



REACT International, Inc

The REACTer

Official Publication of REACT International, Inc.

Serving the public since 1962



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

As a subscriber to **National Communications**, you will be able to:

- Access to over 4 million frequencies for your scanner
- Toll free "help line" for your programming questions
- Opportunity for FREE classified advertising
- Learn new and interesting ways to use your scanner, CB and FRS radios.
- 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 (800) 423-1331, log onto our web site at www.nat-com.org or mail to:

P.O. Box 291918
Kettering, Ohio 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, advertisers for making your equipment better!

We accept:



For a free preview of **NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS** log onto www.nat-com.org



REACT International, Inc

The REACTer

Official Publication of REACT International, Inc.

Serving the public since 1962

Officers

President:

John Knott, N4JTK

Executive Vice-President:

John Mahon, N1PYN

Secretary:

Michael Castiglioni, KB1VWK

Treasurer:

Lee W Besing, N5NTG

Board of Directors

Chairman:

Stan Walters, AB3EM

Vice-Chairman:

Ed Kerby, Jr.

Region 1:

Stan Walters, AB3EM

Region 2:

Norman Kaplan, N3LDM

Region 3:

Roy Drury, K4DCT

Region 4:

Ed Kerby, Jr.

Region 5:

Larry Fry, K9FRY

Region 6:

Thomas Jenkins, N7VOI

Region 7:

Charlie Land, KC5NKK

Region 8:

John Capodanno, KJ6QAJ

Region 9:

Kenny Jagdeo Singh

Editor:

Dawn Drury, KJ4OFT

Editorial Address:

The REACTer

12114 Boydton Plank Road, Suite C

Dinwiddie, VA 23841

editor@TheREACTer.com

Circulation Address:

12114 Boydton Plank Road, Suite C

Dinwiddie, VA 23841

RI.HQ@REACTIntl.org

On the cover

Central Oklahoma REACT helps with Piedmont Devastation from Tornadoes

In this issue

From the Desk of the Editor	5
From the Desk of the Office Manager	5
Contact Directory.....	4
President's Article	6-7
Executive Vice President's Article	8-10
Storm Spotting	12
Tech Tips.....	12-16
HAM-Com	16
Pulaski County	18
Silent Mics	20
RI Adopts NIMS.....	21
Gordon West	25
Grand Island	27

The REACTer (ISSN 1055-9167) is the official publication of REACT International, Inc., a non-profit public service corporation. © 2011 REACT International, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Mailed at Periodicals Rate from Dinwiddie, VA and other mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to REACT International, Inc., 12114 Boydton Plank Road, Suite C, Dinwiddie, VA 23841.

The REACTer is published quarterly (four issues per year). The subscription price is included in members' dues.

REACT Teams and Councils may reproduce articles in their publications if proper credit is given. Articles and Photo submissions are welcome, but can not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage. We are not responsible for un-solicited materials.

For information regarding advertising, please contact the Dinwiddie Office address shown in this publication.

The REACTer is available online, in full color at www.TheREACTer.com.

Photo Credits: Unless otherwise specified, photos are from the Team featured in the accompanying article or from REACT International, Inc.

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



REACT International, Inc.

12114 Boydton Plank Rd, Suite C

Dinwiddie, VA 23841

(301) 316-2900 / Office

RI.HQ@REACTIntl.org / E-Mail

www.REACTIntl.org • www.MyREACT.info • www.TheREACTer.com • www.REACTShop.com

Contact Directory Officers and Board of Directors 2011

Officers

John Knott, N4JTK

Contact

(321) 438-5952

(866) 679-1767 / Fax

J.Knott@REACTIntl.org

Title

President

John Mahon, N1PYN

(508) 584-2356

J.Mahon@REACTIntl.org

Executive Vice President

Michael Castiglioni

(508) 294-3218

M.Castiglioni@REACTIntl.org

Secretary

Lee W Besing, N5NTG

(210) 771-7075

L.Besing@REACTIntl.org

Treasurer

Board of Directors

Stan Walters, AB3EM

Contact

(717) 235-7826

S.Walters@REACTIntl.org

Title / Region Assigned

Chairman of the Board / Region 1
ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI, NY, PA

Norman Kaplan, N3LDM

(301) 649-6389

N.Kaplan@REACTIntl.org

Region 2

DE, NJ, MD, VA, KY, WV

Roy Drury, K4DCT

(813) 377-4182

(888) 628-2857 / Fax

R.Drury@REACTIntl.org

Region 3

TN, NC, SC, MS, AL, GA, FL, PR

Ed Kerby, Jr.

(419) 204-5705

E.Kerby@REACTIntl.org

Vice Chair / Region 4

MI, IN, OH

Lawrence O. "Larry" Fry, K9FRY

(608) 752-4547

L.Fry@REACTIntl.org

Region 5

ND, SD, NE, MN, IA, WI, IL

Thomas Jenkins, N7VOI

T.Jenkins@REACTIntl.org

Region 6

AK, HI, WA, OR, ID, MT, WY

Charles "Charlie" Land, KC5NKK

(210) 568-7092

C.Land@REACTIntl.org

Region 7

AR, LA, NM, CO, KS, MO, OK, TX

John Capodanno

(323) 451-2590

J.Capodanno@REACTIntl.org

Region 8

CA, NV, UT, AZ

Kenny Jagadeosingh

(868) 628-2886

K.Jagadeosingh@REACTIntl.org

Region 9

International Teams



Editors Corner

Dawn Drury, KJ4OFT
Editor

I am honored to announce the return of Gordon West author/writer to The *REACT*er! Look forward to other know authors in communication to be published in The *REACT*er!!

I received a lot of great comments, concerns and suggestions regarding the last issue of The *REACT*er. I thank each and every one that took the time to send them to me.

I would love to address some of them right now, I apologize that the time between issues is lengthy; that happens for a number of reasons, I am waiting for content so that I have enough to produce an issue, once I send it to the printer, we wait until they have room to run our addition, then the printer takes it to the US Postal Service where it gets mailed. Keep in mind we mail bulk rate so first, second and third class mail supersede us.

Thank you for all the wonderful submissions. Keep them coming!

Submission Guidelines for *The REACT*er

Email submissions are preferred. Email submissions can be sent to editor@TheREACTer.com.

Photo submissions are welcome and encouraged with all articles. Your ideas are always welcome but we would prefer complete stories. Decisions as to when and whether to publish your idea or story remain at the sole discretion of *REACT* International, Inc.

Paper submissions can be sent to:

Dawn Drury, Editor
***REACT* International, Inc.**
12114 Boydton Plank Road, Suite C
Dinwiddie, VA 23841



Office Gossip

Brenda Cutchin
Office Manager

You should see your Renewal Packages in the mail very soon. Please make sure to include a team email address or officers email addresses so we can contact Teams electronically with up to the minute information.

If the Renewal Package for your Team has not arrived by Thanksgiving, please contact your Regional Director or the office to correct the matter.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the office Monday-Thursday 9AM-4PM (summer hours) at (301) 316-2900 or via email at RI.HQ@REACTIntl.org.

***REACT* International, Inc.**
Brenda Cutchin, Office Manager
12114 Boydton Plank Road, Suite C
Dinwiddie, VA 23841
Voice: (301) 316-2900
Fax: (866) 740-0936
RI.HQ@REACTIntl.org
Brenda.Cutchin@REACTIntl.org



Presidents Perspective

by John K Knott, N4JTK
President

Greetings fellow *REACTers*; summer is winding down, kids are back in school, our summer office hours will be ending, and the aromas of the holidays are fast approaching. Parts of the South are fighting fires, drought, and excessive heat. The East has had earthquakes and hurricanes. The Midwest has had tornado's that have disrupted our neighbor's normal way of life. The West has had their battles of wildfires and heat waves. In all of this we hope that each of you are doing well and have overcome life's hurdles. Many of us remembered the ones that we lost on September 11th by having parades, cookouts, remembrances, and celebrations.

We want to know what you have been doing. What your team has been doing? What your Council has been doing? Even what your Region has been doing. Was your team activated during one of these disasters? Let us know by writing an article. We would really like to hear from you.

As many of you know Hurricane Irene visited the office in August. She blew over many trees and power poles leaving much of the area without power. The staff has a way to access most of the information at the office remotely now. We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused your team. Our wonderful Infrastructure and Technology Committee (ITC) is already working on ways to prevent a large disruption at the office in the future.

I'm looking for some people who have some experience grant writing and research. If you have experience in searching for available grants, writing a rough draft of a grant, or putting the final touches on a grant please contact me ASAP. My number and email is located on the website and the front/back of this magazine.

The hottest question on every one's mind is when the 50th Anniversary Convention is going to take place. Well, we all know it will be in Las Vegas. The Convention Committee has been working diligently on finalizing the hotel arrangements which of course includes the dates. I heard that they are looking at July 2012 and where trying for the second week. As soon as info becomes available it will be distributed via The *REACTer* and Radiogram. In the meantime, if you have contact with any former *REACTers*, please forward their contact information to the office. The 2012 Convention is being opened up to all former *REACTers* and it will be a great opportunity for old friends to become re-acquainted.

It has been a great number years since we have had to increase dues. The Board has done everything, including moving the office to avoid a dues increase. By moving the office the insurance was cut in half (more on this in a moment.) The Board cut the number of issues of The *REACTer* per year. The Board decided to go electronic with The *REACTer*, eliminating printing and postage costs. The ITC has been working hard on cutting as many corners as possible. Our web domains are hosted for free by SoftLayer. Instead of having to pay for a fax line they have found a very inexpensive E-fax service, plus many other awesome changes.

So the Board was faced with a very tough decision to make. Assistant Treasurer Frank Jennings went over and over the numbers and Director Stan Walters put the numbers into a presentation for the Board. The Board discussed the dues situation over five evenings in July and August. The decision was not easily reached. The final proposal had three amendments added. Finally a vote was taken and the dues increase schedule as amended was adopted unanimously by the Board. The new dues schedule includes built-in reductions for growth in membership and increases for rises in the Consumer Price Index. The actual increase in dues and fees went up only \$4.00 per member. The table on the next page shows the dues schedule for 2012.

A Life Membership is now \$450.00. Active Affiliates are a new class of membership. Until now, no Affiliates were eligible for the liability insurance. Active Affiliates pay more but are covered by the REACT Liability Insurance. This gives Active Affiliates more of an opportunity for service.

Continues on next page . . .

REACT International 2012 Dues	Members (US, Canada, Puerto Rico)	Active Affiliates	Active Affiliates	Professional Business
1st Family Member	Regular - \$30.00 Junior - \$25.00 Life - (prepaid)	New: Jan - Apr, \$45.00 May - Aug, \$35.00 Sep - Dec, \$25.00 Renew: Jan - Dec, \$45.00	New: Jan - Apr, \$40.00 May - Aug, \$30.00 Sep - Dec, \$20.00 Renew: Jan - Dec, \$40.00	\$60.00
2nd Family Member	Family - \$25.00 Junior - \$25.00 Life - (prepaid)
3rd or more Family Member	Add'l Family - \$15.00 Life - (prepaid)
Liability Insurance	\$5.00/member	\$5.00	N/A	N/A
Team Charter Fee (one time)	\$15.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Liability Coverage	Yes	Yes	No	No
Can buy from REACT store	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<i>The REACTer</i> subscription	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

So dues are increasing. But the Board also provided a way for the dues to decrease in the future. For every net increase in membership of 235 people, the dues will automatically be reduced by \$1.00 across the board. This is a BIG incentive to go out and recruit new members for your team.

Speaking of incentives; have you logged into the members area of the REACT International website lately? Check it out. We have been working to bring you some membership incentives. Here are some of what is available:

Alamo - 10% Off and Unlimited Mileage

Hertz - 10% Off

Corporate Perks - This program offers savings at over 28,000 merchants and includes exclusive access to thousands of offers and discounts from top name retailers.

Working Advantage - Discounts to a wide variety of merchants to include: Amusement Park Tickets, Broadway Theatre, Movie Tickets, Ski Tickets, Sporting Events, Family Events, Recreational Activities, Hotels, Zoos and Aquariums, Museums, Merchant Gift Certificates, and so much more.

There are still more incentives we are working on so keep checking back for new and exciting things.

Watch your mail boxes for your team renewals.

John



Moving Forward

John Mahon, N1PYN
Executive Vice President

We are all familiar with the birth of the *REACT* concept back in 1962 on that Chicago highway during a snowstorm when a sick infant was in dire need of assistance. The genuine desire to help our fellow citizens earned *REACT* the President's Volunteer Action Award in 1982 because Evie White was dedicated to what she was able to contribute. Yes, this was when everyone had a CB radio and was the only means of what we now call social networking. How many of you remember those late night QSO's on the local channel?

Well, technology has, as it frequently does, changed to include many forms and means of social networking for society to use for many ways. So too has the two-way communications industry from the basic LMR systems to the latest encrypted digital systems that ensure our Public Safety crews can proficiently serve the public needs. Sure, nothing is perfect and is why it is always going to be a constantly evolving process to improve and perfect. There always seems to be a bigger and better, new and improved, greatest and latest idea's to pursue in the advancement of the two-way communications technology.

The Citizen Band radio has had its day, and, believe it or not, still has an active role in disaster mitigation with the hundreds of semi, tractor trailers used in the relief efforts serving the thousands of citizens, like you and I, displaced by one of the many possibilities. The growing popularity of cellular devices that now surf the web, navigate your trip, and connects one half way across the world with a mere coupe of watts has certainly contributed to the demise of Citizens Band Radio and to the *REACT* program.

It would appear, to a great many of the *REACT* members, that our program has stalled to the point where we are not effective in our operation. One may ask many questions as to why we, as an organization, have not transitioned from the CB days in order to keep up with the changing two-way communications technologies. There are a number of citizen based options available to teams and members across the country from the Family Radio Service (FRS), General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), Multi Use Radio Service (MURS) and even those keeping in touch utilizing the Maritime Radio Service.

It is my humble opinion, my lovely bride will tell you I am usually wrong, we are in desperate need of reorganizing our program so as to move into the twenty-first century. No, not in the sense of the reorganization we have seen in 1998, but more in organizing our program itself. The office needs an extreme makeover to establish a procedure to efficiently conduct business and serve the memberships needs on a daily basis. We need an organized membership program to not only attract new members, but keep them in the program with structured multiple levels of training to transition a member through the many stages of the organization. We should be training tomorrow's leaders, but we are somehow not moving forward.

The *REACT* program should be the leading authority in Citizen based two-way communications to the public relative to proper use, basic radio skills and use in emergencies; as well as, the many Emergency Management Citizen based response teams such as Community Emergency Response Teams and Medical Reserve Corps. Our monitoring program should be inclusive of all Citizen Based two-way radio bands, not just CB radio. We should be able to develop one team's successful skills into training opportunities for those who want to learn those skills.

I was asked by my EMD what *REACT*, Radio Emergency Associated Communications Team, can do for him. After considering the activities of the many teams knowing he is well aware of the RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) program we sponsor locally, I explained that although *REACT* included amateur radio, we are not limited to amateur radio, nor are we limited by an amateur license. We are able to utilize eight radio services to deliver a message. More importantly, we are able to utilize some of these radio services with unlicensed citizen response teams when they are activated for deployment, rather than waiting around for amateur radio operators to fill those assignments needed. He sees that as being another tool in the toolbox and a communications solution.

Yes, there have been many past indiscretions. Some of us have only heard of stories that cause that puppy dog type head tilt

while trying, in vain, to understand how and why that could be allowed to happen. Yes, there may have been back room deals, and yes, there are those who do not want to do their job. So what, this is not exactly a news flash or a new concept in the twenty-first century, is it? There is only one way for you, the members, to affect the desired changes in our program. We all need to be held accountable for our actions and equally, for our inactions. Yes, they didn't do what you wanted or they didn't follow-up with that, but have you called, Emailed and bugged them for what you may need?

My twenty-one year old daughter tells me I talk too much, primarily because I exhaust "too many" possibilities of a topic. I am not one who sees the two sides of an American Quarter. I also see and consider the one hundred nineteen reeds on the edge of a quarter as a key part of the topic. The quick history lesson, the reeds were designed as a prevention for fraudulent clippers shaving off just small portions of the precious metal used to mint the coins. Similarly, we need to stop wasting all this time with the infighting, finger pointing, and build our own reeds against those who are preventing the growth and development of our organization. Only you, the 2000 members of *REACT* have the ability to change it.

Yes, the program is stale. Can we turn it around, Sure! Can one person do it alone? No way, it will take a whole lot of work, but you, the membership, have got to get involved. We are not going improve the program by doing nothing. By walking and not renewing is not going to change a thing. The definition of insanity is doing things the same way and expecting different results. If a team's members are not satisfied with their Presidents performance, he or she is voted out of office. This also applies to your councils, Regional Directors and yes, the Executive Officers too. A society only empowers bad habits by doing nothing, is that what we really want?

Before climbing down off of the soap box, how can "we" keep this program moving forward? The Board of Directors is pretty much the same folks who have been trying for many years to find innovative ways to advance the program, but simply have not been able to. My contact information is on the website. Why not join a committee and help keep *REACT* moving forward? After all, we're volunteers too.

Why serve on a Committee?

John Mahon, NIPYN
Executive Vice President

Woodrow Wilson once said "*...it is not far from the truth to say that Congress in session is Congress on public exhibition, whilst Congress in its committee rooms is Congress at work.*"

It is neither expected nor possible that a member of the Board of Directors be an expert on all matters and subject areas that come before the Board. *REACT* International committees provide invaluable informational services to the *REACT* program by investigating and reporting about specialized subjects from just about every aspect of our program.



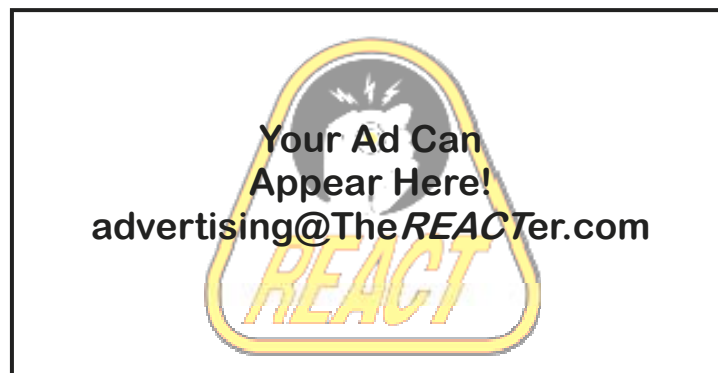
As you may know, many of the committees are vacant during this time of economic uncertainty. We cannot nor should we expect any individual to be an expert in or on all matters of our *REACT* program. We, the Executive Officers and the Board of Directors certainly need your help with the committees.

You have the power to help shape the *REACT* program by serving on one of its committees. You can bring your personal experience, expertise and knowledge to effect the changes you may want to see for a successful program.

Generally, there are two types of committees. Standing committees remain in session year round. Some examples of standing committees may include Finance Committee, Marketing, Public Relations and Membership.

Ad Hoc committees may exist when an objective needs consideration and no standing committee can absorb that issue into its scope. Usually these committees are used on a temporary basis to accomplish a specific goal, and then cease to exist once their task(s) are completed. Some examples of Ad Hoc committees may include Audit committee, Elections, Conventions, or research and development of a specific interest of the Board of Directors.

How do you know what the Board of Directors is doing if we do not inform you? How does the Board of Directors know what is successful for your team, unless you let us know? By sharing our failures and successes, we can help those team who want to, develop their own successful programs to strengthen the *REACT* program as an auxiliary communications option for our clients.





The Chairman of the Board

Stanton Walters, AB3EM
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Region 1 Director

My fellow *REACT*ers,

Over the past 10 years, *REACT* membership has declined at the rate of 7.9 percent annually. Despite everything the Board and Officers have done to raise funds and decrease expenses, we have had to use Life member funds to make up the deficit. We could continue to do this for several years but this action would be irresponsible. We need your help.

The Board and Officers carry out their duties without compensation or reimbursement from the corporation. The Board has kept the Regular membership dues the same for over 10 years. And we lowered the Family and Junior dues to encourage more family involvement. In recent years the Board accepted a fundraising proposal resulting in a substantial donation to *REACT*. The Board moved the office to Dinwiddie VA resulting in decreased rent and other expenses. But none of this has been enough to make up for the dues lost by our decreasing membership. At the 2011 Annual Board Meeting we made the tough decision to make *The REACTer* an electronic publication to reduce postage and printing costs. *REACT* membership is a great deal. It is about equal to taking the family out to eat. Compared to the ARRL who charges \$39 for an annual subscription to QST magazine, *REACT* membership is a bargain.

What it comes down to is this. The Board of Directors, Officers, and office staff can only do so much. Our world class website is drawing more interest than ever. Inquiries regarding new teams are up. We believe we have done all that is possible to reduce the expenses of the corporation. We need \$20,000 more in income than we receive from dues and donations right now. We can get there by raising dues or increasing membership. If every member of *REACT* brought in a new member we would have almost 4,000 members and cover our expenses. I hate to make it so cut and dry but there are no secrets here. You know what I know. So if you have an idea, a thought, some inspiration or a brainstorm, share it with your Regional Director right away. The Board will be deciding what to do in the next month and a half. **We need your input.**

*REACT*ers have done so much in the past 50 years and I believe we will do much more in the next 50 years. But everyone is going to have to pitch in and do his or her part to invite every family member, friend, neighbor and acquaintance to join a team. Do you have friends or family in another community or town? Help them start a team. Tell them to go to www.reactintl.org and look around. Print out and give them a copy of *the REACTer*. Every team needs to have a website and an email address. If you don't have some computer savvy members, then recruit some. I am not saying it's going to be easy, but it will sure be worth it!

*REACT*ively for the Board,

Stanton L. Walters
Chairman of the Board

My Day of Storm Spotting

Keith Sossamon
Central Oklahoma *REACT*

I left the office at 4 pm and started heading home. Since I-40 was at a stand-still because of all the people getting off work early and trying to beat the storm home, I decided to take May Ave. Unfortunately, it wasn't any better. It usually takes me 15 minutes to get home, but on this day, it took me 45 minutes. I finally reached my house at 4:45 pm and gathered up my storm spotting equipment. At around 5:15 pm, I met up with fellow *REACT* member John Linley at OCCC. By that time, South Oklahoma County was under a tornado warning and many of the tornadoes that were forming were rain wrapped, making it very difficult to see them. We had no EOC and nobody to report to, so John and I assessed the situation and determined that tornadoes were forming too quickly and moving too fast for us to keep up with. If we went south or west, we knew we would get trapped in the storm. If we had been able to pull out and start spotting at 4:30 pm, we could have made it to the west side of the storms before the tornadoes started forming and spotted as they entered the south part of the metro. We decided that the news media was already on top of this and we were in a danger zone, so we took cover.

Immediately after the storm went by SW OKC, we headed down to Newcastle, Oklahoma to check on the damage there. As we pulled into the town, police and Highway Patrol already had the main street blocked off. We identified ourselves to them as Central Oklahoma *REACT* members and they allowed us to pass through the road block to go assist in triage. When we arrived at triage, paramedics were standing by. We learned that nobody had been transported to any hospitals and that no injuries had been reported, so we went to meet up with the fire chief for an assignment, who in turn referred us to his Emergency Management supervisor. We identified ourselves to him and informed him we were there to assist in any way. He told us that everything was taken care of, so we left Newcastle. We were thinking about going to El Reno or Piedmont, but we knew they would probably had enough help, so we decided to check on the smaller towns. Initial reports were that Noble, Washington and Goldsby took a direct hit from the tornado, so we headed to Noble to see where we could assist. Once we arrived in Noble, we saw no damage. We stopped at the police station and they advised us that Noble did not get hit by a tornado. After they made a few phone calls, they were informed that neither Goldsby nor Washington got hit either. So, we decided to head back to Oklahoma City. Since there was no search and rescue efforts in south OKC and several of our *REACT* Team members were already assisting in Piedmont, I decided to call it a night.

Links of Interest to *REACT*ers

***REACT*International Public Web Site**

www.REACTintl.org

***REACT*International Members Site**

www.MyREACT.info

***REACT*International Web Store**

www.REACTShop.com

American Radio Relay League

www.arrl.org

GMRS Outlet

www.gmrsoutlet.com

QRZ Call Sign Database

www.qrz.com

***The REACTer* Web Site**

www.TheREACTer.com

***REACT*International Blog**

blog.REACTintl.org

***REACT*International Update Form**

www.MyREACT.info

EchoLink

www.echolink.org

GMRS Repeater Database

www.mygmrs.com



Tech Tips

Roy Drury, K4DCT
Region 3 Director

Using Anderson PowerPole® Connectors

The Anderson PowerPole® housings conform to the ARES and RACES standard and are designated 15, 30, and 45 amps. The rating of the connectors is by the wire gauge that the connector pins accept, and not the rating of the pins themselves. A 15, 30 or 45 amp PowerPole® connector pin will actually withstand well over 100 amps without damage and close to 200 amps before actually causing permanent damage. The voltage drop of a PowerPole® 30 amp connector is approximately .016 volts at 37 amps.

The most commonly used PowerPole® is the 30 amp. Even though a 30 amp connector is rated for 12-14 gauge wire they will accept 10 gauge wire. Smaller wire may be used by doubling over the wire. You can easily install PowerPole® Connectors on your cables by soldering or by using certain inexpensive crimp tools such as the \$6.95 Gardner Bender GS88 (available at Lowe's Home Improvement), or the more expensive professional grade PWREcrimp tool.

Assemble the Red and Black plastic housings together. When looking at the connect- or side of the PowerPole® (not the wire side), the Red connector should be on your left, and the Black to your right as shown in the picture shown for ARES /RACES standard orientation. And, the metal spring inside the housing should be on the bot- tom. It is easier to put the connector housings together before putting the connector pins in, especially when using heavy paired wire. The plastic housings are held together with dovetail joints. Always slide these joints together! They will be damaged if you try to snap them together or apart. They ONLY slide together in one direction. This should be obvious by looking at them carefully. And, normally the dovetail joints in the housings hold well on their own. But if you find it necessary to secure them in a stronger fashion then *glue them, don't use roll pins* on the PowerPole®.



Some suppliers provide roll pins with the PowerPole®. Do not use them -- they can and will fall out -- and knowing Mur- phy, right in to your new radio causing smoke! Anderson does not supply or recommend roll pins, they instead supply more expensive spiral pins, which are better; but, even the proper spiral pins can fall out. Anderson actually recommends using a cyanocrylic glue, (like Crazy Glue). And, before soldering or crimping the contacts on to heavy paired wire, orient the con- tacts so that they are both facing the correct direction so that they go in the housings without twisting the wire.

Looking at the Gardner Bender tool you will see it has three crimping dies and a cutter. The number one die is the one clos- est to the cutting blade, and the number three is the one closest to the handle side. And, you may use the built in cutter to cut the wire but you will still need wire strippers to strip the wire insulation back 5/16", trying not to cut or nick any strands.

Using the Gardner Bender Tool (GS88)

30 AMP Connectors

Put the contact over the wire making sure that all of the strands are inside the contact and the insulation is not. You will find it is possible to use up to 10 gauge wire in a 30 amp contact even though they are made for 12 to 14 gauge. Smaller than # 14 will have to be doubled or tripled over to fill the contact recess and get a good crimp.

If you are using paired wire orient the wire with the red/plus wire on your left with the end of the wire facing you. Place the contact on the wire so that the sharp edge of the contact tip is down.

Put the contact in to the smaller number one die. Center the crimp portion (seamed) of the contact in the die with the rounded portion of the die up against the half moon side of the die. Make sure that the wire is fully inserted in to the contact and crimp down firmly. Crimp carefully without too much force, as you will now notice that the crimped contact is now

slightly wider than it was to begin with.

Rotate the crimp 90 degrees and squeeze it again but this time place it in the number with only enough force to get it back to round. The idea is to make the width of the crimp just slightly less that it was before crimping. Return the contact to the front number one die and repeat the first crimp, but with less pressure.



This is the first crimp of a PowerPole® 30 amp contact. Notice it is in the first die #1 and that the seam of the contact is against the half-moon rounded side of the tool. Make sure the end of the contact's crimp section is just below flush on the side of the tool.

Contact Alignment



The
con-
tacts
go
in

Step 1

On the second step, the contact is inserted into the back # 3 die and is turned 90 degrees. Do not crimp very hard in this die -- just enough to make the width of the crimped section back to round and slightly less in diameter than before crimping.

Step 2

the housings in only one way. Insert the contacts with their sharp edge down against the flat spring that is in the housing. They should slide in and click. If you do not hear a click or they are not fully seated, fix them. When they are inserted fully you should notice that the contact and it's wire "float" slightly inside it's housing. If it feels tight it may not be snapped in fully or you have made the contact wider than it originally was during crimping or soldering.

Cutaway view of a Powerpole connector.

Note that the contact must fit through the gap between the housing and the spring and that the contact is snapped over the end of the spring.



CORRECT!

The contacts are in proper alignment and ready to push in. Listen for a click on each one to make sure they are fully inserted.



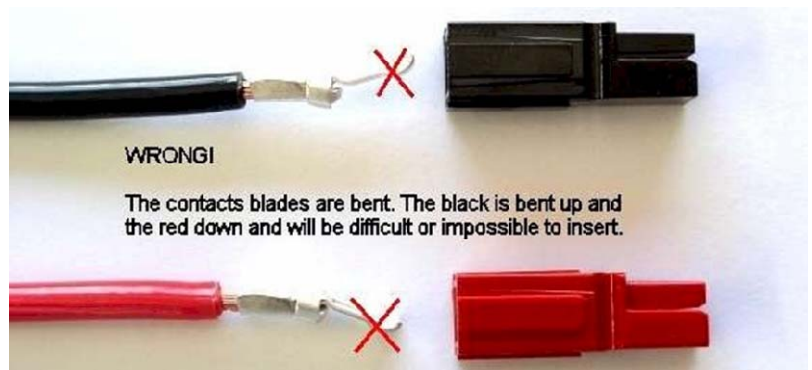
Tug slightly on the assembled connector to make sure the contacts are locked in place. If you have trouble getting the contact to lock in to the housing you may have crimped the contact wider than its original size, or deformed it some other way. Look at the side profile of the contacts before and after crimping, you may have to bend it back straight before inserting it to the housing.

When crimping the contact pins use a crimp that

contains the wire completely inside the pin and doesn't spread the connector apart. A good crimp is one where the dimensions of the crimped portion are no more than an uncrimped pin. If the crimp is flattened out you will not be able to easily push the pin in to the body. If you bend the contact blade in relation to the crimp area you should straighten it before putting it in to the body.

A properly crimped contact should have a minimum hold on the wire of more than 25 pounds. A pair of connectors should snap together with 6 to 8 pounds force.

If you are soldering the contact pins instead of crimping them, be careful not to use too much solder. Keep the solder inside, where the wire goes. If a blob of solder gets on the outside of the connector body you may have trouble putting the contact into the housing. If you get solder on the contact surface area you will not make a good contact.



N O W ----- MAKE SURE you have the polarity correct before plugging in you equipment. Double check against the pictures here.

Preparing to Crimp

You will need cutters to prepare the wire length, and wire strippers to strip the wire. Using cutters to strip wire might possibly nick the wire strands. Strip the wire insulation back 3/8 in., trying not to nick the strands.

Preparing the Wire Assembly

If you are using paired-wire, orient the wire with the red/plus wire on your right with the stripped end of the wire away from you. Place the contact on the wire so that the hooked edge of the contact tip (flat tab) is down. Do both contacts this way and when crimped they will fit in to the plastic housing correctly without twisting the wire.

Crimping 15, and 30 AMP Contacts

Carefully insert all of the strands of the wire in to the wire cup on the contact end. Fully open the PWRcrimp jaw; and, then with the flat tab downward, place the contact and wire fully into the plastic contact positioner for the respective 15 or 30 amp die.

Make sure that the contact's split portion of the wire barrel is facing upwards towards the upper die, and that the wire is still fully inserted into the contact. Crimp down firmly. Continue to squeeze through each ratchet index, only until the tool opens.

DO NOT SQUEEZE PAST THE POINT WHERE THE RATCHET RELEASES, doing this will make a poor and damaged connection. The ratchet release point assures that the crimp is fully compressed and makes the best connection.

Crimping 45 AMP Contacts

For 45 Amp contacts do not place the wire in to the contact first. Fully open the PWRcrimp jaw and with the flat tab downward, place the contact fully into the 45 amp contact positioner opening.

Neatly place all the strands of the wire fully in to U shaped channel. It is very important that the U shaped contact tabs are aligned evenly within the channel of the top die on first click. If it appears to be aligned properly, continue to squeeze through each ratchet index, only until the tool opens.

Again, DO NOT SQUEEZE PAST THE POINT WHERE THE RATCHET RELEASES, doing this will make a poor and damaged connection. Note, that you can release the tool without clicking further by using the release lever located at the inside the bottom handle next to the ratchet teeth.

It was a good weekend at Ham-Com for *REACT*

**Charles A (Chuck) Thompson LM 147
DCR 44, KAD4253, N5IAG
Secretary/Treasurer and Director
Dallas County *REACT*, Inc.**

The Dallas County REACT command post trailer and step van were located just 100 feet or so west of the entrance to Plano Centre, where the ARRL National Convention was held June 10 & 11, 2011a Friday and Saturday.

Dallas County REACT was the lead organization in operating the ARRL's radio station W1AW (W1AW/5) for both days. The Dallas Amateur Radio Club and the Garland Amateur Radio Club both contributed equipment and operators to the venture.

The URL below is a short recording of a QSO (conversation for non-ham folks) conducted in the DCR command post trailer, this will give you some idea of what we did (the operator shown is not a DCR member but one of our many visitors.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWEakDAZ0ec>

To clarify the sponsorship -- Dallas County REACT (DCR) was chosen (for the third consecutive time at ARRL National Conventions held in the Dallas/Ft Worth area) to sponsor W1AW/5. DCR invited the Dallas Amateur Radio Club (DARC) and the Garland Amateur Radio Club to participate. DCR did it all in 1994 and in 2004 invited the DARC to handle the CW station.

We're quite proud of the fact that no other REACT Team has ever supported the ARRL station away from its home, and we've now done it three times.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/the-arrl-national-convention-ventures-deep-in-the-heart-of-texas>

REACT Puts Rapids Jam in Touch

Michael Tuttle
North Carolina *REACT*

(ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC) What happens when Police, EMS, vendors, show promoters, event staff and security teams all come together for a major event? Mass confusion can be the result if all don't have a way to communicate with each other. That's when the local *REACT* Teams can help.

At last week's 2011 Rapids Jam Country Music Festival, local Police found their own radio system in some ways inadequate to cover the venue. Event promoters and vendors risked running themselves ragged with messengers. Staff faced the possibility of lag time in getting EMS to the scene if there should be an injury or illness. Thanks to *REACT* personnel, all went smoothly.

REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams) is now preparing to celebrate their 50th year of service. The international organization had its roots in the heyday of Citizens' Band (CB) Radio, when they were most noted for monitoring CB channel 9 around the clock for emergency or motorist assistance calls. These days, *REACT* resources include Land Mobile VHF and UHF systems, GMRS and MURS radios, and even Amateur (HAM) Radio.

North Carolina *REACT* members set up on the 200 acre event site a portable field repeater system and a temporary base antenna on a camp site, and provided 20 hand held radios on the UHF band for use by Police, EMS, all security gates and access points. Everyone had access to each other on common channels.



REACT portable repeater system set up for communications at Rapids Jam
PHOTO CREDIT: Dave Tuttle, NC4DT / KEV4884

Pulaski County REACT Responds

Anita
Submitted by: Jon Thompson
President
Pulaski County REACT#2446



Francesville Fire Station Two sustained damage due to a tornado

Several buildings sustained damage after tornadoes touched down in Francesville Wednesday morning. Francesville Fire Chief Tim Wuethrich, talked about the event.

“It appears that we had a tornado touch down in two spots in Francesville, maybe three,” said Chief Wuethrich. “It took three poles out on the highway, leveled a building that we call Station Two, our other fire station. We had a fire truck in there that’s underneath the rubble. It took part of a roof off a house on the other end of town. I’ve been at Incident Command the whole time so I haven’t assessed the damage yet.”

Chief Wuethrich was asked if an emergency team was assembled or if tornado sirens were activated.

“We got paged from the county that there was a tornado sighted in Rensselaer as soon as everybody got to the station the tornado hit. I mean, it was instant. Nobody got hurt, there were no injuries and nobody is without a home that I know of. There was nothing really major other than this building was the biggest part of the damage.”



Storm damage by Oregon-Davis Schools

Oregon Davis students were sent home Wednesday when power went out at the school. High School Principal, Greg Briles, said even though power was restored, it was decided to send the students home.

“We just didn’t want to put our kids in a bad situation of being in a building where it was stuffy and hot. You know how it is when that happens. You get hot and stuffy and you get agitated and the next thing you know, you have issues,” said Briles. Briles also stated they were as prepared as could be for the power outage.

“Every one of our teachers has a flashlight to make sure that if students need to get to their lockers they can get to their lockers. We have emergency lighting in all the rooms as well as our gymnasium and cafeteria.”

The principal said they prepare for just such a situation as power outages, fires or tornadoes with drills.

“We have tornado drills every semester and then we also have our fire drills every month. We just had a fire drill yesterday (Tuesday).”



Janet Rhoades from Pulaski County *REACT* directs traffic while the Fire Department assesses damage at Fire Station Two. Pulaski County *REACT* crews were stationed at the main Francesville Fire Department building assisting with command post needs and also had multiple units out for traffic control, in the Francesville area.

Had a Great Time at Field Day 2011

Steve Palmer, KJ6DYK, GMRS WQJI 659
LACOUNTY *REACT* #77

I didn’t get started until 7pm on Saturday and all night until 11am on Sunday.

The hill top that we (Steve Palmer KJ6DYK and Ray Reyes KJ6RAY) were using was at the Diamond Bar Center in Diamond Bar off of Grand Avenue. We were transmitting on VHF, UHF (2m and 70cm) simplex only. We were with The EARN/SCE Edison and the Diamond Bar ARC. There were about 10 Hams in all and we broke up into groups – HF 40m and UHF/VHF. We even had time to work a little D-STAR simplex. Our stay call was 1a-LAX and the elevation was 1148 ASL.

I was on battery only and it worked very well. Take a look at my Dodge it looked like MATER on a good day...ha..ha.

We made 40 contacts and with everyone else about 300 contacts in total were made; most of the contacts were on HF. These were contest contacts but we had a little time for rag chewing...ha...ha. This was my first field day and I had a great time.



It is with regret that Johnston County (NC) *REACT*, Inc. Team #2804 announces the passing in April 2011 of long time team member William Wilson. William was a team fixture for decades, as his *REACT* International member number 813 suggests. Our team was represented in uniform for his funeral service. His family was greatly appreciative for our attendance, and all of his close friends confided to our attending members that William proudly talked about his *REACT* membership for much of his adult life.

Jim Galbreath, Blackberry *REACT* Unit 2, passed away February 27, 2011, at the age of 87. He joined Blackberry *REACT* in 1978 and served as President for several years. Jim supported Blackberry *REACT*'s many activities over the years including providing communications support for events such as street fairs and bike runs and was always available to support and train new members. Jim's warm smile and easy going manner will be missed by all who knew him.

<http://www.blackberryreact.org/RememberingJim.html>

Jesse is a long-time friend of mine that goes back to the early days of the Southern California *REACT* Council for which he was usually the Sgt of Arms in the 70s. He had a jolly disposition toward all and always a quick smile. He was wise and always played fair to give the most consideration even to a discussion he may not be in agreement with.

Southwestern *REACT* of San Diego County (CA) will never be the same without Jesse as their cornerstone. He was a former Region Director for California when they were referred to as District Directors for *REACT* International. As a brother Life Member of *REACT* he will be missed. I know he will be helping those members who attempt to reconnect with him and may take a bad turn. He will help guide you to that place above reserved for all of us.

Ed Greany, Past EVP
President, CREST Communications, Inc.
Corona, CA

In case you have not heard, Jesse Mauk, Jr., SWR#70 KD6YEI has passed away on Sept. 1, 2011 and is now a Silent Key (SK). I have known Jesse since I joined Southwestern *REACT*. If you did not know Jesse, I am sorry for your loss. He had much to give and he gave it tirelessly, without expectation of any reward; a true volunteer. We served together in San Diego Police Department's Emergency Management Volunteers Department. He wore many other hats including SDSO RACES, SDPD Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol, Animal Rescue Reserve, and the list goes on.

In Southwestern *REACT* Jesse held almost every post and assignment the Team ever had. His dedication to *REACT* caused him to become a Life Member (LM#470) of *REACT* International. If you asked for help, his hand went up. He was rarely on the losing end of a "discussion"; he could be firm, but fair.

His wish was to have no service. Sorry, big guy, you lose this "discussion". There was a brief Celebration at the SD Police Officers Association (POA) this Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011, at 8388 Vickers St., SD. The doors opened at noon, with the Celebration starting at 1300 (1:00 pm).

We have heard the expression that a loved one is in a better place. Let me offer that that place is better because of Jesse – HOLDING HIS HAND UP.

John Capodanno
Director Region 8

***REACT* International Adopts NIMS**

Roy Drury, K4DCT
Region 3 Director

***REACT* International Adopts NIMS**

At the October 9th 2011 meeting of the Board of Directors of REACT International, Inc. a resolution was introduced and was adopted recognizing NIMS as its system for preparing, responding and managing all activities, routine, charity event safety communications, as well as, emergency and disaster Emergency Support Function (ESF) #2 responses.

The *National Incident Management System (NIMS)* provides a systematic, proactive approach to guide departments and agencies at all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work seamlessly to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity, in order to reduce the loss of life and property and harm to the environment.

NIMS works hand in hand with the *National Response Framework (NRF)*. NIMS provide the template for the management of incidents, while the NRF provides the structure and mechanisms for national-level policy for incident management.

The benefits of NIMS include:

- A standardized approach to incident management that is scalable and flexible.
- Enhanced cooperation and interoperability among responders.
- Comprehensive all-hazards preparedness.
- Efficient resource coordination among jurisdictions or organizations.
- Integration of best practices and lessons learned for continuous improvement.

NIMS is applicable to all levels of government, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations that have an active role in emergency management and incident response. Below is a summary of key roles and responsibilities.

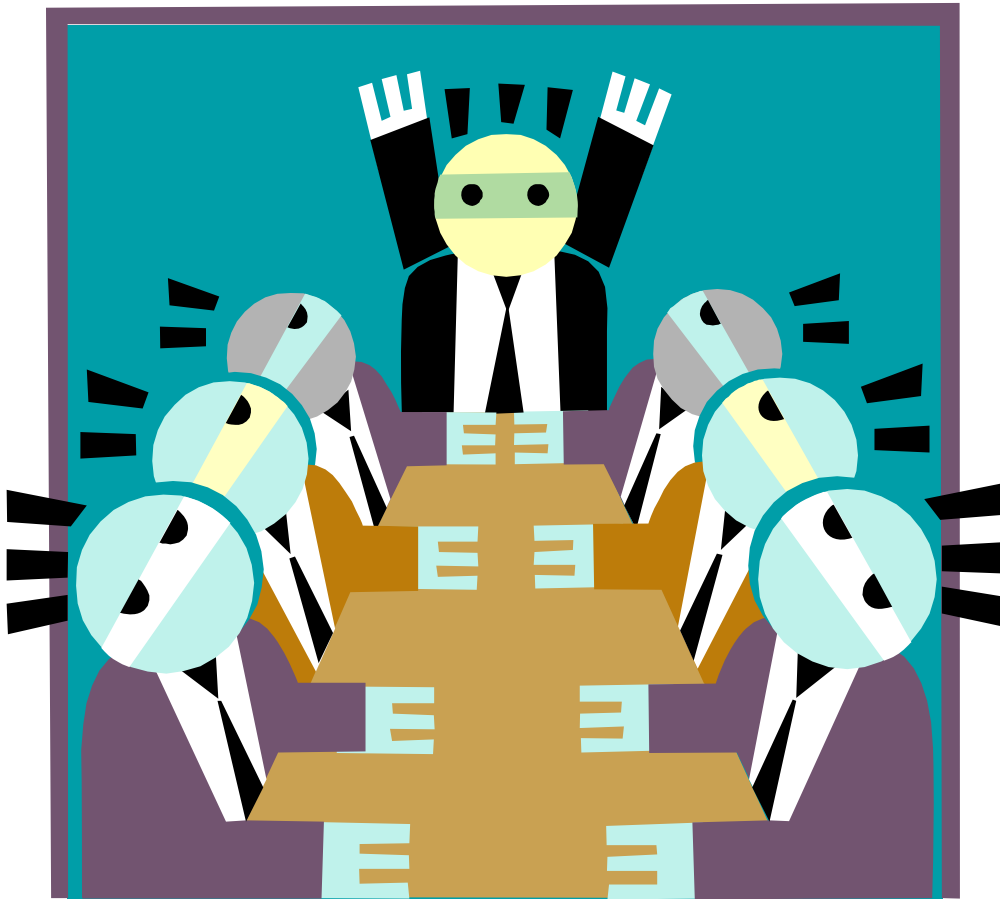
NIMS is:

- A comprehensive nationwide systematic approach to incident management
- A core set of doctrine, concepts, principles, terminology, and organizational processes for all hazards. It is not a detailed operational or resource plan.
- Scalable, so it may be used for all incidents (from day-to-day to large-scale).
- Essential principles for a common operating picture and communications operability.
- Standardized resource management procedures for coordination among different jurisdictions and organizations.

REACT International, Inc. Board of Directors Minutes

Please make sure to visit www.myreact.info for a members account. This is also where you will be able to find the last 11 years of Board minutes. Haven't seen the minutes please click the following link and jump right to them!

http://myreact.info/Board_Minutes



Los Angeles County *REACT* Receives Accommodation

John Capodanno, Region 8

POLICE EXPO AND FAMILY SECURITY SHOW
520 Sixth La Fayette Park Place
Suite110
Los Angeles 90057
www.policeexpo.com

July 1, 2011

TO: Los Angeles County *REACT*

FROM: J.K. Terrell, Project Coordinator, Police Expo and Family Security Show

FOR: Police Expo and Family Security Show held on May 21, 2011 at the Court of Champions at the Rose Bowl

The Police Expo would like to **Highly Commend:**

The Los Angeles County *REACT* Team and its Members

The staff of the L.A. County *REACT* is hereby commended for participating in the Police Expo and Family Security Show on May 21, 2011 at the Pasadena Rose Bowl's Court of Champions.

This event provides law enforcement with a great avenue for recruitment and public relations. Your staff is hereby commended for all contributions to our event. They were terrific with all the children who attended and were very patient with the crowds.

We had a terrific crowd, wonderful displays and several events that entertained the public and officers in attendance. Many job applications and interest cards were filled out during the day. We thank you and your staff for all your efforts in making our event a huge success!

2 AM and My Phone is Beeping....

Mark Byrd, Team 3387
San Angelo TX

It's two o'clock in the morning and my phone starts beeping. It's never good news when I receive a message from the dispatch center for the City of San Angelo.

I pick up the phone and call dispatch. The police department needs *REACT* members to relieve three police officers at the site of a wreck to direct traffic where a car ran into a power pole and knocked down power lines into the roadway.

After calling dispatch, I was able to contact Jack Roberts, and Jay Ferguson to respond to the call and relieve the police officers so they could go back on patrol. After three hours the power crews were able to replace the pole and get the lines back up and release our members.

The small emergency are not too exciting, but shows the dedication of *REACT* members.

Busy Summer for Blackberry *REACT*

Jon Mosby, Unit 31, KF6RFQ
Team C-057 Mountain View & Menlo Park CA

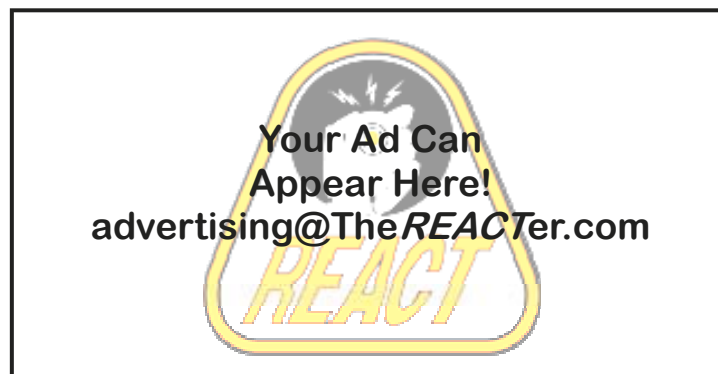
Blackberry *REACT*, C-057, based corporately out of Mountain View and physically out of Menlo Park, California, has been very busy this Summer. We have accomplished two Art & Wine events; two 4-route bicycle events; a car show; high school grad night; Maker Faire; a County emergency drill and will assist in two upcoming walks, one more bicycle event and a feline shelter event along with our Annual Halloween Patrols.

We assist the Menlo Park Fire Protection District with preparedness training and communications and are planning on specific radio classes both for obtaining amateur license and "What do I do Now?" license class followup.

After a two and a half year grant request workout and several grant presentations, the local Kiwanis Foundation funded a new repeater and housing for us. In April, when we went to replace our 1998 installation, we found that our current GMRS repeater site was no longer available. It was in an excellent location covering an area from a bit North of San Francisco to well below San Jose. We have been working on a location close to this site, although nothing is as high as where it was, but there is a location further out from the old site, so we are hoping coverage will be about the same. While this negotiation is taking place, we met with the Fire Chief of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District who offered us a second and third location if we wanted. Silly question. We are now planning to include a second GMRS repeater in about a year, upon completion of the antenna tower at one of the fire stations. This will give the Team time to raise funding for a third repeater for a second tower that will be completed in 2015.

During this endeavor, the topic of our aging 1985 Communications Van came up. We "donated" our converted ambulance to the Fire District several years ago. They maintain the vehicle for us and we provide training and drill services as needed to the public in the District. The District is ready to "dispose" of several of its older vehicles and asked if we would be interested in a minivan as opposed to our current van. Obviously the minivan is MUCH smaller, but is MUCH newer...a 2000 with about 70,000 miles.

Blackberry *REACT* celebrated our forty-first anniversary this year. We lost our co-founder Jim Galbreath at the end of last year and will most likely dedicate this new vehicle to him. I will include pictures in the next month or two when all of this transpires.



Hams as FRS Repeaters

Gordon West, 11W2534, WB6NOA

I know, repeaters are not allowed on Family Radio Service. Sure, ham operators have their own repeaters, and so do licensed General Mobile Radio Service have repeaters.

It is the ham radio connection that may lead to effective emergency communications by repeating what they monitor on a nearby FRS channel.

FRS Channel 1	462.5625	
Channel 2	462.5875	
Channel 3	462.6125	Ch. 1 – 7 are shared
Channel 4	462.6375	with GMRS higher
Channel 5	462.6625	power stations.
Channel 6	462.6875	
Channel 7	462.7125	
<hr/>		
Channel 8	467.5625	
Channel 9	467.5875	
Channel 10	467.6125	Ch. 8 – 14 are for
Channel 11	467.6375	<u>FRS ONLY</u>
Channel 12	467.6625	
Channel 13	467.6875	
Channel 14	467.7125	

The Family Radio Service is the result of a petition submitted by ham radio operator Robert Miller, K2RM, a strong advocate of local safety communications on unused frequencies interstitial to GMRS input and output channels.

“The public needs a low cost, half watt UHF 14 Channel radio that might signal to a next door neighbor after a big tornado hits town,” comments Miller, an active ham radio operator, and technically astute on half watt UHF FRS range.

Like milliwatt cell phone technology, the limited one or two block range of FRS would be excellent in search and rescue comms, homing in on a signal from a trapped resident in a storm shelter. There were many ‘saves’ in Joplin, Missouri, credited to rescue groups tracking down FRS MayDay calls after the twister hit town.

But with 14 channels, what is THE emergency channel? In 2006, REACT legend, Ron McCracken, KG4CVL, began a campaign called “The National SOS Program” where FRS Channel 1, 462.5625 MHz, could be considered the unofficial channel. Midland Radio, for several years, helped support Ron’s effort.

Here in Southern California, some local cities established Family Radio Service equipment classes for their local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members. The classes continue today, most recently with the Santa Ana (Orange County, California) CERT training.

“We first monitored all 14 FRS channels and selected a quiet one that was interstitial to GMRS input frequencies,” comments Captain Steve Snyder, with the Santa Ana Fire Department. “Interstitial to INPUT GMRS frequencies minimizes repeater OUTPUT bleed over,” comments Larry Wilson, K6SCH, Santa Ana Response Team (SART) Communications Officer.

The plan is straight forward, following the success of the city of Costa Mesa FRS program, with weekly FRS check-ins within local neighborhoods.

How can these “tiny” signals reach out for help during a widespread city emergency?

“We have enlisted ham radio operators who take part in these weekly nets, MONITORING their neighborhood FRS channel for radio traffic. Suppose Suzy, at 2414 College, reports (as a drill) that she is trapped under an earthquake crashed bookcase and needs help. Since local neighbors are also pre-instructed to monitor this specific FRS channel in a major incident, help may soon be on the way. But ADDED help will come from licensed ham operators who may overhear this call. (Almost any type of ham rig, that will easily receive outside of the 70 cm ham band the 462/467 MHz FRS

frequencies will be able to hear the call.)

These ham operators, many using a simple dual band 2 meter/440 MHz handheld ham radio, can tie their little HT's into outside dual band antennas, with typical reception range of 5 to 10 blocks, or more! Thus, the ham operators themselves can become “FRS repeaters”, taking emergency traffic from unlicensed FRS handhelds, transcribing the information, and then passing it on to their local Emergency Operations Center team members.

It gets even better! The Costa Mesa Neighborhood FRS program, under the direction of Paul and Diane Hill, KG6WBN and KG6WBO, is such a success that they also obtained a General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) license, allowing them to transmit from type-approved GMRS radios, on higher power levels, on GMRS/FRS shared channels 1 through 7. But it is not so much the higher power output that extends the range on these seven shared interstitial channels, but rather the capability to tie into an outside higher gain, 70 cm antenna to, literally, be heard by every FRS operator in the city!

One technical note – the GMRS equipment must not be “close talked”, or the wider deviation will chop out syllables on FRS narrow band channels – NO close talking to the mic!

Conversely, FRS non-licensed users must TALK UP directly into the microphone in order to be heard by ham and GMRS operators using a conventional non-narrowband FM receiver.

For CERT training, driving to CERT meetings, and neighbor disaster picnics, everyone is encouraged to monitor the specific adopted FRS channel. The emergency instructions are clear – after ANY major event such as an earthquake or tornado or hurricane or tsunami, turn on the FRS to the agreed upon channel and establish communications with neighbors to determine who will help who. Ham operators have similar standing orders – they need to switch on their FRS/GMRS equipment, go to their local neighborhood FRS emergency channel, and listen for incoming distress reports.

These reports (not actual signals) are then detailed over ham channels to their local emergency operations center.

The greatest system problem... Your biggest challenge will be with the ham radio operators. Some have NO interest in working with unlicensed groups. Other hams may get frustrated and drop out with undisciplined radio calls coming in on the dedicated channel. Some hams will just get bored, and claim its too much QRM, to sort out a gaggle of incoming signals on the same channel. Ham operators who are REACT members are the saving element to this program's success!

“During Katrina, FRS could have sped the operation tremendously and saved lives – especially from victims trapped in attics with rising water. Some rescue helicopters did have FRS radios aboard, and if those below, on rooftops, or at windows had inexpensive FRS radios, rescuers could have evaluated the most serious cases first. Instead, the rescues were random efforts with little or no communications, so some flood victims were lost,” comments Ron McCracken in his September 2006 Orange County *REACT* memo.

With a C.Crane multi radio FRS base station selling for under \$79 (CCrane.com) , an individual FRS handhelds selling in pairs for under \$39, do as I do every Monday night, and work your FRS/GMRS equipment into your local ham radio emergency communications nets.

Gordon West was a Charter Member of one of the nation's first Hallicrafters *REACT* team in San Pedro, California in the late '50s.

“Gordo” credits Class A UHF CB and Class D HF CB as the launch point of his half century ham radio education career.

“Anyone remember the Class A UHF Vocaline?” asks Gordo. Contact him at WB6NOA@ARRL.net, or look at www.GordonWestRadioSchool.com



Gordon West , WB6NOA , at his ham station in California



Gordo's communications van , during a search and rescue operation in the mountains .

Grand Island *REACT* Receives Much Needed Grant

Jeremy Smith,
Public Relations Officer
Grand Island *REACT* Team 2736

Good Morning to all of our friends at REACT International; I hope all is well with everybody! Grand Island *REACT*, Nebraska has had a real glory moment, just when all seemed bleak and thoughts of folding hit our team, ShopKo came through with some nice offers of grant money. For the last 3 years now we have had the opportunity to pull \$1,000 in grant money from ShopKo Stores Inc. through the ShopKo Foundation. Now we are adding to that, our great town just recently acquired "The Nebraska State Fair" and along with the state fair came a few other things, new restaurants, new jobs opened up, new stores have come to town. The greatest thing of all is that we have also received "State Volleyball", we were offered the chance to piece together the volunteer roster last year.

We were only given a week to put this list together, it all paid off in the end. After the dust settled we received a surprise guest to our meeting, who in turn presented our team with another \$1,000 check. With this money we have purchased a new ICOM ID-1 1.2 GHz mobile radio to later connect to our new ICOM D-Star repeater system that Nebraska State EOC installed as a part of a state wide system to connect all major communities. We also purchased an ICOM IC-2820h dual band 2m, 70cm, D-Star ready mobile. As a part of the Volleyball money we are supposed to fix the brakes on our communications vehicle.

We are now faced with some future proposals of purchasing a Kenwood TM-D710 to get on board with APRS, and replacing a Motorola Micom 1.3 MHz to 30 MHz, with a new Kenwood TS-480 to use with CAP, MARS, SATURN, Red Cross, and HF Amateur Radio. Any additional funding will most likely go to Training. Our team is in need of additional training on how to use all this new equipment and books for our team to help further our training on existing procedures with all new updates. We are thriving here in the sticks but our numbers do not reflect, we have hit the same hole every team has. We are slowly being replaced with bigger and better, so we think it's time for these updates to happen.

The "Computer Age" has finally reached us! If we can make the adjustment smoothly and quietly, life will be good! Our team is preparing to take on the "Bill Seymour Half Marathon" in honor of one of my relatives Bill Seymour of Grand Island, Nebraska. This project is through our local YMCA. This year we most likely won't be working with the hams as this event falls right in the middle of the Nebraska State Fair, one of the hams lead projects at this time. It will be a real loss as the man power that they provide is a huge help. This event spans the entire town, coming dangerously close to every major highway that crosses our great city.

The race starts out heading north along the western edge our town, two blocks from Highway 30, they turn southwest. In the first mile of this stretch they cross Locust St., a major vein from north to south. In the next stretch they cross Stolley Park Road, a major trucking vein for Grand Island. After this they make the trek to Sturh Museum after crossing Hwy 34 right in front of the museum. The Museum is situated on the bike trail with some rather impressive numbers for acres, which by the way the western edge of the museum is Hwy 281. The bike trail runs parallel to Hwy 281 along the Western edge of the museum at this time they runners have turned South, until they reach the back side of the museum which is a Flood Project built by the City of Grand Island to help protect the southern half of G.I. during periods of heavy rain. So the runners reach the back side of the museum they then turn and run parallel to the flood project until they reach Hall County Park then they cross an earthen damn built in the middle of flood project to serve as a bridge for the bike trail, to make the entrance of H.C.P. At this point they run into one of our guys at the turn around and they make the trek back.

REACT holds its first Member Teleconference

Roy Drury, K4DCT
Region 3 Director

On Sunday September 4th, *REACT* history was made. With the approval and endorsement of President Knott, Region 3 Director Roy Drury hosted a Member Teleconference for interested *REACT*ers to discuss what the members think that *REACT* should be doing with disasters and how to coordinate those activities amongst the Teams.

Over the course of 2 hours, approximately 20 members were in attendance on the call and several items were discussed at length. The hope of this discussion was to bring forth the concerns of the members in what *REACT* is doing and what its mission can and should be. Apart from the participants on the call, several email comments from various members, and those items were read to the teleconference and discussion was held on those items by the participants.

A summary of the specific items brought to the meeting are as follows:

- NIMS
- Resource Typing
- Communications Interoperability
- Communications from RI to Councils and Local Teams
- Information Sharing
- Resources and their availability
- MOU's – Refresh and gain new ones (FEMA, DHS, CERT, Citizen Corps)
- Additional Training Resources and potential Certifications
- Reporting from Local Teams to RI and its importance
- Importance of member participation in RI Committees and other positions

A detailed report of the teleconference was presented to the Board at its September 11th meeting and was discussed in detail at the September 22nd Workshop. Several recommendations were made to the Board of Directors as a result of this teleconference and several of those recommendations will be taken up by the Board of Directors at the upcoming October 9th Board Meeting.

This teleconference marks the first time that *REACT* has utilized the technology of VOIP and the Internet along with Skype and teleconference services that are provided free of charge to *REACT* by FreeConferenceCallHD.com.



Central Oklahoma *REACT* Team 6023 Assists in Search and Rescue Attempt

Keith Sossamon
Central Oklahoma *REACT*

It was a historic day in the state of Oklahoma that many of us would rather forget. On May 24th, 2011, the central part of the state of Oklahoma was put in a high risk category for severe weather. Very seldom does the National Weather Service use this category. Unfortunately, their prediction was correct and it turned out to be a long afternoon of large, deadly, tornadoes. These tornadoes stayed on the ground for miles and some of them were over ½ mile wide.

One of these massive tornadoes hit a small lake community in Piedmont, Oklahoma. It destroyed many homes and took two lives of one family. The family, a mother (the father was out of town) and three children were in their house, taking refuge from the tornado in a bathtub. The tornado was so violent, it destroyed their house and literally scattered the family. The mother (who is pregnant), was found with one of her children, a 5 -year old, across the street from their house, by the lake shore and they were both seriously injured. The second child, a 15 month-old, found nearby, was critically injured. The third child, a 3 year-old was missing. The day after the tornado hit, the 15 month old passed away from the injuries received.

Once it was determined the 3 year-old was missing, search and rescue teams from many different agencies, arrived on the scene. The search began. A member of Central Oklahoma *REACT*, Chris Hadley, contacted the command post to see where our team could assist. Early in the morning, on May 25th, members of our Team arrived at the command post and were assigned an area to search. They searched all day in fields, creek beds and debris, trying to locate the child. Late in the afternoon, more members of Central Oklahoma *REACT* arrived to assist in the search. As the evening team received their assignments, the day team was released.

The evening team was split up in two groups and each group had a search and rescue dog (and handler) with them. Both groups went into ground zero (where the tornado destroyed the homes) to begin their search. During the search it became dark, so the only way to do any searching was by flashlight. The *REACT* Team members stayed behind the dogs as the K-9's continued their search through the debris and rubble. As soon as the dogs finished searching each property, the *REACT* Team would follow by sifting through the debris. If the dogs hit on something, the handler would flag the area as an "area of interest." Then they would wait until it got light outside and someone would come back through and do more investigating.

At one point, the dogs hit on a large amount of debris that was in the water. The *REACT* Team spent about 30 minutes climbing up and around the debris and wading in the water, trying to find what the dog was hitting on. Since nothing could be found, that location was flagged for a recheck the following morning. By 10 pm, the command post suspended the search for the night. We wrapped up our search around 10:30 and returned to the command post.

Early the next morning, four dogs were searching the same area that our two teams had searched and flagged the previous evening. Unfortunately, the morning searchers found what they didn't want to find. The little 3 year-old was found floating in the water by the bank, just feet away from the large debris area that had been flagged.

The following central Oklahoma *REACT* members were involved in the search and rescue effort: Chris Toner, David Spaulding, Keith Sossamon, Terri Owen, Tanner Owen, Nick Rutledge, John Linley, Mike Weiss, Mike Furrer, Chris Hadley, Mike Dore, Brett Conner, Brandon Morgan, Daak Love, Leland Jernigan and Jeff Hitchcock.

Southern Minnesota Albert Lea *REACT*C-143 Celebrated *REACT* Month.

Dick Dahlen
Southern Minnesota Albert Lea *REACT*C-145

During the month of May, Southern Minnesota Albert Lea *REACT* C-143 has been celebrating *REACT* Month.

REACT is an independent, nonprofit, public service organization affiliated with *REACT* International, and the members closely abide by the rules set forth by the FCC for use of Channel 9.

REACT is an organization with groups all over the world, in which members participate as volunteers to provide highway safety and emergency communications via citizen band radio.

The group is always ready to assist law enforcement agencies during emergencies.

REACT's cumulative efforts result in the saving of many lives annually, through the greater speed with which medical aid reaches an accident scene and better communications provided in time of natural disasters.

The local team is also involved in community service through handling communications for a variety of charitable activities such as the Cancer Bike-a-thon, Fourth of July Safety Break, April Sorensen Marathon, Big Island Rendezvous, etc.

<http://www.albertleatribune.com/2011/05/26/react-month-celebrated/>



Standing behind Mayor Vern Rasmussen from left, Gary Anderson, David Hagmann, Elaine Larson, Richard Anderson, Betty Anderson, Dennis Raatz, Perry Vining, Teresa Raatz and Roberta Erntson. To the right of Rasmussen is Megan Raatz



REACT Involvement

We Provide

**Communica-
tions support
for community activities**

**Communications support for
agencies and organizations**

Marathons
 Fairs
 Halloween Patrols
 Walkathons
 Parades
 Cart Races
 Bike Races
 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
 Salvation Army
 Missing Person Searches
 March of Dimes
 Emergency Operations Centers
 News Media
 Fire Watch
 Special Olympics
 Toys for Tots
 Local Government Agencies
 State and Federal Agencies
 Sky Warn and NWS/NOAA
 Accident Reports
 Flood Watch
 CERT
 School Districts
 Parks Departments
 Disaster Emergency Drills
 Ministry of Transportation
 National SOS
 Simulated Emergency Test (SET)
 U.S. Coast Guard
 Hurricane Watch
 Emergency Rescue Unit Fdtn.
 Cancer Society
 Audubon 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.

Listening is only half the fun...
POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS
is the other half!

The World's most authoritative monthly magazine for Shortwave Listening and Scanner Monitoring. Read by more active listeners than all other listening publications combined!

If you enjoy radio communications, you'll love

POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

Get fast home delivery of Popular Communications and save \$30.93 a year over the newsstand price. Save even more on 2 or 3 year subs.



FOR FASTER SERVICE FAX 1-516-681-2926

Name _____ Call _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

1 year- 12 issues... <input type="checkbox"/> 32.95 (Save \$38.93)	2 years- 24 issues... <input type="checkbox"/> 58.95 (Save \$84.81)	3 years- 36 issues... <input type="checkbox"/> 85.95 (Save \$129.69)
Canada/Mexico- one year <input type="checkbox"/> 42.95, two years <input type="checkbox"/> 78.95, three years <input type="checkbox"/> 115.95, U.S. Dollars.		
Foreign- one year <input type="checkbox"/> 52.95, two years <input type="checkbox"/> 98.95, three years <input type="checkbox"/> 145.95, U.S. Dollars.		

Popular Communications
 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801 • Phone: 516-681-2922 • Fax 516-681-2926
 www.popular-communications.com