



The REACTer



The Weather Strikes – P 5

Teams and Team Members –5
Silent Mics – 14



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.; 5210 Auth Road - Suite 403; Suitland, MD 20746
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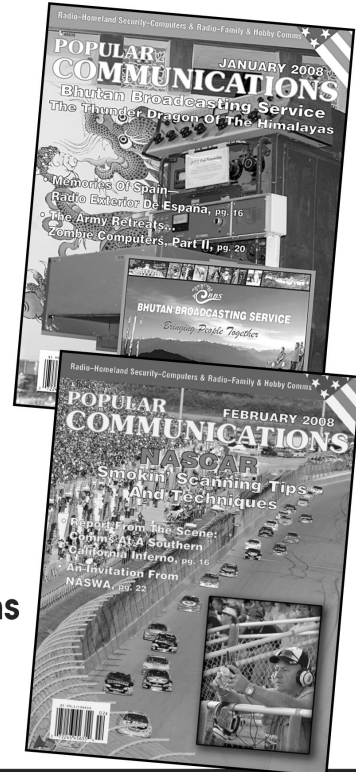
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The REACTer

Volume 43, No. 2 April-May-June, 2009

Board/Officers.....	Inside Back Cover
REACT Service	Inside Front Cover
From the President.....	Don Manlove 2
Editor's Corner	Don Tarbet 3
OOPS.....	Stewart Wach 3
REACT Month Lake Simcoe	Ron McCracken 5
REACT – Teams and Members	5
ARRL Propagation Report.....	11
Silent Mics	14
Advertiser's Index	14
Blue Star Program.....	14
Bad PR	Ron McCracken 14
Ready Kits.....	15
Radiograms	Ron McCracken 16



Weather: Teams and Team Members – P 15

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.).
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Don Manlove,
President, RI



My fellow *REACT*ers;

As I have always stated to anyone that I have met, who has asked me what being a *REACT* member is like, I live by the following:

Family first, church second, job or school 3rd, and *REACT* 4th.

Now, before you all get in an uproar, please think about your own life style, and I believe you will see that this is how most of us run our lives, too. Now that I have taken care of the family, boss, commander, and general, I can get on with this article.

The Team(s) that I have belonged to now and in the past, have all been ran differently by various people, from many different walks of life, but the things that I have learned during the course of my *REACT* years, is to have fun at what you are doing, learn from your mistakes, treat others as you would want to be treated by them, do the best that you can do of the job assigned to you, and never ask someone to do a task, duty, or job, that you would not do yourself. With that being said, we all must remember that you and I are just volunteers, answering that call or need. On the *REACT* INTERNATIONAL web site, we have information that is downloadable for your Team or council's next community event. Now, for planning such an event, you and your Team must determine if you are going to be a sponsor, organizer, participant, or vendor. The next few steps are plan-

ning, coordination, and scheduling. As you can see, this is just the tip of the iceberg. Please check out the download area of the web site for more information.

I have been sent a few Internet web site tips that I want to pass along to you all. The first one is the batteries plus: <www.batteriesplus.com>. Great site and just about every battery for any radio that you may have in your "go bag." The second one that I want to pass to you all is <www.mygmrs.com> that is the reincarnated version of "The Repeater Resource," an Internet project with the intent of listing GMRS repeaters in the United States. As more and more GMRS licensees are using the site, more features are coming on line and it is one of the nicer full-featured websites to list your site, frequency, and tone. The next one is <www.reactintl.org>. Please go and check out all the new pages that our computer committee has been hard at work on. It has been my mission, with the help of many fellow *REACT*ers, to bring *REACT* in to the 21st century from the tube age. Stay tuned for more and exciting items to come!

Is your Team looking for a *REACT* flag? Well the office has taken delivery just the other day, of 20 some of the flags, so call Dora for pricing information to get your very own.

In addition, the office in Suitland has new summer hours of service. They are as follows, Monday thru Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., EST. The office is closed Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. If you call the office, at (301)316-2900, after hours, please be sure to leave a message with your full name, Team number, and a phone number, that the office staff can reach you. Make sure you repeat your contact info clearly, as this will help us in returning a call.

And, as always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or just want to talk, drop me a line, call me, or text me as below.

Please keep your Team happenings, photos, and other news coming, as we pass them along all round the WWW, and to the *REACT*er editor. Also, please let me know what Team functions

you have coming up this summer, your Team might get a visit from your President, as I do get around to various areas of the country.

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Thanks for your service,

Don E. Manlove, Jr.
President
Director (Region 2)

EDITOR'S CORNER

Don Tarbet

Again, an issue is out late. The July-August-September will also be later than we'd like, but at least will appear during the time for which it is current. After that, we hope to have things back on a reasonable schedule. Please, provide material by the fifteenth of the month prior to when the issue will be current. That is: for the October-December issue, the deadline is September 15.

There have been some major technical problems as well as others. I often do not receive e-mail. The ISP here is facing heavy fines and is trying to declare bankruptcy. Until that gets resolved, please note whether you get a response soon after sending material. If not, inquire.

REACT gets mention in connection with the final report on the Oklahoma City bombing. More information is available from <www.mipt.org/>.

We are reminded by items in this issue and by more we have received that it is vital that you keep your family's ready kit up to date. It is an old cliché that if we are to be part of the solution, we can't be part of the problem.

As we have discussed before, suppose services are lost for a week, two weeks, a month? Would you have food – food that you'd be able to eat safely?

How about medicines? Are yours current? Do you check the dates and rotate? We know about batteries. But are yours fully powered? Other sources of power? And how about water? How much do you use? How long could you go? Be thinking about these things. The New York Times magazine reports a very low level of preparedness for the American public, especially in urban areas. Are you part of the problem or part of the solution?

Since last heard from, the following Team sites have been named website of the month: County, North Carolina:

<www.freewebs.com/clevelandcountyre-act4935shelbync>
and

Apollo VII *REACT*, in the Chicago area:
<<http://www.angelfire.com/il/REACT>>

Ron McCracken says, "Apollo points out that [angelfire.com](http://www.angelfire.com) offers FREE websites, so every Team can have one. Turn your Team's computer 'geek' loose on building a site to promote your services to the community and the world."

Note also in this issue the bulletin from ARRL. The sunspot cycle is picking up. That will affect everybody in radio communications.

OOOPS!

Reported by Stewart Wach

Omaha, Nebraska (KPTM -- Fox) - Police evacuated a midtown neighborhood briefly Thursday morning for what was originally thought to be a bomb, but in the end, it turned out to be ham radio equipment.

The house, located near 48th and Mayberry, caught fire last week. A cleaning company found the equipment and called police, thinking it was a pipe bomb.

Police were called, and officers detonated the equipment. The neighborhood was evacuated during the investigation.

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.

Currently, if you don't get acknowledgement, inquire. Technical problems have arisen, though we still do prefer electronic submissions.

REACT Month 2009: Lake Simcoe By Ron McCracken

***REACT* Month 2009** was really special for *REACT* Lake Simcoe. The Team marked the last day of *REACT* Month by participating in a Walk/Run for Easter Seals to benefit crippled children. That's not so unusual.

Doing it for the 30th time perhaps is. This event was the very first one the Team handled after it was chartered. Celebrating 30 years of safety

communications for its community made this a double milestone for *REACT* Lake Simcoe members.

Adding to the festivities, *REACTers* Art Heath and Ron McCracken received plaques for their many years of service to the event.

REACT Lake Simcoe birthed *REACT* Don Valley a few years later and the two Teams have worked the Walk/Run together since. Two *REACT* Don Valley members, Ward Kennedy and Tony Duarte also received plaques for their years of service.

The event has grown to attract some 2500 participants and now closes major roads for several hours. "Lost parents and blisters or twisted ankles are our usual problems," McCracken recalled. "One year, sudden severe weather did fill our *REACT* cars with youngsters seeking shelter from pelting rain and falling trees. Not one injury resulted, but *REACT* radios were abnormally active that day. We were blessed."

Plans are already afoot for Year 31, and *REACT* expects to be there.



REACTer Ron McCracken chats with a volunteer after the 33rd Per echini Easter Seals Walk/Run in Newmarket, Ontario. *REACT* Lake Simcoe has supported the event with safety communications since the Team began operations in 1979. Photo: Ward Kennedy

REACT News: Teams and Team Members

Tri-County *REACT* (North Carolina) Ruthie Dunn, Secretary

Tri-County *REACT*, Inc – C633, is one of the older Teams, and we have worked very hard to keep it going. We are a small Team (five members), and I believe we are the only all female Team. We had two male juniors, but lost them when they moved to Tennessee. We are very proud of our Team and work with the Weaverville police and fire departments on some of their events.

We collect for needy families for Christmas so they can have a better one. We keep none of the money for our Team. We are in need of some radios as the Team cannot afford to purchase them for our members. When we took over the Team, we did not receive any equipment. If any Teams out there have any radios that they are not using and could donate them to our Team, we would appreciate it.

Please contact us by phone 828-774-4172 or 828-505-4952 or e-mail <goforth1860@yahoo.com>

Thanks.

Tampa Bay (Florida) *REACT* Roy Drury

On Thursday June 3, Tampa Bay *REACT* signed its formal MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Greater Tampa (GT) CERT. Under this MOU, Tampa Bay *REACT* will be assisting primarily with communications for the GT CERT

organization as well as other tasking by GT CERT. For more information on registering for a CERT Class held by GT CERT, e-mail them at <info@greatertampacert.org>.

The leadership of GT CERT and Tampa Bay *REACT* look forward to this new partnership, in fact Tampa Bay *REACT* was already requested to fill an opening for the GT CERT Rally Point Exercise that was held on June 11. Mike Bresse – W2YS staffed Tampa Fire Rescue Station 13 for GT CERT Team 13 and Roy Drury – KI4EON was imbedded with Team 5 in New Tampa as the Communications Officer. In addition, Roy Drury – KI4EON has been asked to be a member on their communications committee going forward, so as you can see they really want to have us involved.

GT CERT is sponsored by Tampa Fire Rescue and the City of Tampa Department of Emergency Management and as such has their full support with this partnership.

Los Angeles County *REACT* By John Capodanno

Los Angeles County *REACT* showcased their communications van and equipment at the Santa Clarita emergency preparedness expo that took place on Saturday, March 21 at the College Of The Canyons. The expo gives citizens an opportunity to meet the first responders and witness demonstrations of the potential threats that face our diverse population in the Los Angeles area.



Maple City *REACT* (Michigan) By Betty Timm

Maple City *REACT* helped out at the 911 Blood Drive at MIS and also did an Adopt A Highway program.

The Team stressed the need for alternative means of communication as part of well-rounded preparedness plan in this disaster-prone part of California.



We have one of the longest records of participation in our area.

Through this information campaign Los Angeles County *REACT* hopes to educate the public as to the resources available and possibly recruit new members of *REACT*.



This is going to be our 5th year doing it and it really makes us proud to be able to do it as does the blood drive.

Lake County *REACT* #4736

Dale Waba, President

Here are some statistics outlining the activities of the Lake County *REACT* in Madison, South Dakota. I have been keeping records for only the past 12 years (since 1996) so the numbers would be a lot higher if I had them from 1977 to present. But for the past 12 years, Lake County *REACT* has traveled 32,331 miles and logged 3714 hours of volunteer service in Lake County.

We have averaged 2487 miles and 287 hours over this 12 year period

3714 hours will equate to 154 - 24 hour days or...
464 - 8 hour days.....

Oh yes, once around the world at the equator is 24,904 miles...

7427 down means that another 17,478 more and it will be twice around the world...all travel done in Lake County

And like most volunteer organizations, *REACT* members get no reimbursement for anything!

Cleveland County *REACT*

(North Carolina)

By Jay Flora

Tornados

6/16/09: Severe storms ripped through North Carolina on Tuesday causing major damage. Cleveland County was one of the areas hardest hit. The Murray family was watching the rain from the front porch of their Kings Mountain home and ran inside when hail started covering their yard. Seconds later the porch collapsed onto the house. "All you could hear was just 'boom! boom!' glass blowing in the house," said Melody Murray. "It happened so fast, there was nothing you could do. Things were snapping like dominoes and the roof

felt like it was about to come off," said Deena Bagwell.



The porch collapsed onto the house. The home's front windows were blown in as hail rained down and the wind blew. Bagwell clung to her ten-month-old daughter the whole time. "I was holding her and water smashing me in the side of the face," she said.

Across their community there were similar stories. Power was knocked out as power lines down and trees fell to the ground. "It busted our windows, but we're all ok," said Murray.

Trained storm spotters confirmed that a tornado touched down in Kings Mountain Tuesday evening as a line of severe storms moved through the area.



The Kings Mountain Fire Department chief reported large trees down and windows blown out of mobile homes. Chief Frank Burns said at least 10-15 mobile homes were damaged. Residents also reported golf ball to baseball-sized hail. Also in Cleveland County, multiple trees were uprooted causing one lane of Interstate 85 to be blocked between mile markers 3 and 8.



A trained spotter also reported a tornado with several trees down and a house fire on Cedar Lake Farm Road in Waco, North Carolina near Cherryville, at the Cleveland County and Gaston County line. The Tornadoes started in Fallston in the north end of Cleveland County and moved south at 20 MPH, hitting Fallston, Waco, Kings Mountain, the southeast end of the county; then hit Oak Grove. They then moved into South Carolina doing more major damage there.

Fire

On May 2, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. Chief Jay Flora of Cleveland County *REACT*, Shelby, North Carolina was called to do Traffic Control at a House in Kingstown, North Carolina on Quail Run Drive. He had to close down Quail Run Drive at Kingstown Road and just let fire and rescue and police and Red Cross in. The house had a 300-pound propane gas tank hooked to it, and to make things worst the house had live ammo going off in it. The firemen had to take precautions and Flora had to keep people away from the area and cars out. He was very busy that night. He got thanks from the North Carolina Highway Patrol, Number 7 Fire Dept, Cleveland Fire Dept, Polkville Fire Dept, Upper Cleveland Rescue, and a Big Thanks from

Dewey Cook, Director of Emergency Management/Fire Marshall of Cleveland County. Cook told Flora he was glad that he was there to help with traffic control and glad to know that *REACT* is in Cleveland County to help in times of emergency. Flora was on the scene from 7:38 p.m. to 11:15 p.m.

Routine?

May 11: While helping a City of Shelby police officer doing traffic control, Flora came upon a pick-up truck parked in the south-bound lane of Hwy-226. He called city PD and parked his Cleveland County *REACT* patrol car in back of the pickup with lights on and did traffic control. Hwy 226 is a two lane road, so the pickup was causing a traffic hazard. When the police arrived, they tried to help the owner start the vehicle, but with no success. The battery was dead. The officer was preparing to call for a unit with a jumper, but Flora indicated that he could jump-start the vehicle – which he did. The officer offered thanks and said that he is glad *REACT* is there.

Flooding

At 6:50 a.m. on June 4 Flora was called to patrol because of a flood watch. His responsibility was to search for flooded roads. While patrolling, he came upon a green Jeep off the road with the back end sticking out on the Hwy-226/Polkville south bound lane just south of Barbee Road. Flora pulled up behind the Jeep and turned on his emergency lights to slow down all south bound traffic. Flora then called the Cleveland County communications unit to report the incident and describe the actions he had taken. Rain was heavy and the county units didn't arrive until 8:00. It was 8:33 before Flora was able to leave the scene and return to his patrol. After that he initiated a Skywarn Net to report further situations.

Apparently North Carolina has its run of natural and man-made disasters. But at least, they don't have winter storm problems like we do in the north. Right? Wrong! The photos below were also supplied by Jay Flora of Cleveland County REACT. Your editor worked in North Carolina for several years, and his first year there, Raleigh

got almost 2 feet of snow. Well, that's not much compared to where he is now, but it does make us glad that REACT is there to help with those things that officials are not prepared to handle.



No, these scenes don't show anything that we in the north aren't prepared to handle. But what about those areas where they are not expected? When growing up in Southern California I remember a freak snow storm. It can happen. What happens if climate change really is occurring? What unexpected events, from strange weather events to animal migrations, will we have to face? And isn't that part of our mission: prepare for the unexpected? - Ed

Congratulations to *REACT* London, Ontario By Ron McCracken

That Team's Scott Carter, VE3CGN, has been appointed Amateur Radio Liaison Officer (ARLO) to the Salvation Army's SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) for the Ontario Great Lakes Division. What a great way to link *REACT* and SATERN in Canada. The appointment will open doors to future co-operation and mutual support.

Does your local Salvation Army know about your Team and its safety radio capabilities? Your Salvation Army officers can put you in touch with SATERN in your area. U.S. Teams be sure to mention the MOU between Salvation Army and *REACT*. Better yet, take it and this along with you to show them.

Do we have any other *REACT*/SA ARLOs, or does this appointment break new ground? If you are a SATERN ARLO, or have one in your Team or Council, please let the List know. These achievements make us all proud and are super PR for *REACT*. No doubt some of you are planning how you can use this information in your Team/Council PR already.

San Angelo *REACT* By Mark Byrd

On December 28, 2008, San Angelo *REACT* was called by the San Angelo Police Dispatch and requested to relieve officers working a structure fire in the downtown area. *REACT* units started to arrive at the location within 10 minutes of the request.

It took four engines and one ladder truck, plus about 28 firefighters five hours to extinguish the blaze.

REACT members stayed on scene controlling pedestrian and traffic control until being released at 8 p.m.

Glad to report that no emergency responders were injured.

This was a dedicated response by all San Angelo *REACT* members because, at the same time during this emergency call out, we are responsible for the Christmas light tour in San Angelo which has over 4 million lights for us to turn on, put up barricades, and many other duties.

OKLAHOMA FIRESTORM

By Dale Ellis

As Friday's dawn light spread over the areas that last night the news helicopters showed fires, the early morning light revealed over 200 burned houses and other structures in Midwest City, Nicoma Park, Choctaw, Oklahoma City and Oklahoma County. The over 50 MPH winds drove the wildfires across several thousand acres of brush, trees, and houses. Members of Oklahoma County Emergency *REACT* #2620 and Central Oklahoma *REACT* # 6023, were dispatched to assist with traffic control. An area covering sixteen square miles of roads had to be blocked to prevent entry into the area that was on fire and the area that was directly in the path of the fast moving fire. All the police departments in eastern Oklahoma County were called to control traffic and assist with evacuations. Every traffic intersection covered by a *REACT* member freed up a police officer to assist with those evacuations. Fire departments had their hands full with the house fires and trying to prevent additional house fires, high winds had prevented water drops from helicopters. Because of the response, not one person lost their life.

Easter Sunday rains quenched hotspots in this previously parched and now fire ravaged area. *REACT*ers provided 27 hours of support to this effort.

CONCERT

Members of San Angelo *REACT* helped with the security and safety of over 30,000 people who were expected to attend the July 3 pops concert put on by the San Angelo Symphony. This concert is regarded as the 4th largest in the state of Texas.

REACT started the day early at 9:00 a.m. securing the area with traffic control, securing streets and intersections. People started showing up at noon to secure p.m. PM hits the spectators start showing up to enjoy the show.

For San Angelo *REACT*, members must also secure the fireworks shooting areas, ensure secure areas are not penetrated, and people can enjoy themselves. By midnight the crowds have left and *REACT* members can start opening up the streets to normal traffic, and members can go home to their families to enjoy the holiday.

What did you do during *REACT* Month? Field Day? What is on for National Preparedness Month?

ARRL Propagation Forecast Bulletin 28
From Tad Cook, K7RA

Finally, some sunspot activity to report, and not one of those phantom spots, appearing one day and vanishing the next. Sunspot group 1024 first emerged a week ago, on July 3, 2009, with a daily sunspot number of 17, and the magnetic signature of a new cycle 24 spot. Over the next few days it grew more rapidly and became larger than any sunspot group in the past two years. Today, July 10, it should pass over the sun's western limb, and disappear. Our numbers at the bottom of the bulletin go through Wednesday, July 8, and on Thursday the sunspot number was 15.

Look at the table at:

<<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/indices/DSD.txt>>
and notice the sunspot area, in millionths of a solar hemisphere. You can see the size increased rapidly, backed off a bit on July 6, then has increased continually since then, at least through July 9.

You can see a detailed daily progression of the sunspot area at:

<<http://www.solarmonitor.org/slideshow.php?date=20090703>>. If you see no image, just refresh your browser, or hit the F5 key. You should see images at different times on July 3, from different observatories, gradually stepping through. The images look distinctive based on what part of the electromagnetic spectrum a particular observatory is imaging.



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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>

Advertisers Index

National Communications..... 12
Popular Communications..... Back Cover

Silent Mics



James Johnson By Dale Wabba

Members of the Lake County *REACT* Team were saddened to learn of the recent unexpected death of one of their members, James Johnson who passed away on November 23, 2008.

J.J. was 62 years old and was the last chartered member of Lake County *REACT*. He was instrumental in bringing *REACT* to Madison, South Dakota, in 1977. He gave freely of his time and services for over 30 years. The people in Lake County, which includes nine communities, will surely miss all the hours of volunteer service that he so unselfishly gave to others.

People join *REACT* and they serve and they come and they move on to other things. There are always new recruits eager and excited about filling the shoes of those who leave us. However, when a member is unexpectedly called away, his "radio and mic" will forever be silenced. J.J. will be missed by all who knew him.

Richard "Ty" Tyler By James Bridge Rose City *REACT* (Windsor)

It is with regret that Rose City (Windsor) *REACT* informs *REACT* International of the passing of Richard "Ty" Tyler on November 7, 2008, at the age of 85. Ty was very active in *REACT*, not missing a meeting unless poor weather stopped him. He served as President for Rose City (Windsor) *REACT* for over 18 years. After stepping down from the

Presidency, he was very influential in the way the club and meetings were run. Due to his diligence, we are still very active in our community including

all of Essex County. I don't think he was a charter member of the Team but he was one of the earliest members. According to Ron Faulkner, Ty was the oldest and the longest serving active member in Canada. Richard "Ty" Tyler will be greatly missed not only by his immediate family but also by all the members of Rose City (Windsor) *REACT*.

Honor Those Who Serve

From:

<<http://www.grantham.edu/promo/freebluestar.php>>

Provided by Tom Currie

In honor of all of the brave men and women in uniform, Grantham University would like to offer every service member a FREE Blue Star Flag that your family can display to pay tribute to your hard work, dedication, and service to our country.

The Blue Star Flag first appeared in 1917, when an Army captain who had two sons serving on the front line designed it as a tribute to their dedication and service. The flag quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in the service. Today, families who have a loved one serving in the military display a blue star flag in the inside front window of their homes to show the family's pride in their loved one who is serving and to remind others that preserving America's freedom demands much.

Grantham is dedicated to providing military service members, veterans and their families access to a high quality college education. Many Grantham students are currently serving our country domestically and around the world. We thank you and your families for the sacrifices you make.

To receive your FREE Blue Star Flag please complete the request form at:
<<http://www.grantham.edu/promo/freebluestar.php>> - it's that simple!

(Shipping to APO/FPO and United States addresses only.)

Bad PR?

Ron McCracken

RI PR Chair

Is your Team unwittingly bringing bad PR to RI and to other Teams? Could be. Visit:

<www.REACTintl.org> . Check the Team Directory at the left of the page to locate your Team's listing. Click on the e-mail address shown for your Team. Send a TEST post to it. If it "bounces", your Team is a culprit.

Lately, I tried to contact a Team on an important matter. Its e-mail address on the RI website forwarded to TWO Team members. BOTH of those addresses "bounced". Terrible PR for that Team, but also for your Team - and all of *REACT*.

What if I had been a prospective new member? What if I had been an event planner wishing to use the Team's services? Neither would be very impressed by those dismal results. Worse yet, those results reflect badly on other Teams too, and on RI. Not good for anyone.

PLEASE check your Team's e-mail address on the RI website NOW . TEST it REGULARLY to ensure that it is creating the good PR your Team intended. Test the addresses shown for neighbor Teams too, and alert them to any 'bounces'. You will be doing everyone a big favor.

Thanks for helping to shine our PR image.



Food Recall and Ready Kits
The National Office of Citizen Corps
FEMA Community Preparedness Division
Supplied by Tom Currie

Currently the United States is in the midst of one of the largest food recalls in American history. As Americans dig through their cabinets and refrigerators to remove potentially contaminated food associated with the recent peanut recall, we would like to also remind citizens to open and check their Emergency Preparedness Kits to remove any potentially harmful items from these also.

Because peanut products are often recommended as staples in Emergency Preparedness Kits due to their long shelf life and because they are a good source of protein, we encourage all kit owners to look at their kits to ensure food products are not on the peanut recall list. Please keep in mind that the peanut product recall extends beyond peanut-flavored products. The following are some examples of foods also included in the recall that may contain peanuts:

- Granola
- Snack bars
- Crackers
- Cereal
- Trail Mix
- Cookies
- Noodles
- Dog treats

A full list of recalled peanut products and what individuals should do with recalled items can be found on the Food and Drug Administration's Web site:
<<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm>>.

In addition to checking for peanut-related items, please be sure to check for other items in your kit that may have expired, including medications, food and pet food, water, and other recalled items. The U.S. government provides information on unsafe, hazardous, or defective products ranging from consumer products, food, medicine, and cosmetics at <www.recalls.gov>.

Ensuring family and neighbors are prepared is an essential step in helping communities during and after an emergency. Families should have an Emergency Preparedness Kit in all locations that are frequented often, including homes, offices, schools, cars and day care facilities. These kits should hold a variety of essential items that are needed during a disaster, such as a flashlight, radio, cash, clothing, protective equipment, medicines, and of course food and water. For a complete list of Emergency Preparedness Kit recommended items, please visit:
<<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/supplykit.shtm>>.

Citizen Corps Councils and Partners: Councils and partners should remind their communities about the importance of maintaining and constructing an Emergency Preparedness Kit and consider hosting public preparedness training sessions to ensure that information about kits is reaching the community. In addition, Councils and partners should consider adding a link to the FDA Web sites along with information on the recall on peanut products to any Web pages or documents that refer to community preparedness or Emergency Preparedness Kit preparation.

This news story and other Community Preparedness news, including Citizen Corps Bulletins, can be found on our website at <<http://www.citizencorps.gov>>.

Do it! This is vital. Never forget to keep your medications current. – Ed

Is Your “RadioGram” AWOL? Ron McCracken

Have you found a “RadioGram” from HQ in your e-mail inbox lately? If so, great. If not, you need to do some digging to discover why not.

“RadioGrams” are monthly e-mail newsletters that now supplement your copies of the *REACT*er magazine. They go to every *REACT* member for whom HQ has an e-mail address. A *correct* e-mail address, that is. There may lie the snag. 100 “RadioGrams” bounced recently, owing to address problems. Maybe yours was one of them?

There have been at least six “RadioGrams” to date. They just keep getting better so you don’t want to miss out. Since “The *REACT*er” has been reduced to four issues per year, your “RadioGrams” are all the more important for keeping up between *REACT*er issues.

Everything hinges on your e-mail address. If HQ doesn’t *have* it, or if it is *wrong*, you will miss out on your “RadioGrams”. They are another *REACT* member benefit to which you are entitled. Get in on this newest member service today.

How? It’s a cinch. Just send an e-mail to HQ and copy Lee Besing who edits the “RadioGrams”. On the subject line just type MAIL LIST, type the same two words in the message area. That’s it.

You will find the HQ e-mail address on p.1 of every *REACT*er. Lee’s is <L.Besing@REACTintl.org> . Get that e-mail off to HQ, and copy Lee. You will have your latest “RadioGram” in no time. Enjoy reading all the latest *REACT* news.



**And don’t forget to write.
That’s the only way we’ll
know what you are do-
ing.**