a drill right? The Team got a chance to practice putting up our new mast and antenna array and we had a great time doing it. You will too, give it a try and run a National SOS drill of your own!

Old *REACT* members are still out there.
By Ron Mayes, Air Capital *REACT*, Wichita, Kansas

Ken and Lynda Green visited Wichita for Annual Air Capital *REACT* meeting and to catch up with friends and relatives. They also attended Lynda's son graduation from Emergency Medical Tech school in Kansas.



Ken and Lynda still reside in Utica, New York. Both had a good time visiting over dinner when the picture was taken by Ron.

San Angelo Duathlon
By Mark Byrd, San Angelo (Texas)
REACT



San Angelo REACT started Sunday morning, April 20, working the San Angelo Duathlon (run-bike-run). Seven members helped with various duties during the race. As these types of events progress, our duties change. The race consisted of over 100 entries, and stretching our resources over a 60 mile track. Trying to ensure the safety, and watching over all the racers by assisting the police with traffic control on a six lane major road in the city, and controlling the mix of cars, trucks and bicycles on a major highway traveling up to 70 mph leading out of San Angelo is a stressful time. I am happy to say we had only two injured riders and they were both minor in nature and did not involve anyone else, they just crashed their bikes.



REACT REACHES NEW HEIGHTS
HIGH DESERT REACT # 4910
By Joseph Toth, Director, Region 8

On May 19, 2008 Members of the High Desert *REACT* Team's Aviation Division made its first initial Flight

At 0826, Pilot Herold Andrews with Co-Pilot/Nav-Com Operator Joe Toth took off in a Cessna 172 from the Apple Valley Airport. They flew north Towards Calico Peak along the I-15 Freeway surveying motorist traffic, then flew towards the Calico Peak Repeater site to survey the site and take pictures of the mountain top.



They returned back to the Apple Valley Airport touching down at 09:11 (WOW) That stands for "Weight on Wheels"

The flight was good and we learned many things. There were small things which need addressing, but will be easy to fix. Actually, the fixes are already in place.

We feel with in 30 or 60 days our Airborne Repeater will be ready for use.

Our *REACT* Air Unit has been established.

**Heartland *REACT* Douglas County
Nebraska
Ready For Busy Months Ahead
By Dan McMahon**

Our Team is gearing up for a very busy spring and summer season here in the Omaha Metropolitan area. Heartland *REACT* will be helping at events in all four of the surrounding counties in addition to severe weather, flood, and tornado watches. Due to the recent outbreak of severe weather in other parts of the country, it is only a matter of time until we will be needed. We have twelve new members about half way through the storm spotter training class and are anxious to receive their certificates. They will be a welcome addition to the spotter network. The annual National Weather Service training class, which is mandatory for all members, was held on March 24, 2008 at Boys Town. This is an opportunity for agencies in the SKYWARN system to get to know each other.

Heartland *REACT* is the primary communication branch of the Douglas County Emergency Management Agency. Other agencies in the network include ARES and CERT personnel. A new notification system called CODESPEAR, has been recently activated by Emergency Management and the National Weather Service. This system is able to notify all the members of each organization by phone landline, cell phone, or computer at the same time. It also allows each individual agency to notify their own members. The system has been used several times with great success and is a considerable time saver.

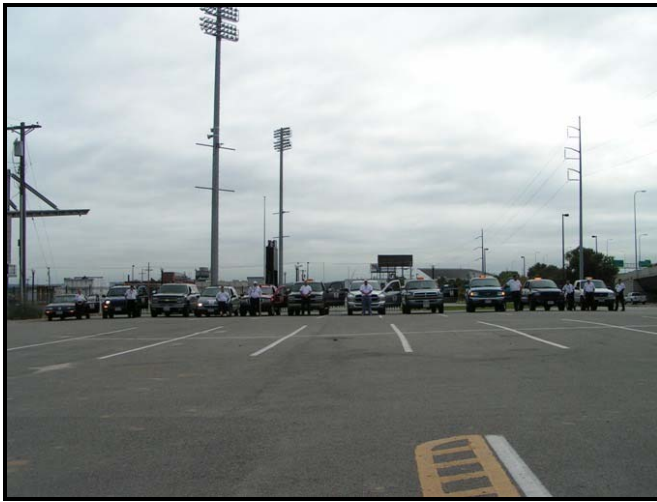
In the interest of informing the public in the event of severe weather, Heartland *REACT* has established base stations at three of the local television stations. KETV -7, KMTV -3 and as of April 2008, KPTM-Fox 42. Channel 7 and Channel 3 bases have been in use for many years providing spotter reports to the on-air meteorologists for the duration of the watch. One or two Heartland members are assigned to each base station where they monitor GMRS 462-700 storm spotter reports to the National Weather Service and the EOC downtown. They also perform behind the

scene duties such as answering the phones, passing messages, and helping with whatever they are asked to do. KPTM-Fox 42 had the “maiden voyage” so to speak, May 22, 2008 during the first tornado watch of the season. The storm lost intensity, and nothing happened, but Chief Meteorologist Tyson Pearsall was very impressed with our Team’s abilities. We have a very close relationship with the television stations and high hopes for many more years to come.

So far this year, Heartland *REACT* has participated in the annual siren test in Douglas and Sarpy Counties. Along with ARES, proper operation of all the sirens was confirmed. At the Get Healthy Get fit Bike Ride, members of our Team manned “safety” check points along the 46 mile route providing encouragement, minor first aid, and a ride back to the start line for those who could not make it. May 3, 2008 we were called upon by the Omaha Police Department to help with traffic control and public safety at the Cinco De Mayo parade held in South Omaha. Utilizing our Team allows officers to be available for other duties, and provides an opportunity for our Team to be seen by the public. Also in May was the Cystic Fibrosis Great Stride Walk and the Omaha Metro Heart Walk where we were ready to respond to any problem that might have come up. The month of June started off with the Tour De-Cure Bike Ride for the American Diabetes Association. This is a 50 mile ride from Springfield, Nebraska to the turnaround point and back. This is quite a communication challenge due to the distance from Omaha. Heartland units were stationed along the route and any message for control or ride organizers was relayed from unit to unit. As funds become available, a generator powered mobile repeater will be purchased which will solve many of the problems.

In July, Heartland *REACT* will assist our comrades of Dodge County *REACT* with John C. Fremont Days events and parade. This is a three day event and takes the combined manpower of both Teams. Both Teams work really well together during events and emergencies with a long standing mutual aid agreement. All the members of both Teams have the two frequencies programmed into the radios.

The second weekend in August will be the Offutt Air Force Base Air Show. This year's show is going to be a part of Air Force Week and only three Bases in the United States will be showing everything the Air Force has to offer. The Offutt Base Commander has requested Heartland *REACT* and other organizations to help with communications, first aid, and public safety for record crowds.



Heartland *REACT*'s 46 members are a vital part of the Omaha community and here to serve.

Antelope Valley *REACT* (C040) In 2008 By Mary Cooper

Thunder on the Lot's new tradition was a full-scale event that featured a live performance by *Foghat* with their hit song "Slow Ride" which took in 12,000 people, all proceeds for kids. Thunder turned out very well. Saturday at 11:00 am, 4 *REACT* members set up our booth outside to hand out new member flyers and brochures to spectators. Three members manned the booth while the President Bill, and Secretary Mary, worked inside a building bringing in the overflow of classic cars and trucks and parking them, giving drivers a drip pan to put under their cars, making sure their batteries were disconnected, registration forms were on their vehicles, and there was tape over their gas cap. Chris our Sgt. at Arms helped with the booth until he was needed to help out

with handing out water to the volunteers at the gates using his quad.



Sunday Bill and Mary did the same on along with other *REACT* members taking turns helping with our Booth which was moved inside the a air conditioned building Sunday morning. Bill, Mary, Steve and Linda, Chris's wife, manned the building and patrolled the fairgrounds on foot, besides taking turns with our booth. Ruth, our treasurer, sat at the booth from 12:00 pm -3:00 pm. Chris drove his quad around to deliver water again to the volunteers at the gate entrances and just make sure everything was all right and if anyone needed anything. Chris also helped out with bringing in late classic and hot rod cars at the gate and led the way to escort them through the back way where it was safe for them and others that were already parked. Chris also assisted first aid on two people who were injured. Chris and Steve also helped out with traffic control at the end of the event. We do not know at this time how much Thunder on the Lot made this year! Last year was \$303,000.

Our Fundraiser (See May-June *REACTer*) turned out better then we expected. We did set up a tent, but took it down after the winds picked up. First day at the Super Wal-Mart we made \$41.43 and the total out of the three days totaled \$117.76 dollars. The president, secretary and treasurer were there. It was very hot, and we could not stay all three days from 9-5 pm. Some people just came up and gave us donations in our locked metal donation can. We handed out new member flyers, trash bags with *REACT* on them. With there donation we gave out free tickets for kids at the home town

buffet and information about our Team. Thank you to those people who donated to us.



Earlier, we were featured in the Antelope Valley Newspaper under the title of “Antelope Valley React prepares for crises.”



**TRAVELS WITH THE PRESIDENT:
Don Manlove Visits the Field**

More from Don's efforts to bring us more information about the Teams. This Cass County (Indiana) car wash:



Chad McCallum, Glinda Weese Steve Wallace



Glinda Weese, Chad McCallum, Jason Wallace



Tom Weese, Leonda Wallace, Chad McCallum, Jason Wallace

Let's help Don out in this effort.

From ARRL's ARES E-Letter of May 21, 2008

American Red Cross Responds to ARRL Concerns Regarding Background Checks

In November 2007, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, wrote to the American Red Cross (ARC) regarding concerns voiced by ARRL volunteers. In 2006, the Red Cross stated it would implement background checks that included, among other things, a credit check and a “mode of living” check for its staff and volunteers, including

ARES volunteers providing services to the Red Cross during disasters.

ARRL saw these portions of the background check as unneeded and inappropriate for ARES service.

In a letter dated May 8 of this year, Armond T. Mascelli, ARC Vice President for Disaster Response Services replied to President Harrison: "I can now report back to you that [these] actions have been completed and changes have been instituted which I trust resolves the concerns detailed in your letter. This effort took considerably more time and attention than originally envisioned, but I believe the results will now benefit our respective organizations.

"A new background consent form now [is] to be used by all Red Cross chapters for ARRL members and other partner organizations. The form and related process is limited to the name and social security number verification of the individual, and a criminal background check. References and sug-

gestions to other related investigative possibilities have been stricken."

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, announced the resolution at the ARRL ARES forum at the Dayton Hamvention® and received hearty applause.

"We are very pleased that the American Red Cross has addressed some of the issues that we raised regarding their background investigations and that we can move forward in a relationship that has existed for a long, long time," Harrison said. "The American Red Cross and the ARRL have shared a productive relationship for many years which has been of benefit to both the organizations and to the public. We are glad that throughout the past months we have been able to negotiate the issues that we had and have finally come to a resolution."

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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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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

May - June 2008

-August 24-28: Get together in Tennessee
(p. 4)

- September: National Preparedness Month
-October: National Crime Prevention Month
-August 5: Deadline for Sept – Oct *REACTer*
-All year: Logo design (see Editor's Corner)
-All year: Recruiting

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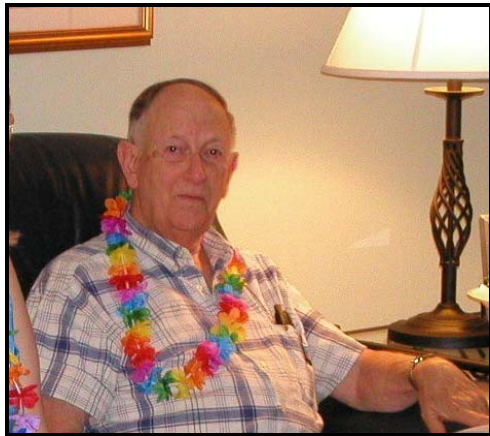
Do let us know what is happening with your Team. Your input will help us recruit. Let the *REACTer* know, and let Ron McCracken know. Got ideas for articles? Let us know about that, too.

Silent Mics

Allen B. Hanger, Jr
Herndon *REACT* C332
By Dora Willbanks

Allen B. Hanger, Jr. (Age 79), member of Herndon *REACT* C332, LM 477, passed away June 7 2008. He retired from a career with the Navy De-

partment and served in the Army Air Force. He is survived by his wife Delores, daughter Kathleen, son Lawrence, and three grandchildren.



He worked diligently with Jerry Bricker to establish *REACT* Headquarters in Suitland, Maryland and spent many a day getting the office up and running. He worked at the state, Team, and International levels to advance the goals and purposes of *REACT*.



With Herndon *REACT* Team

Al was a person who was a true friend as well as a community minded person and will be missed.

President Don Manlove adds: Al Hanger was a member from 01/1969 till sat, 06/07/2008.

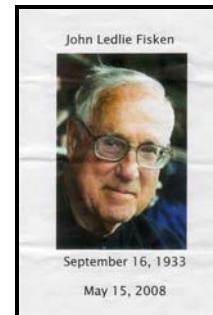
His son, Larry Hanger, writes to Don: *We deeply appreciate your recognition of Dad's service to REACT International. Clearly for many years REACT was the recipient of Dad's intellect, passion and care. Others saw this dedication and awarded him with Life Membership. You may or may not know that Dad stayed active to the end. Meetings were held at his house and he worked an event late in 2007.*

On behalf of his wife Delores, his daughter Kathleen and I, again I thank you for this tribute. We will greatly miss this silent mic.

Photos courtesy of Larry Hanger

John Fiskin, Evergreen *REACT* Unit 416 By Frank Jennings

John was LM 187 and a member of *REACT* for over 35 years, was a member of King County *REACT*, Seattle *REACT* and lastly Evergreen *REACT* unit 416 John's Wife, Daughter and a Nephew were with him.



At his memorial 31 May 2008 was the Seattle Fire Dept Chaplain who officiated. His memorial praised his over 40years as an American Red Cross volunteer and recipient of the highest Red Cross Award.

The Seattle Fireman's Buff association praised his eagerness and dedication to providing refreshments to firemen on the scenes of Fires in the city.

John's tremendous abilities assisted Washington *REACT* Teams and the Council in providing training presentations and slides when ever they were needed.

John will certainly be missed by many.

SMILE! YOU'RE ON YOUTUBE! GETTING THE WORD OUT

Well, *REACT* is there. And that's you.

Head for a computer. Try the library if you have to. Go to <www.YouTube.com> and search for 'REACT International'. There you will find a short video titled 'Join REACT International'.

Oklahoma County *REACT* produced this excellent PSA. It is bright and lively. You will enjoy it. When people ask you "What is *REACT*?" you can refer them to it.

Your Team can add the PSA to its website as others have done. You can even add local contact data. If you have any trouble, just check with your grand-kids.

Are you hearing about this for the first time? You could have known two months ago if you were on the *REACT-L* list. It's time to join. You are missing out on a lot. If you have no computer, get some others on your Team to join and keep you posted. Or, go to the library and join *REACT-L* using their computers. Where there's a will, there's a way.

Just send an e-mail to <REACT-L-Request@gibbousmoon.com> . Type the word SUBSCRIBE on the subject line. Type the same one word in the message area. That's it.

When's Your SOS Drill?

By Ron McCracken, RI PR Chair

Has your Team planned an SOS Drill as part of its National Preparedness Month activities? Some Teams have. Don't be left behind.

An SOS Drill is a simple but excellent preparedness exercise. If you can't organize one for NPM, get rolling now to schedule an SOS Drill for *REACT* Month next spring.

SOS Drills are simplicity itself. You've seen photos here of *REACT* volunteers relaxing in lawn chairs as they log check-ins from local FRS operators. It's that easy. An SOS Drill takes only two hours, 1-3 p.m., on a Saturday.

One or two *REACT*ers can handle it. You use your FRS radios so no special equipment or elaborate set-up is required. Heavy publicity through local media, service clubs, church groups, radio clubs, etc., is the key to success.

Select from FRS-only channels 8-14 for your SOS Drill. Your Team will know that all its callers are operating legally since those channels are licence-free. You will know that you are testing FRS performance since those channels function only at the FCC-authorized FRS power level.

Channels 1-7 pose unwelcome PR issues for Teams so please avoid them. FRS-1 is the agreed call/distress channel so it is ruled out for Drill purposes. Some callers may use GMRS high power levels on channels 2-7 and that will make your SOS Drill results unreliable. Operation at GMRS power levels requires an FCC license which the caller may or may not possess. FRS-only channels 8-14 pose none of these problems so use them to safeguard your Team's reputation.

Choose a public place with high visibility for your SOS Drill. A park or a mall parking lot are good possibilities. Be sure to get photos of your SOS Drill and visitors who may stop by. Have some *REACT* membership information on hand to give to interested guests. A new member or three would be a nice bonus. Send the photos to the editor for publication, another nice bonus.

Some Teams are on their second or third SOS Drill. Get going fast. Your Team can soon be among them.

Are you a **SKYWARN**
SPOTTER?

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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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Crownsville, MD 21032

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.

If you are *not* a SKYWARN spotter, shouldn't you be? Severe weather knows no boundaries. It can occur anywhere – and generally does. Check with your local National Weather Service Office for training programs and other information. Canada needs spotters, too. See page 21. And how about other countries? If you live outside the US and Canada, what is done where you are? Let us know.