



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.; 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>

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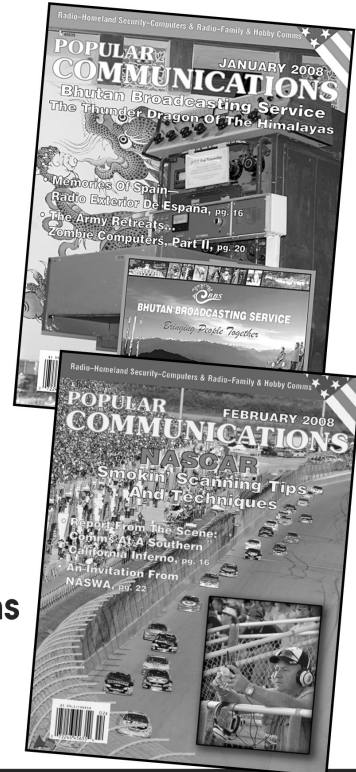
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REACT Teams or Councils may reproduce articles in their publications if proper credit is given.

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

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

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

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Don Manlove,
President, RI



My fellow *REACT*ers;

As the air turns cooler, and the colors start to change on the trees, I know that it is almost time that my Team's training officer has

our new winter schedule set to come out at our next meeting. His name is Ed, and boy let me tell you, for a short timer in *REACT*, he keeps our members hoping! He also helps run our radio net on Wednesdays, on our GMRS system. The other night that we have a net is Mondays, and this is run by one of our oldest members, Bob Babgy. Now, let me tell you about Bob. He is on the radio at 0600 most mornings and stays there till 2300 hours most nights. Since I have been in the central part of Virginia for many years now, Bob is always there, monitoring the radio from his north Chesterfield County home. Well, enough on my Team.

If you look at the RI web site in the next few weeks, you will find the web store back up and running. We have also added a PAYPAL button for your safe, secure on-line purchasing of *REACT* items. And, by the end of next month, you (your Team) will be able to use the PAYPAL system to pay your renewals for 2010 to RI! If you have any questions, please drop a note to the Computer Committee for I am sure they would love to hear from you.

In the next few weeks, I will be traveling to upper New York, parts of Pennsylvania, sections of New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia. So, please keep your eyes and ears open, for you just might see the old SUV, or hear me on any of the GMRS or HAM frequencies in your area.

Just a very short time ago, while I was in southern North Carolina area, I met with Roy & dawn Drury, of Tampa bay *REACT*, along with Jay Flora, of

Cleveland County *REACT*. We had a late lunch at one of Jay's favorite hang outs. Had a great time while there. Why, do you ask? Because I was able to get my HAM ticket at the local Ham fest. Meet some of the great *REACT* members around. And, while there, I also joined ARRL. Boy, do they send out the radio information, for all the various bands. More on that to come in the next issue.

Starting 01 November, 2009, the RI office will be going back to winter hours. Monday – Friday, 7:00 to 3:30, east coast time. Weekends, holidays, and nights, the office is closed. As always, if you call the office after hours, please leave your name, phone number, and a detailed message to better help the staff serve you in a return call.

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 fall/winter, your Team might get a visit from your President, as I do get around to various areas of the country.

And, as always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or just want to talk, drop me a line, call me, or text me at the following:
<d.manlove@reactintl.org> -- 804-439-3017 -- 4019 W. Dogwood Ave.; Chester, VA 23831

Thanks for your service,
Don E. Manlove, Jr PDRI002
President and Director for Region 2
REACT International, Inc.





From The Executive Vice President

Ed Greany

Recently, Samoa had a terrible 8.0 earthquake that shook the world and threatened coastlines with tsunami advisories. October 15th, California held its second annual earthquake drill called “Shakeout 2009”. This is a scenario whereby the anticipated earthquake on the San Andreas fault (that goes from Mexico north the California state and eventually into the Pacific Ocean) ruptures into a major 6.7 earthquake adversely affecting thousands of Americans nationwide. Just imagine if it were as large as the Samoa one in September.

We must all be better prepared for a major earthquake by practicing good disaster preparedness steps and be organized with various agency and groups to come together in planning for when the event occurs – and it WILL OCCUR.

The entire program can be reviewed by going to <http://www.shakeout.org> and if you reside in California, we encourage you to register.

Unlike disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and some others, earthquakes do not give any warning. They just happen in an instant but continue for even minutes long. Often, the epicenter is not the location of most damage depending on the type of quake, depth, and size or duration.

Earthquakes do not just occur in California or in the Pacific Ocean. They actually occur even on the east coast and Midwest. With few exceptions, earthquakes have occurred in almost every state. Check out http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional.states/state_largest.php

I think only about seven states have not “experienced” an earthquake as Californians are used to. Did you know South Carolina had a 7.3 earthquake?

Why am I bringing this to your attention? Well, it all stems upon disaster preparedness. *REACT* has always been proudly promoting the notion that our members are ready to assist in time of disaster with volunteer communications. Just how prepared are you for the disaster yourself before you even consider volunteering your communications skills.

While I have been mentioning earthquakes, that is because of the first major cooperative statewide disaster drill with the Shakeout. Of course, equally damaging disasters of different forms hit our citizens. Remember New Orleans? How about Washington’s Mt. St. Helens volcano in 1980? Or what about the blizzards of the Midwest, the storms of the states with shorelines, the pandemic and other natural or man-made disasters we experience? Are you prepared for any or all of them?

Do you have a disaster plan for your family? Do you have a “Go Bag” prepared right NOW? Can your Team, family, and community rely on you to help with communications in an emergency or disaster? If you can answer “Yes” to these questions, great, help your fellow *REACT* member or neighbor to be as prepared. If you answered “No” to any of these questions, let that be a prodding to begin getting better prepared – TODAY.

The scenario of the SET in Maine was an earthquake. Nobody thinks of Maine as an earthquake-prone area, but it can be. – Ed

From the Office: Norman Kaplan

In the usual - no particular - order:

1) Note that the dues and insurance fee have not changed from last year. While, *REACT* International, Inc.’s costs have increased this year

and the office expects the cost to increase further next year, we are **not** passing the increases on to the members in the form of increased dues. If a Team or member would like to send in a donation, it will be gratefully accepted.

2) By the time you get the *REACT*er, the renewal packet should have reached your Team. If your Team has not received its renewal packet, please get in touch with *REACT* International.

3) Most *REACT* Teams are included in the *REACT* International, Inc., IRS Group Exemption 2746 and receive many benefits from the IRC Section 501(c)(3) exemption, including tax deductibility for most donations to the Team, exemption (or special treatment) from state taxation, and eligibility to participate in many local charitable fund drives and activities. As part of the Group Exemption requirements, *REACT* International is expected by the IRS to maintain files justifying each Team's participation in the Group Exemption. Our Certified Public Accountants, Singleton & Bardoski, noted in the 2009 full office review that RI's files for most Teams lack sufficient Team documentation and most of what's there is obsolete. The CPAs strongly recommended that in 2010, *REACT* International gather certain items from each Team covered by the Group Exemption.

Therefore, IF your Team is covered by the Group Exemption (some Teams have their own 501(c)(3) exemptions) AND wants to continue to be covered, your Team must file with *REACT* International, Inc., the following items:

- a. Team Bylaws (mandatory for all Teams).
- b. Team Organizing Documents (Constitution and/or Bylaws if no Constitution) for unincorporated Teams, Articles of Incorporation or similar document(s) for incorporated Teams) (mandatory for all Teams).
- c. Minutes taken of all Team, Board of Directors, and committee meetings during the past year (mandatory for all Teams).
- d. Treasurer's Audit Reports issued during the previous year (mandatory for all Teams) .
- e. Copies of all newspapers/newsletters (including electronic versions) issued during the past year.
- f. Any after-action reports for events, disaster support, etc., during the past year.

- g. Any Team Training Manuals.
- h. Any Team Standard Operating Procedures, Monitoring Manuals, etc.
- i. Any Membership Handbooks.
- j. Any Memorandums of Understanding your Team has with Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.
- k. Previous Year's Monitoring Report (this form will be sent to each renewing Team with the ID cards).

If your Team does have items e. through j., a letter to that effect is necessary.

Teams have these options:

1. File the required documents with *REACT* International.
2. Do not file the required documents, and will not be included on the annual report RI makes to the IRS listing all Teams to be included in the Group Exemption.
3. Have or obtain your own Team Section 501(c)(3) exemption (Teams would have to file IRS Treasury Form 1023 and pay a fee of as much as \$500).

NOTE: Teams currently covered by RI's Group Exemption which fail to qualify for 2010's listing will be required to notify their state and all donors that, beginning 1 January 2010, they are no longer operating as an exempt charitable organization.

Teams which have their own Section 501(c)(3) exemptions and Teams which do not desire to be included in RI's Group Exemption must file items a, b, c, and d in the list above. Additionally, if your Team has its own 501(c)(3) exemption, your Team must file a copy of the IRS Exemption letter acknowledging your 501(c)(3) status.

A checklist is distributed with your annual registration packet, for your use when you submit your documents. The checklist will also contain certifications for your use as described below.

Your Team registration will be processed, and ID cards will be distributed in the usual fashion.

But, until the checklist requirements are met by the Team, the Team will be considered IRS noncompliant, and will not be included in the 2010 annual report to the IRS.

Full Compliance will be accomplished by (a) state-

ment by the Team that it has its own IRC501(c)(3) exemption, or (b) a statement by the Team that it does not wish to be included under the Group Exemption, or (c) submission of each of the above items (or statements that the Team does not have the item). All Teams must submit Items a. through d, whether desiring to be under the Group Exemption or not.

PLEASE NOTE: These requirements do NOT originate with REACT International, Inc., its officers, or its Board of Directors. They are required by the United States Internal Revenue Service. And, Congress has recently mandated the IRS to begin auditing non-profit organizations for compliance with statutes and IRS regulations pertaining to nonprofit organizations.

Required items may be filed by paper copies or electronically (scanned, on a CD or DVD -- NOT by Email!).

REACT Councils must be included in the RI Group Exemption and must file all items previously listed above in order to retain their recognition by REACT International.

4) This year dues and purchases from the REACT store may be paid by PayPal. Instructions are in the Renewal Packet. Dues and purchases from the REACT store may also be paid by check, money order, or VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER or AMERICAN EXPRESS credit card.

5) International is working on putting out a pamphlet on how to use a cell phone pamphlet similar to "How to Use a CB". Please check the non-emergency telephone number for any state police that you are familiar with and let International know of any corrections. Information on the 511 system will also be in the pamphlet and any changes or corrections should be sent to REACT International:

United States:

Alabama ☎ *47, Arkansas ☎ *55, Colorado ☎ *277, Florida ☎ *347, Georgia ☎ *477, Idaho ☎ *477, Illinois ☎ *999, Kansas ☎ *482 (Kansas Turnpike), Louisiana ☎ *27, Maine ☎ *77, Maryland ☎ #77, Massachusetts ☎ *77, *677 (413 area code), Mississippi ☎ *47, Nebraska ☎ *55, Nevada ☎ *647, New Hampshire ☎ *77, New Jersey

☎ #77, North Carolina ☎ *47, North Dakota ☎ *2121, Oklahoma ☎ *55, Pennsylvania ☎ *11 (turnpikes), Rhode Island ☎ *77, South Carolina ☎ *47, Tennessee ☎ *847, Texas ☎ *377, Utah ☎ *11, Virginia ☎ *77, West Virginia ☎ *77, Wyoming ☎ #4357

Canada:

Alberta ☎ 911, British Columbia ☎ 911 (Local Only), Labrador ☎ 911 (Local Only), Manitoba – 911, New Brunswick – 911, Newfoundland ☎ 911 (Local Only), Northwest Territories – 3 Digit+1111, Nova Scotia – 911, Nunavut ☎ LOCAL ONLY, Ontario – 911, Prince Edward Island – 911, Quebec – 911, Saskatchewan - 911 (Local Only), Yukon - 3 Digit+5555 Trinidad & Tobago 999

Australia 112

England / Scotland 112/999

Germany 110

Philippines 166/117

Call 511 for information in the following areas: Alaska, Arizona. ARTIMIS (Northern Kentucky – Cincinnati), Boston, Colorado, Eastern Sierras, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming.

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 Tabet
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.

TEAMS AND TEAM MEMBERS

Lee Trask, W1WLT, REACT South Central Maine, Team 6139

REACT SOUTH CENTRAL MAINE recently made repeater history within the State of Maine in a Special Event on the 146.880 net. But this was called NET-SET 1 and was held September 21, 2009, a Sunday evening at 8pm EST. We received full cooperation from repeater linked system owner KQ1L, Dave Hawkes, of Augusta, Maine. That system has many 2 meter repeaters located throughout the state of Maine.



W1LTX – Bob

NG1P, Bill Richardson also provided a link from ECHOLINK Station he operates into a bridge into the repeater system that gave us a live guest speaker from Houston, Texas, KB5GDB, Andrew Koenig.

He is 15 years old and received Young Amateur of the year from *Newsline* (YHOTY). He was on the front cover of the September issue of CQ Magazine. He was recognized for his contribution in using his ECHOLINK (VOIP) station during Hurricane Ike in Texas to provide a way to allow traffic to be passed between operators throughout US and Canada.

Andrew has been a CERT member and receiving training since the age of 13. As a licensed amateur operator, this membership has provided his link into the world of communications. With this I wanted to illustrate there are other ways that we all can provide ECOMM efficiently. The young people out there can be a major asset to the community. We all overlook them at times, but I feel we should recognize their potential at times of incidents and disasters. These fully aware and trained young people may be the responder to others at that moment in need. We hear and read at times that a young person saved a life or called 911 and went to find help for the friend or family member, and because of those acts a life was saved.

This is one of my goals as a ham operator/CERT/ARES/REACT member; to help us recognize we need to offer to train, not just ourselves, but any young person who wants to be involved with ECOMM. In doing so we may help provide for the saving of lives.



Author – W1WLT – Lee

Also on the weekly 146.88 net we have major contributors who provide other information resources; K1SEW, Joy Foss Bulletins/Announcements,

K1WTX, Jerry Hume (RSCME#6139) with Sky Warn, WE1U, David Lowe First Aid Preparedness. W1LTX, Bob Sessums (RSCME#6139) liaison for our REACT Team.

This is a relatively new Team. Welcome. -- Ed

EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE

**By Carlos Varon K2LCV/WPQN-776
Emergency Medical REACT #4942**

As the Treasurer for Emergency Medical REACT #4942 in Queens, New York, I also wear the hat of the Director of Emergency Services for the Red Cross chapter in Nassau County, Long Island, New York.

This past weekend my Emergency Service volunteers participated in an open house.



Thanks to one of our ES volunteers and fellow ham, Rich Schneider (KC2UNY) he was able to get the ECRV (Emergency Communications Response vehicle) here in Nassau County for this weekend.



The vehicle is normally housed in the Charter Oaks Chapter in Farmington, Connecticut.





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>

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 2009 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**

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>> .

Videos Available Also

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Did you do something for SET or National Preparedness Month? It's not too late to tell us. We have at least one article on SET for next issue. We could use more.

We can never be TOO prepared. But we CAN be underprepared. That is far too common. The articles in this issue – and most other issues – stress preparedness. Are you ready?

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 communities.



Don't want to depress anybody, but this is what is coming, and this is what we are.



NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

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- Keep up with the "latest and greatest" happenings within the industry
- 40 colorful pages in each issue

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



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

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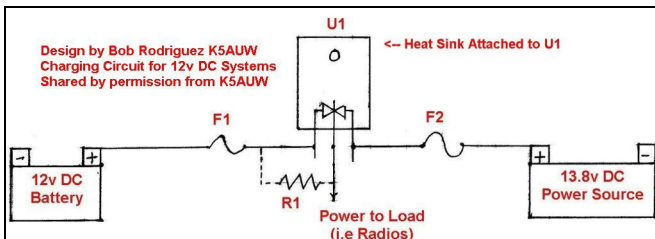
Build a Home Brew Battery Charging Circuit for Under \$20 (US)

By Lee Besing, N5NTG
L.Besing@reactintl.org

In the July-September issue of the *REACTer*, we discussed the emergency kit built into a Stanley toolbox on wheels, with a couple of sealed lead acid batteries in the bottom, connected in parallel (not in series) to produce 12v DC power with 56AH capacity (2 batteries x 26AH each = 56AH). We received many requests for the battery charging circuit design by Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW. Now we could take the easy way out, and simply provide you with a scanned image of his diagram, or we can do it the better way by showing the diagram and then explaining it.

“Disclaimer: The “under \$20” claim, does not include the cost of the battery(s), the power supply / source, or the radios being powered by this circuit.”

Below is the basic diagram showing how you connect a 12v DC battery (on the left) to the Schottky Rectifier Diode (diode) in the center, from the 13.8v DC power source (can be a power supply or a connection to your car battery) to the diode, and from the center conductor of the diode to the radio. If using a power supply instead of a connection to your car battery, and if you can adjust the power of that supply, bump it up a slight notch to 14.2v DC to help with faster charging of the battery without causing any harm to the radios.

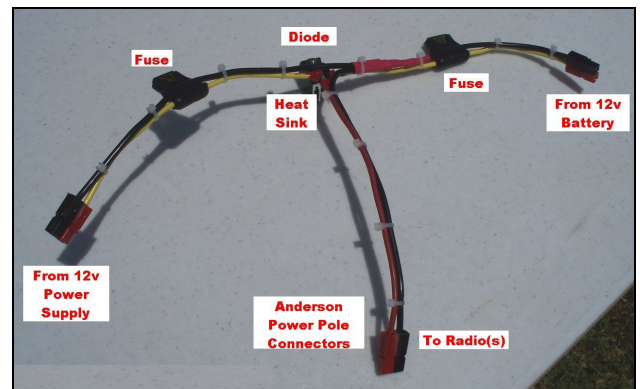


The basic design is sort of like a t-shape when done, with Anderson Power Pole connectors on each of the three ends. This is advised, so that you can remove the circuit or change out what you connect it to. Make connecting cables with Anderson Power

Poles to connect from the ends of this design to each of the three items (battery, power source, radio). Some of those cables may need to be longer than others, depending on where you plan to situate the batteries, the power source and the radios.

What this design provides, with very little voltage loss due to the efficiency of the Schottky Rectifier Diode, is reliable continuous 12v DC power to your radio(s) from either the 12v DC battery or the external 13.8v DC power source. If the external power is not present, or disrupted (i.e. turned off the ignition), you won't notice any interruption of power to the radio. But while you have external power being supplied for the radio, this ingenious design will also charge the battery at the same time.

The Schottky Rectifier Diode, plus the wire resistor that gets installed in parallel with one end of the circuit, prevents power from feeding back to the external power source. All negative leads (i.e. ground wires) are connected in sort of a 3-way connection, grounded together. So you have a ground wire coming from the 12v DC battery to the center, from the 13.8v DC power source to the center, and from the center to the radio.



To build this design, you need the following list of materials and tools. Where possible, we've given part #'s from regular sources, but you may find them cheaper elsewhere once you start looking. We're tying the parts description to the "U1", "F1", etc. on the diagram so that you better understand where the parts go.

Parts List:

- U1 – MBR4045PT, Dual Schottky Rectifier Diode, 45PIV, 40amp (I found some priced

very reasonably on eBay by searching for “MBR4045PT”). Radio Shack won’t carry these.

- R1 – Optional float wire resistor, 1 ohm, 10 watt, Radio Shack #271-131 (comes 2 to a bubble pack for about \$3)



- F1 – Inline fuse holder and fuse, blade style, 40amp max load, recommend 30amp fuse be used. (found these at Radio Shack and at Wal-Mart in their auto section) About \$2-3 each.
- F2 – Inline fuse holder, same specs as F1



- Heat Sink – Optional but handy if you run strong load for long time. Use Radio Shack #276-1368, or any other HS that can be connected to the diode safely. (I used a heat sink taken from an dead PC power supply)
- 12 gauge stranded power wire (Red / Black), sometimes referred to as “Zip Wire” (red/black) or “Hook-up Wire”. Depends on how long your cables need to be, as to how much wire you need.



- Anderson Power Pole connectors, at least 3 sets for the charging circuit design, but won’t you need more for whatever you are connecting to on each end? Get 6-10 sets, the price gets cheaper with quantity. Wire to the standard ARES scheme of “Red on Right, Black on Left, with the tongues of the connectors pointed away from you. Besides, you will make mistakes.

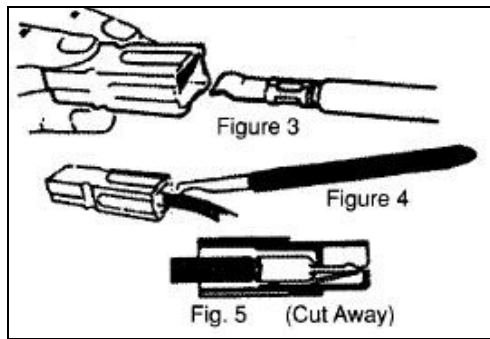


- Heat Shrink Tubing or Electrical Tape to protect your soldered connections.
- Nylon zip ties if you want to use those instead of taping everything together (see photo above for example of how zip ties were used).
- Solder – to solder the connections to the Schottky Rectifier Diode connections and to connect the three ground wires together.

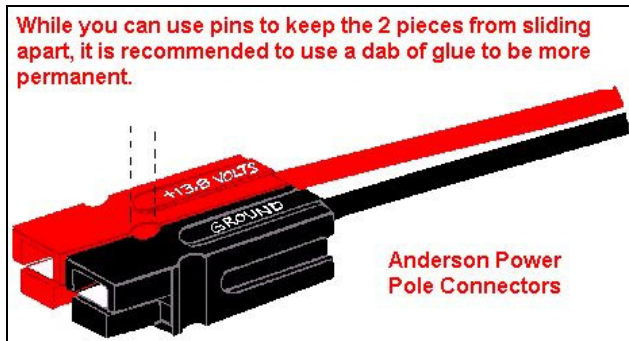
Tools Needed:

- Wire Cutter / Stripper – If you don’t know what this will be used for, stop now and don’t attempt to build this.
- Soldering Iron / Gun / Pencil – Don’t recommend using butane torches for this project. Use this safely, because you can get burned.
- Crimper for the Anderson Power Pole connectors (don’t solder those connectors).
- Ohm Meter – to check continuity of your circuit after building it. You could probably get away without this item.
- Screwdriver and small screw or bolt to connect the heat sink to the back side of the Schottky Rectified Diode.

Here is a diagram illustrating how to properly crimp and insert the connectors into the housings. Push them into the housing until you hear it click. Sometimes you have to “encourage it” by using a small flat bladed screw driver (figure 4) to push it all the way in.



Remember, the “tongue” of the metal connector **points away from you** when holding the wire up in front of you, and Red goes on the right side, Black on the left. Keep to that standard and you should always be compatible with other operators in the field.



To learn more about Anderson Power Pole connectors, visit www.sanantoniohams.org/tips/powerpoles.htm. Need more help? Contact the author to get connected direction with the ham who designed this circuit in the first place.

EDITOR'S CORNER

We are still looking for Field Day reports. We are also looking for reports on National Preparedness Month and SET (Simulated Emergency Test). We have one report that we will publish in the next issue. There surely must be more.

Be sure to read Ed's piece (EVP, page 3). Many of us think of earthquakes as something that happens somewhere else. But most states have experienced significant earthquakes.

Maine's version of SET concerned a major quake. Yes, it can happen. We may not get as many threatening ones as Southern California (where I was raised and Ed lives), but we get them. And most of my neighbors seem totally unaware of the fact that we have one or two mild ones many years.

The exercise was highly realistic in that it showed power outages, communications outages, bridge failures, and other road blockages. And we had derailments that released plumes of hazardous gas. If we had an actual quake of any magnitude, I can assure you that we would have hazardous waste plumes. A person has only to sit at a rail crossing and check the hazmat symbols on the cars – or visit a truck stop or watch trucks on the highway.

We have had other drills involving earthquakes here, and I have to say that they all underestimate the potential for devastation. There is a natural gas pipeline that could be breached. School busses, kids in schools – the potential is all there.

As I have mentioned before, I stopped by the superintendent's office when 9-11 occurred (I was on the school board then.), and found out what sort of panic had occurred to tie up the phone lines. That's where we come in.

Note our stress of ready or jump kits (See Ed's article again.). It is necessary that we be prepared to take care of ourselves, not to act as a further burden on already over-loaded official structures. As we have said many times before, that means making your own home secure and prepared for a long siege. That means food, water, up-to-date medications, power backups, communications gear, etc.

The pictures on page 10 let us know what is coming, and what our jobs may be. We could include pictures of fires, floods, tornados, hurricanes – it is the job of *REACT*ers to be ready.

Make sure to read Norman's article on page 3.

Lee gives us more on being ready on page 12.

Don Tarbet
*REACT*er

There Might be a VOAD in Your Future

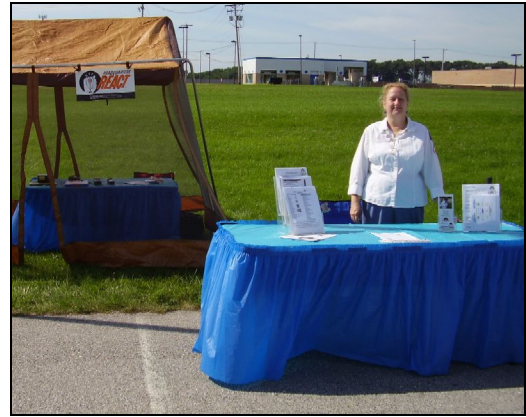
By Stanton Walters, York County *REACT* (Director for Region 1)

While the VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) operating model varies from location to location, being a partner organization in your local VOAD may be a way to gain recognition in your community. I'd like to share an experience I had recently here in York County PA.

York County *REACT* 6123 became a York County VOAD partner shortly after being chartered in September 2006. As the Team President I attended the quarterly meetings as often as I could and I made it to most of them. At our March 2009 meeting, the VOAD membership decided we needed more public exposure as a VOAD and we decided some sort of "meet and greet" activity was in order. I was asked to chair the taskforce and make the planned event a reality.

In our planning meeting we divided up some of the initial tasks. The Red Cross and Salvation Army agreed to provide a free meal to everyone who came. The Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief organization said they had a good location and the Untied Way/ Secure Corps had some summer volunteers coming in who could help with publicity. We choose a Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. as our block of time for the event.

We decided on our first attempt we would limit the audience so we invite all the fire chiefs, EMA officials, municipal leaders and local politicians to our "Meet Your Local VOAD" event. The county Office of Emergency Management provided email addresses for our intended audience and the Red Cross emailed out a flyer created by the Secure Corps volunteers. The Red Cross gathered all the RSVPs and the Secure Corps volunteers created a weekly report of who had responded to our invitation. The week before the event I went to the proposed site for the activity and created a layout for where each organization could setup their display area.



August 7, 2009 arrived and three members of York County *REACT* attended the activity. We put up some signs we had created to help direct traffic to the correct driveway. We used cones to further guide people and then stationed one of our members as the ultimate director. Junior member Tim Kemp (Unit 39) managed the entrance traffic while I remained in the display area and managed the actual setup of each exhibiting organization. We setup our own area as well.



For a first ever event it was hailed a success. We had 11 VOAD partners exhibit at our event. We had 5 local politicians represented and 5 Municipal EMA offices represented. Two local TV stations came. One made a 30-second spot for the late news but the local public access cable channel has aired a 15-minute show they created six times so far. The same committee (with yours truly as chairman) has already agreed to repeat the event again next year. We will use the same great location but move the day and time to try and get more of our target audience there. The interviews with all the organizations have certainly helped put York County *REACT* on the map!

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