

The **REACT**er

The Official Publication of *REACT* International, Inc.

**MAY is**

**NATIONAL**



**MONTH**

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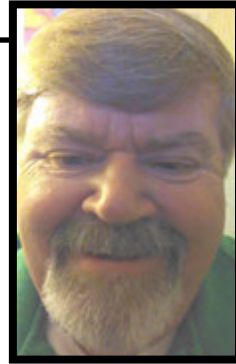
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## A Word from the Editor

Will Stanley

### It's National *REACT* Month!

What is your Team doing?

This is a prime opportunity to publicize your Team to your local community!

Some of the things that can be done:

- Have your local paper do a write up on the Team;
- Get your Mayor to make a proclamation of National *REACT* Month in your town;
- Get your State's Governor to do the same;

There are lots of ways to publicize your Team and National *REACT* Month is one of them.

Make the people of your community aware you exist! Simply doing stuff does not always guarantee that result. It took me and the other members of my Team in Nebraska several years to get people to know what we were and who we were. You can do it too, but it's going to take time and effort. An active, involved Public Relations Officer or PIO is your best bet. As I have said in the past: "Toot Your Own Horn! NO ONE else is going to do it for you!"

My door is always open...  
Talk to me!



## A Message from Tom Currie (Region 2 Director)



(Editor's Note: Tom's comments are **BOLD**)

**The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has a training class called "TRG-AUXCOMM Auxiliary Communications Workshop" for volunteer radio operators. The course description even specifically mentions REACT! (See the attached course list)**

### Description:

Volunteer emergency communications operators/groups, using amateur radio, have been providing backup communications to public safety for nearly 100 years.

Event planners, public safety officials, and emergency managers at all levels of government utilize their services. Often, amateur radio services have been used reliably when other forms of communications have failed or have been disrupted. Today nearly all the States/territories have incorporated some level of participation by amateur radio auxiliary communication operators into their SCIPs.

This workshop is designed for those auxiliary emergency communicators and groups who volunteer to provide backup emergency radio communications support to public safety and emergency response professionals and their agencies. Typically this includes amateur radio and Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams (REACT) communicators but may include other volunteer emergency communicators. The request for and conduct of this offering will be under the auspices of the SWIC.

The course focuses on auxiliary communications interoperability, the relationship between the COML and the volunteer, emergency operation center etiquette, on-the-air etiquette, FCC rules and regulations, auxiliary communications training and planning, certification and accreditation, and emergency communications deployment. It is intended to supplement and standardize an operator's experience and knowledge of emergency amateur radio communications in a public safety context.

**Over 1300 volunteers have been trained already. I have no idea how many have been REACTers. The class is free, but there are some factors that will undoubtedly keep many REACT members from taking this class. It is a two or three day class (20 hours), that is only taught on-site by instructors. It is not available online, so you have to wait until your Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) arranges for a class to be taught in your area or you find one that you can travel to attend. Another obstacle for many REACT members is that the prerequisites include a General Class amateur radio license in addition to the FEMA ICS courses.**

### Prerequisites are:

- Completion of IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800 prior to the workshop
- General class FCC license or above (copy of the license will be requested at the start of the class)
- Past experience in auxiliary emergency communications
- A desire to learn how to work with COMLs in a NIMS/ICS environment

Instructors will review copies of the attendees' prerequisite documentation at the beginning of the workshop. All prerequisites must be met prior to attending this course.

Each workshop is limited to 30 attendees. It is an intensive 20 hour weekend course with facilitated lecture and student exercises. It can be scheduled over a weekend to accommodate attendees' regular work schedules. This course builds in time for interactive discussions and exercises. Because the content is NIMS compliant, this offering is not modified for local circumstances.

### The course content includes:

- Introduction
- The Communications Unit and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- AEC Roles and Responsibilities
- Interoperable Communications
- Incident Communication
- Incident Radio Communications Plan
- Incident Communications Center
- Team management and accountability
- Resources
- Intrastate and interstate radio networks
- Final exercise exam

**Anyone who meets the prerequisites and is interested in taking this class, should check with whoever coordinates training for their local or state Emergency Management Agency to see when the class will be presented in their area.**

**I will be attending the class in August which is the next time it will be taught in Kentucky.**

**Tom Currie  
Director, Region 2, REACT International, Inc.**

# FCC Approves Revisions to Part 95 Rules

## Summary from ARRL e-Letter

Soon it will be legal for CBers to work DX on 11 meters. In a lengthy Report and Order (R&O) in a proceeding (WT Docket No. 10-119) dating back 7 years, the FCC has announced rule changes affecting the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), the Family Radio Service (FRS), the Citizens Band Radio Service (CBRS or "CB"), and other applications that fall under the FCC's Part 95 Personal Radio Services (PRS) rules and regulations. Part 95 devices typically are low-power units that communicate over shared spectrum and, with some exceptions, do not require a license.

## FCC Report and Order

"This draft Report and Order completes a thorough review of the PRS rules in order to modernize them, remove outdated requirements, and reorganize them to make it easier to find information," the FCC said in a summary attached to the R&O.

GMRS and FRS devices are used for personal communication over several miles; compact FRS handhelds, often sold in pairs, are widely available. While GMRS and FRS share spectrum, GMRS provides for greater communications range and requires an FCC license; FRS does not.

"The rules will increase the number of communications channels for both GMRS and FRS, expand digital capabilities to GMRS (currently allowed for FRS), and increase the power/range for certain FRS channels to meet consumer demands for longer range communications (while

maintaining higher power capabilities for licensed GMRS)," the FCC explained.

The amended rules eventually will eliminate combination FRS/GMRS radios for the most part, but allow up to 2 W PEP output for FRS transceivers. "[M]any current users of GMRS/FRS combination radios do not obtain licenses to operate over the GMRS frequencies in those radios," the FCC said. "Much of this problem likely arises as a result of the mass consumer marketing of combination devices for sale to the public in large quantities to users who do not know about or do not understand the licensing requirements attached to such radios and obligations associated with operating in the GMRS."

The FCC said it no longer will certify FRS devices that incorporate GMRS capabilities or capabilities of other services. Existing GMRS/FRS combination radios that operate at power levels of less than 2 W ERP will be reclassified as FRS devices; existing GMRS/FRS radios that operate above that power level will be reclassified as GMRS devices, requiring an individual license. Radios that can transmit on GMRS repeater input channels will continue to be licensed individually and not by rule.



The FCC said changes to the decades-old Citizens Band (CB) rules will remove outdated requirements, including certain labeling requirements. DXing on Citizens Band will become legal too. Once the new rules are effective, CBers will be allowed to contact stations outside of the FCC-imposed -- but widely disregarded -- 155.3-mile distance limit. The revised CB rules further clarify how hands-free devices can be used with CB radios and will allow the use of wireless microphones with CB radios. The FCC left in place the current power limits for the CB Radio Service.

Most of the new Part 95 rules will become effective 30 days after their publication in The



### Editor's Note:

Hopefully you have noticed the new banner on this page!

Ever since I took over in August of last year, I have been considering a different name for this section, one that better represents what can go here.

Team News sounds so restrictive. It sounds like the only people who can submit information here are Team people and that is just not right!

My intent is to get everybody involved. Are you a Team member who just did something for a neighbor that was "sort of, might have been" an emergency (at least to them) and they came to you because they knew you were a *REACT*er and that's what *REACT*ers do?

### TELL US ABOUT IT!

Councils - however many of those entities are left - what are you doing for your teams? **TELL US ABOUT IT!** And of course, Team PIOs or PR Officers, send us your information!

This section is for everyone. YOU are the ones on "Front Lines"! It's YOUR news that everybody wants to read!

### SO, TELL US ABOUT IT !

### Southwestern *REACT*

(California)

Submitted by Jay Pistorias

Southwestern *REACT* provided communications and race track control for the Encinitas Half Marathon event held in April.



Photo by Daniel Willan

*Members of Southwestern REACT prepare for the Encinitas Half Marathon in April*

(From the event's website) The Encinitas Half Marathon is 13.1 miles of unforgettable fun through America's most quintessential surf town! To kick off the adventure, thousands of racers will toe the line at the renowned Moonlight State Beach with scenic views of the Pacific Ocean. This course has gently rolling



hills with 1 short, steep hill about 40 yards long. This is the hill on Third Street going up to the Moonlight Beach parking lot. You'll go down this hill shortly after the start and you'll be tackling it with great success at mile 4.1. And there will be Marines there to "encourage" you as you run up this little beast of a hill."



Photo by John Wright

The Team fielded 8 members for the event. Members provided communications along the race route in coordination with the race officials manning water stops as well as summoning assistance for injured or sick runners or just those who couldn't finish the



Jay Pistorias and George Reeves pose for a 'selfie' before the event

race.

One Hundred percent of the net proceeds for the event are donated to local ocean, beach, and park related projects.



## Star Mountain REACT

(Tennessee)

Submitted by Joe Zych

The Star Mountain REACT Radio Team # 6205 group provided a communications demo at the local elementary school. The children learned that their cell phone is not 100% reliable for emergency communications and that radio waves using 2-way radios will work when the



Star Mountain REACT members at a radio demonstration at the local elementary school.

cell towers are down.

Our Team set up CB radios and VHF and UHF and gave the students a chance to make radio contacts with other Team React members and also 20-mile contacts for assistance. The event had about 400 people attending and hoping to promote interest in the Junior REACT program.

## Cleveland County REACT

(North Carolina)

Submitted by Jay Flora

A train carrying a load of corn derailed near Shelby, N.C., in mid-April.

The derailment happened about 10:30 a.m. on Airport Road near NC 150, the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Part of Airport Road had to be shut down as a result of the spilled corn, officials said.

This incident kept several members of Cleveland County REACT busy re-directing

traffic around the incident. The Team works very closely with the Shelby Police Department on such incidents. Shelby Police Chief Ledford has said on many occasions that the help that Cleveland County REACT gives his department



is invaluable.

Earlier in the year, the Team attended the Police Christmas dinner at the invitation of the police department, they also assisted with



traffic at the Annual Charity Chase 5k/1k marathon in March.



Shelby Police officer Ledford, Lt. Howington, and Sgt. Porter at the Merry-Go-Round Fest

And in April, the Team assisted with the Foothills Merry-Go-Round Fest, providing additional foot patrols to augment the Shelby Police



## Los Angeles County **REACT**

(California)

Submitted by John Capodanno

What is the Verdugo 10K Run?

In a word: challenging. *(from the*

*Verdugo 10K Run website -*

*<http://runtheverdugos.com/index.html>)*

"The Verdugo Mountains 10K takes place on



the Brand Motorway, a fire road accessed from Brand Park in Glendale. The majority of the fire road is dirt; only two very brief sections, at the start and finish, are paved.

The course begins in beautiful Brand Park, climbs steadily to one of the highest points in the Verdugo Mountains, and then heads back downhill for a fast descent to the finish. Breathtaking views of the L.A. Basin, the San



LaCo Members John Capodanno and Will Richards join KLOS (95.5) personality Fraser Smith at the Verdugo 10K Run.



Fernando Valley, and the Pacific Ocean await you at every turn. From the race's highest point, at 2,670 feet above sea level, the panoramic view of the San Gabriel Mountains is truly spectacular."

Twelve members of Los Angeles County *REACT* worked the run course, providing communications and assistance along the route. Although there have been incidents in the past, fortunately this year there were none.

Approximately 900 people signed up for the run and about 700 actually showed up to participate. LaCo members were on the scene early, starting at 6 a.m, the run began at 8 a.m, and was officially finished by 12 Noon. LaCo members were cleared and deactivated by 12:30 p.m.

## **REACT County Caroni**

(Trinidad/Tobago)

Submitted by Robby Goswami



*Dr. Catherine Ali*

On Wednesday, 12th April 2017, *REACT* County Caroni - Team 6005, hosted a lecture/workshop on Conflict Resolution and Management at the Chaguanas Borough Corporation. It was facilitated by Dr. Catherine Ali, an expert in the field.

The event was well attended by over 30 members and very important tips were shared on how to have positive outcomes when interacting with others, especially when contentious issues are being discussed. Role-play exercises were part of the workshop, giving participant practical situations in which to practice the skills learned.

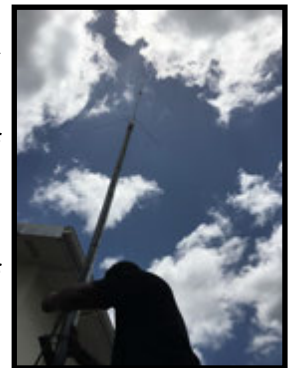
I am thankful for the invitation extended by



*Members participating in the workshop*

Team President Rohan Rampersad to attend the workshop and be part of the speaker lineup to address the gathering. A follow-up session is being planned to address advanced topics. Congratulations to Team 6005 on a successful event.

On Sunday, 23rd April 2017, a technical team lead by Khazlur Baksh, *REACT* Unit 203 and comprising of members of Teams 2496, 4928, 6007, and 6009 conducted an installation of a new VHF antenna at the base location of Jason Mungal, *REACT* Unit 937.



The installation involved tuning a 5/8 wave 6db gain base station antenna using an MFJ-259B analyzer along with RG-8X coaxial cable and a free-standing mast. Technical information was also shared and those present came away with a wealth of knowledge from the process.



# Silent Mics



*It is with great sadness that we notify the REACT family of the passing of this member.*



## **Jack E. Griffey 1934–2017**

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that we inform you that Jack Griffey, former President of Heartland REACT (Nebraska) has passed

away. Jack was the last surviving founding member of the original Team, Douglas County REACT.

Jack founded the team in 1967 and was

President till just a few years ago. We would not be who we are without his leadership.

Jack was a retired Captain with the Omaha Fire Department. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia Griffey; daughter, Diana Young (Tim); sons, Mark Griffey (Kristin) and Jack Griffey (Valerie); fourteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Military burial honors were performed by the U.S. Marine Corps, Millard American Legion Post 374, and Millard VFW Post 8334.

Rest in Peace, Jack.

# **SUBMITTING TEAM NEWS Is EASY!**

## Just follow this guideline...

**NAME** of Person Reporting— **TEAM NUMBER**— **TEAM LOCATION**  
**DESCRIPTION** of **ACTIVITIES** (Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How)

Provide this info for each event in your report

**INCLUDE PICTURES**—attach them to your email—don't send .PDFs

(Caption: **WHO, WHAT** and **WHERE** each picture shows)

**NAME** of Photographer

**SEND** the entire report (with pictures attached) to:

**EDITOR@THEREACTER.COM**

# **SEE HOW EASY THAT WAS?**

So Easy, even a caveman could do it! (sorry, Geico, I couldn't resist)

**DON'T FORGET - Name The People in the photos! People love seeing their name in print!**

## **Kenny Jagdeosingh: A REACT Pioneer in Trinidad/Tobago**

Interview Conducted by Robby Goswami  
(Region 9 Director)

Deonanan "Kenny" Jagdeosingh, also fondly known as 'Apple,' is a member of Trinidad and Tobago REACT Team 2496. There are many words which can be used to describe Kenny, however "stalwart" seems to sum up his past and continued involvement in the organization. Here is a rather candid Q&A to allow us, the readers of The REACTer, to gain some insight into to his persona and activities over the years.

### **Please tell us a bit about yourself.**

I was born on the 28th February 1933 in the district of Siparia, Trinidad, so I am now into my 85th year. I am a retired public servant, Property Tax Valuation Officer, and a semi-retired businessman with expertise in automatic transmissions, having received international recognition in that field. I was (and still am) married to Shirley on 6th December 1959 and together we have three lovely children, Wayne, Andy and Jeanna, all of whom are university graduates and quite successful with families of their own.



*Deonanan "Kenny" Jagdeosingh*

### **How did you get involved with REACT?**

In 1979, I retired from the Public Service and on a trip to Toronto, a time when there was no phone service, I was intrigued by a CB radio that I saw, and which I brought back to Trinidad. My first radio transmission was to the late Alwyn Drayton (R.15) and Theodore Guerra (R.415), who became lifelong friends. From there I got involved with REACT as CB radio was

an available means of communication, especially when mobile. It took some time to gain membership, as back then it would take over a year to be processed. However, Theophilus Alfred (R.621) who was Chairman of the Board approved my membership, and immediately got me involved fixing and improving organizational issues. I always believed that once a responsibility was accepted, that is was necessary to do

extremely well, especially with the leadership position that I was placed in. My key strength was in holding things together and developing REACT.

### **Tell us about your role in the development of REACT in Trinidad and Tobago.**

There are so many things I could talk about. In 1982, CB licenses did not exist, so I arranged a meeting with the Director of

Telecommunications, Winson Ragbir, who attended our Board meeting. The intent was to at least obtain a temporary CB license for REACT to operate. However, this proved to be a challenge for a long time. What was eventually negotiated was a commercial VHF license that was issued in 1995, and which is in use up to this day. I was also responsible for negotiating the repeater site hosting at TV6's tower in the central range. This was without charge and is



Ron Faulkner, Chuck Thompson and Kenny with some Junior REACTers in the back

also still in use today.

In 1991, I attended the REACT International Convention in Melbourne, Fla., along with Lester Wilson (R.668) and the late Fitzgerald Benjamin (R.252). It was the first-time attendance from our country. There was a proud moment when, after completing my presentation, a spontaneous standing ovation was given.

In 1992 I was re-elected as Chairman of the Board, and subsequently attended the Anderson, Ind., convention along with Balchan Khaloo. A bid was made to host the next convention in Trinidad, but it went to New York. Again, in 2000 at the Kissimmee, Fla., convention along with a large contingent from T&T, a bid was made and this time accepted. So convention 2001 was held in Trinidad.

In 1999, I was involved in organizing the REACT Trinidad and Tobago Council, comprising nine teams in Trinidad and Tobago. This was done to provide a means of coordination and addressing some of the conflict issues at the time. I had very good support across the organization in setting up the Council, but special mention must be made of Allan Stewart (R.400), Michael Stewart, the late Ricardo Hernandez and other Tobago counterparts who contributed immensely in the process of holding the organization together. Other roles I played included sponsoring a scholarship to REACT members in environmental management, floating the idea of a Spelling Bee competition, and the acquisition of a building and land to be used as a Headquarters.

**What are some of the memorable projects you were involved with?**

I have served in many positions over the years, including Chairman, but I came in as Director of Administration, and was involved with several projects, some of which were already in place and some that I facilitated. These include providing radio communications to public service events such as aquatics, cycling, road races, and science shows. But much of my efforts was working with the Zones/Teams in growing them.

**What are some of the honors, accolades and awards you have received?**

I have a room full of trophies, plaques, and



Winston Dookeran presenting Kenny with one of his many well-deserved awards

certificates, all of which are highly treasured. However, a couple of them stand out. In 2003, it was an honor to have been appointed to the Board of *REACT* International, Inc., as the Director for Region 9, a position held until



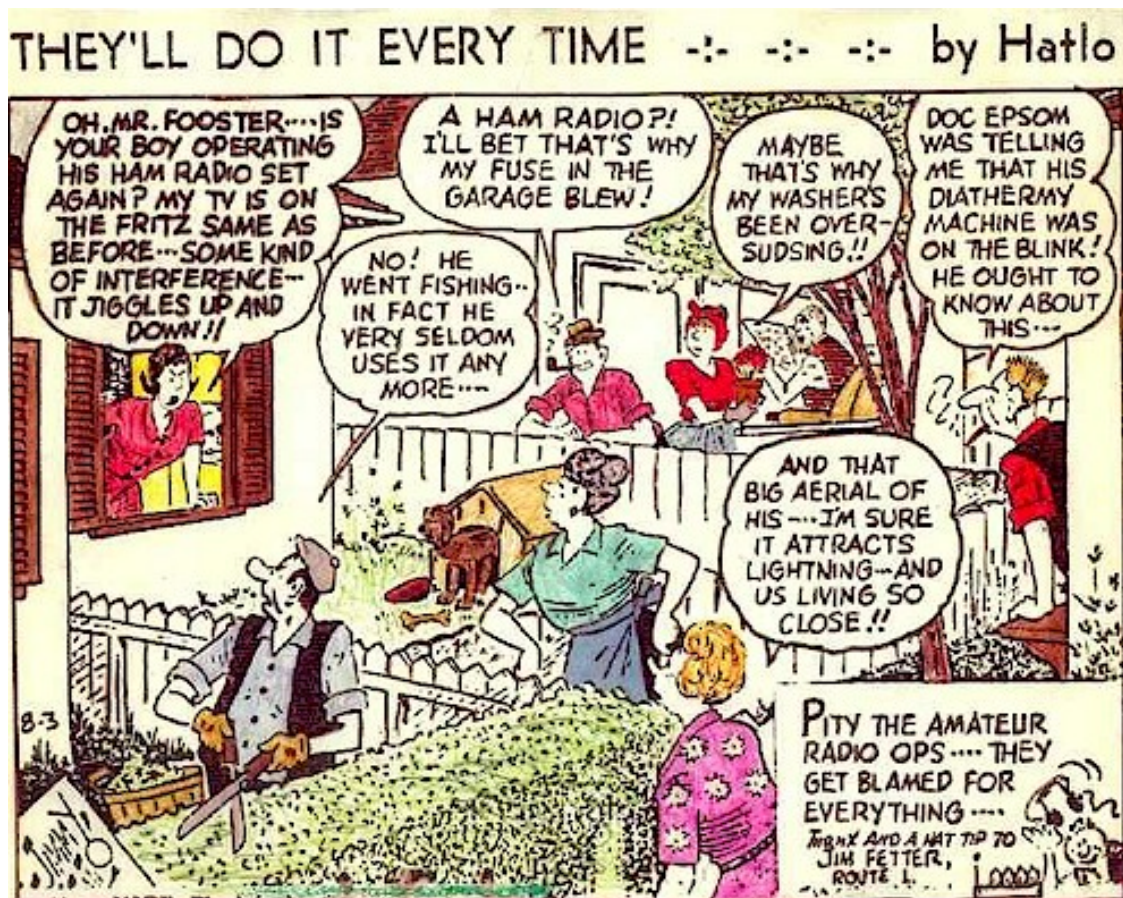
2013 due to ill health. I received a recognition plaque from the Board for this service. In 2011, I received a National Award, the Humming Bird Medal Silver for community service with my *REACT* work. See <http://tinyurl.com/l4pl9no>.

In 2014, it was a great honor to have received

the Wilson Goebel award, the highest award issued by *REACT*, for which I was humbled to be a recipient.

### What parting thoughts would you like to leave the readers with?

I believe that if you deal honestly with people, show dedication to the cause, and are able to sell your ideas, good will result. I hold the view that no one should accept a job if they can't do it or aren't willing to try. Also, someone shouldn't be in *REACT* for what they can get, but what they can give. If you get anything at all, it must be the satisfaction from helping others. Lastly, I just wanted to give recognition to Mr. Winston Dookeran (a former Minister of Government, and Central Bank Governor) for being a long-time supporter of *REACT*, for all of his encouragement to me and contributions in so many ways over the years.



# FCC Chairman discusses New Rules, Regulations, and Enforcement

Ajit Pai, FCC Chairman

On April 26, I delivered remarks announcing my plans to repeal the Commission's heavy-handed "Title II" regulation of the Internet and return the United States to the bipartisan, light-touch regulatory framework that preserved a free and open Internet for almost 20 years. To kick off this process, I've shared with my fellow Commissioners and the American public a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that seeks public input on the best path forward. This proposal will headline the Commission's May open meeting, but it's hardly the only piece of business we'll be considering. Having already detailed my proposal to free the Internet from Depression-era regulation, I'd like to highlight the other items on our May docket.

While they may not have received as much attention as my Title II rollback plan, I also previewed two items from our May agenda in a recent speech at the National Association of Broadcasters' annual gathering in Las Vegas.

The first is an item to initiate a comprehensive review of our media rules to identify which ones are still necessary and which should be relaxed or repealed. We not only want to root out antiquated rules that have outlived their usefulness, we also want to explore whether certain rules should be modified to provide regulatory relief to small businesses. If approved, this item would solicit public input on which rules to modify and why.

With close to 1,000 pages of rules on the books regulating broadcast, cable, and satellite television, many of them decades old, I'm confident this inquiry would uncover some candidates for reform.

A second media item on our May agenda would eliminate one such counterproductive rule, which we have already identified. To enable and encourage community input, each AM, FM, and television broadcast station is currently required by FCC rule to maintain a "main studio" that is located in or near its community of license. But thanks to technological innovations, notably the online "public file," we can give broadcasters additional flexibility by repealing the "main studio" rule without sacrificing transparency or community engagement. In three weeks, the Commission will vote on a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that tees up eliminating the Commission's main studio rule for both radio and television broadcasters. My thanks to Commissioner O'Rielly for championing this cause.

The Commission will also consider a Report and Order that would amend our rules regarding wireless devices such as walkie-talkies, CB radi-os and remote-control toys—what we call Personal Radio Services. These devices generally use low-power transmitters, communicate over shared radio frequencies, and (with a few exceptions) do not require an individual FCC license for each user. The Commission will be voting to complete a thorough review of our Personal Radio Services rules in order to modernize them, remove outdated regulatory requirements, and reorganize them to make it easier to find information.

No question, my proposal to repeal Title II regulation and restore Internet freedom will garner most of the headlines on May 18. But, make no mistake: the FCC will be taking up a diverse array of additional proposals to modernize our rules and deliver benefits to consumers.

*(These comments come from a blog posted on the FCC website by Mr. Ajit. It has been edited for space and content applicability.)*



## From the Corner of the Room

Joe Zych  
*REACT* World Wide  
Net Controller

Hello Everyone, The World Wide *REACT* Net is taking us around the world each Tuesday night at 9 p.m. Eastern and if you are not an amateur radio operator and there is one on your team, guess what? The program used for the net is called "Echolink" and this program has a record feature, the whole net can be recorded and replayed for your Team to listen to and see how we connect the world through *REACT*.

Each week we contact points around the world and have very good input and you can listen to this. Hopefully down the road we might have a link in this monthly publication to click and listen to the World Wide *REACT* net. Please ask all your amateur radio Team members to download echolink.org and register and follow the signup requirements and you will have the world at your computer.

If your Team needs meeting ideas or topics or how to contact your community to promote your Team or fundraising ideas, I will be happy to share some ideas. Remember your local newspaper is your best friend and it's free to insert your announcements and pictures because you provide services for your community and this is great PR to generate your membership for your Team.

I wanted to share one community service as well as a fundraiser our Team started a few years ago, we constructed a 4 foot by 4 foot by 6 foot tall electronics donation box from OSB

board and a few coats of paint. The donation box has "*REACT*," our Team contact telephone number, and an email address on the front. Keeping all these electronics out of the landfill is a good effort for the community, not to mention that we have pulled out working laptops and computer towers, brought them back to the clubhouse, plugged them in, and they were ready to use. There are some people that drop their old computer in the recycle box and then go out and buy a new one -- and we get computer monitors that work and power inverters and a wide variety of electronics. We can then separate the copper and aluminum and plastics to generate funds for our Team. We get free advertisement for the Team to promote membership plus generate funds at the same time and get good equipment.

One last thought for this month's article; candy bar sales. You see these candy bars at banks and different businesses; they are usually a dollar and good quality chocolate, well usually. You can get these for fifty cents or less per bar depending on the quantity you buy. Candy bar sales work for you for an extended time and often you can double your money.

Ok, one last one (promise!) - rummage sales. Check with local schools and churches when they have rummage sales. When the sale is over they want everything gone and they do not want to take the time to repack it. Your *REACT* Team can make arrangements for pickup and it's free; usually you can work with these groups each year. If you can set up 2 or 3 organizations for pickups, then combine and have a large 3-day sale, it's easy to make \$500.00.

Until next time have a *REACTing* Day!



# **DID YOU FILE YOUR FORM 990-N?**

*Per IRS rules, since your Team or Council's Tax (Fiscal) Year ends on  
December 31, you have until May 15 to file.*

Form 990-N is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year. You cannot file the e-Postcard until after your tax year ends.

Example: If your tax year ended on December 31, the e-Postcard is due May 15 of the following year. If the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the due date is the next business day.

*If your 990-N is late, the IRS will send a reminder notice to the last address received.*

While there is no penalty assessment for filing Form 990-N late, organizations that fail to file required Forms 990, 990-EZ or 990-N for three consecutive years will automatically lose their tax-exempt status. Revocation of the organization's tax-exempt status will happen on the filing due date of the third consecutively-missed year.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT FILED YOUR  
TEAM'S 990 BY THE TIME YOU  
ARE READING THIS MAGAZINE  
-- YOU ARE LATE!**



Inc., Team 4866, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Fred 34

You're welcome, Fred.

The annual Silent Mics listing is an opportunity to honor those of us who have passed and also a time when we should sit back and reflect on the good work those people did for this organization.

I, myself, have several friends on the list and while it pains me that they are gone, it lifts me up knowing they are in a better place and that we celebrate their contributions not only to REACT, but to our society in general.

Will

### FROM THE MAILBAG:



Hey folks I know there are a lot of other Zello groups out there but I wanted to let you know I have had a Zello group up for a few years and I'm inviting you all to join us. So if you have the app already come and find us on Zello and look for *REACT* Communications. If you don't have the app on your smartphone get moving and download it. There is no password but you need to call a moderator to be OK to talk. Thanks folks and be safe. 73

Bill

WQTK732

REACT 732

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### CORRECTION:

We have been notified that Alfred Fronefield is still among the living! A simple mistake was made that caused Mr. Fronefield to be included in last issue's Silent Mic article, in that Mr. Fronefield is living and is in the military - in South Korea. When the country abbreviation of SK was added to his profile, the computer placed him in the SK (Silent Key) list. We apologize to Mr. Fronefield and any of his family or friends for whom this may have caused concern.



## Letters to the Editor

Address Letters to the Editor to  
editor@thereacter.com

**Congratulations on the very best *REACT*er issue I have seen In years.**

**The Silent Mic listing was especially interesting. I am sad to say there are way too many names on that list I knew personally. It gives a nice moment of reflection to remember these members and all the good they did for *REACT* and for society**

**Ed Greany, LM 555**

Thanks for the good words, Ed! I am determined to make The *REACT*er Useful, Readable, and Relevant. I shoot for 20 pages each month but will never settle for less than 12 and if I can hit 30-32, I am happy!

I know the feeling about the Silent Mics. There are many people that I knew back then also that are on the list. I considered quite a few of them as friends. You're right, it's a good opportunity to reflect back on the people who built this organization and all the good they did.

Will

**I just wanted to send you a quick note to thank you all for listing VIC ROCHA from Team 4866 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in your Silent Mic section.**

**Vic was a dedicated and valuable member of our Team, who was taken from us way too early.**

**It meant a lot to me to see his name and have him remembered by others as well.**

**Thanks again, and keep up the great work.**

**Fred Galowitsch, Vice Pres., Don Valley *REACT*,**

# Do You Want The REACTer In Print?

*REACT* International can provide a limited number of printed copies of The *REACTer* for distribution to those who do not have an Internet connection.



If you are interested in receiving The *REACTer* in print, send your Name, Address, and Team Number to:

*REACT* International, Inc.,  
Post Office Box 21064,  
Glendale, CA 91221  
301-316-2900



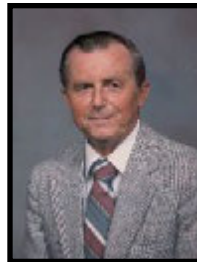
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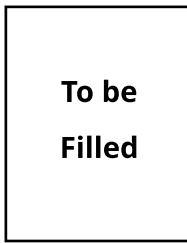
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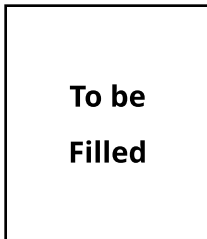
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meet **OUR**  
OFFICERS

# REACT International, Inc., Officers



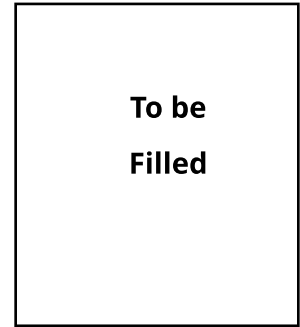
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To be  
Filled  
  
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## **CQ** Amateur Radio The Next Generation!

Fun to read, interesting from cover to cover, written so you can understand it. That's CQ. Read and enjoyed by thousands of people each month.



**Print or Digital... Your Choice**

The changes in amateur radio have been astounding. Still some things have remained remarkably the same, namely the type of people who are drawn to the hobby. As a group, hams have a tremendous amount of knowledge on a wide array of topics, an amazing willingness to share that knowledge with each other, and an unwavering commitment to helping neighbors, near or far, in times of need.

So whether you are an old-timer or new to the hobby accept the challenge and read CQ. **SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

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# JUNIOR REACT:

## A worthwhile program to get kids involved!

The *REACT* Junior Member Program is an optional program -- each Team may choose whether or not to take advantage of this program. Through the Junior Member Program, persons under 18 years of age can be accepted as active members of a Team.

*REACT* International established the Junior membership category so that these teens can participate as members of a Team.

Each Team must decide for itself whether the *REACT* Junior Member program is something it can use and what guidelines the Team feels are needed in their situation.

Motivated and qualified Junior members have proven to be a great asset for many Teams. We encourage Teams to review this program guide and give serious consideration to adopting the Junior Member program.

### **Purpose.**

The Team and the junior members should both benefit from this program. The Team can gain in strength and capability in every way. The junior members can grow and mature as they take on the responsibilities of *REACT*

membership. Junior members will receive training and experience in communication skills as well as learning community service values through participation in the Team and the community it serves. Their feelings of accomplishment and fulfillment will be a benefit that any experienced *REACT* member will recognize and want to share.

The community will also benefit by the Team's increased ability to provide public service, and the worthwhile outlet the program offers for all that youthful energy and enthusiasm.

### **Membership Requirements.**

The prospective junior members should be expected to meet the Team's regular membership requirements, allowing for natural exceptions dictated by his or her age. We suggest a minimum age of twelve, although Teams may choose to adopt a higher or lower age requirement.

Junior members at the younger ages should be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or adult mentor during Team activities -- older Junior members may be able to perform some Team functions without direct supervision. Each Team can and should make these decisions based on their own situation and the maturity of each junior member.

Teams will, of course, want the junior members to be the same kind of person as any adult member should be: Someone with the desire, skills, and self-discipline that will make him or her an asset to the Team and the community. These characteristics include a willingness to observe Team rules and procedures as well as a belief in the basic principles and goals of *REACT*.



Teams will generally use the same application forms and procedures for junior members as for their regular adult members, with the addition of a Permission Statement and Release signed by the junior member's parent or legal guardian. The Permission Statement and Release form serves to ensure the parent or guardian is aware of what their child is doing and to offer the

Team some protection against claims that the child was involved in activities without the knowledge and consent of the parent or guardian. The sample form provided at the end of this document is simply a guide and may require modification to suit the laws of the jurisdiction where the Team operates as well as the activities the Team conducts.

*REACT* International, Inc. Junior Member Program It is also a very good idea to have one or both parents attend a Team meeting and at least one training session (if they are not already Team members themselves) before you accept the Junior applicant into membership. The parents are thus more fully aware of and involved in their child's new activity and responsibility -- and, who knows, you might even attract the parents as new members.

### **Junior REACT ID and Privileges.**

Junior *REACT* members will receive their own Junior membership cards from *REACT* International Inc. Juniors are fully covered by *REACT's* liability insurance, the same as adult members.

### **Benefits of Working Together.**

Junior *REACT*ers should basically have the same regular duties as other Team members, minus those that their age makes impossible or unwise. Again, this is going to have to be a judgment call on your part, with parents providing their own guidance as well. While the Junior member's energy and enthusiasm is

admirable (even enviable!) Team leaders must maintain a responsible presence of mind. Many situations that a *REACT*er will encounter may require a physical, vocal, and emotional responsibility not easily come by, especially at the younger ages.

While it is unfair and unkind to under estimate someone simply because of age or size, it would be foolish, if not dangerous, to ignore some of the unavoidable limitations of youth in emergency, high pressure, otherwise demanding situations.

### **The Junior Division.**

If the Team decides to go with an actual Junior Division, then go with it! Give the plan a real chance to succeed by investing some real effort



and enthusiasm of your own into every stage of the plan development and growth. Choose your Junior Advisor with great care.

Also, let your community know about Junior *REACT* and the Team's support for the program.

Local officials with the schools, police, etc., should be informed and consulted at the outset of your planning. Aside from the fact that such cooperation and communication is always good public relations for the Team, these authorities may be able to offer some advice and assistance, or may want to have some input on how certain aspects of the program are handled.

## *REACT International Event Calendar*

### **MAY**

- 1** .....**Nat'l REACT Month Begins**
- 2 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 8 .....Deadline for May REACTer
- 9 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 15 .....REACTer Published
- 16 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 23 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 30 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 31** .....**Nat'l REACT Month Ends**

### **JUNE**

- 1 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 8 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 8 .....Deadline for June REACTer
- 13 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 15 .....REACTer Published
- 20 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 27 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 30** .....**Deadline for RI election of directors (Reg 3, 6, 9)**

### **JULY**

- 4.....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 4 .....Independence Day
- 6.....RI Board Meeting, 9:00 ET (tel)**
- 6 .....Seating of New Directors
- 8 .....Deadline for July REACTer
- 11 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 15 .....REACTer Publish
- 18.....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)

- 25 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)

### **AUGUST**

- 1.....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 8 .....Deadline for August REACTer
- 8 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 15.....REACTer Published
- 15 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 22 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 29 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)

### **SEPTEMBER**

- 5 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 8 .....Deadline for September REACTer
- 12 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 15 .....REACTer Published
- 19 .....REACT World Wide Net 9 p.m. ET)
- 26 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)

### **OCTOBER**

- 3 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 8 .....Deadline for October REACTer
- 10 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 15 .....REACTer Published
- 17 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 24 .....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 31.....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
- 31 .....Halloween

**Items on this calendar are as correct as we can make them but they are subject to change.**

**If you have any questions, contact the person in charge of the event for verification.**

*To add items to this calendar, contact REACT International: 301-316-2900 or  
Editor direct - 336-897-0641 (office/home) - 480-758-7722 (cell)  
editor@thereacter.com*



## Emergency Communications: Driving Increase in Amateur Radio Operators

BY JAMES CARELESS

More Americans than ever have been licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as amateur radio operators, and those in the know say that emergency communications is driving their passion to be “hams.”

“There has been a tremendous amount of interest in emergency preparedness since 9/11 and Katrina, and this is true for the amateur radio community as well,” said Mike Corey, the emergency preparedness manager for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). “Emergency communications is a gateway into amateur radio, and many join our ranks through an interest in being better prepared themselves and as a way to serve their community.”

“This is the third year in a row that the total number of new licenses has exceeded 30,000,” said ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Manager Maria Somma last year. She said 32,552 were granted in 2016, 32,077 in 2015, and 33,241 in 2014. Total active FCC-issued ham radio licenses hit an all-time high of 743,003 in November 2016.

The public’s growing interest in amateur radio for emergency communications is a legacy of 9/11, when Americans saw their cellular telephone networks become overwhelmed by excess traffic and system outages. When regular phone service fails, amateur radio operators fill the communications gap with

their independent transceivers and battery power backups.

“I think we have experienced an uptick in new licenses due to the emergency capabilities of ham radio,” said Jack Ciaccia, ARRL Colorado section manager. “Interest really peaks after a large-scale event where ham radio has been utilized.”

Amateur radio operators played a substantial role in restoring vital communications links in the wake of 9/11, hurricanes, tornadoes and other major disasters that have affected the United States. They assist in directing first responders to victims, providing real-time situational updates from the disaster scene to emergency management agencies, and offering victims a way to contact their families and

friends when normal communications channels have failed.

“Generally, amateur radio operators assist other organizations and agencies by adding communications capacity when normal means of communications are down or overloaded,” Corey said. “Amateurs work with local emergency management, first responders, hospitals, National Weather Service, National Hurricane Center and VOADs [Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters] and the Red Cross and Salvation Army. Many also use amateur radio as part of their own family communications plan and use the skills they learn as amateurs to assist neighbors during emergencies and disasters.”

Walt Palmer is a licensed ham radio operator, and also director of broadcast operations, engineering and programming at NewsRadio WGMD 92.7 FM in Rehoboth Beach, Del.



“Through an arrangement with our local EOC, I have a 2-meter ham radio set and antenna at my desk, which can be patched into our FM transmitter during emergencies,” he said. “If regular communications fail, the EOC can put the mayor or one of their officials on the 2-meter band, and I can rebroadcast it via our FM channel to our entire coverage area.”

Emergency managers have taken note the usefulness of amateur radio operators during manmade and natural disasters — and many have ongoing relationships with their local ham communities. This includes assigning amateur radio operators specific roles within each agency’s emergency response plan, and even setting space aside for hams in their EOCs.

For many years, ARRL has created special Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) units to assist during times of crisis. Each ARES unit “consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes,” according to the ARRL website. ARES members are trained to work with local emergency management; to have their own food, sleeping equipment and other supplies to survive during emergency situations away from home; and to have pre-planned for their families’ well-being during the ARES team member’s absence.

“In most cases, the amateur radio response to an emergency or disaster is handled by local ARES teams,” said Corey. “However, in the case

of large-scale disasters such as a large hurricane or earthquake, ARRL headquarters will assist local and state ARES teams with equipment, media support, regulatory guidance and coordination with national partners.”

“Most of our ARES teams around the country partner with local and state emergency management,” he added. “In most cases this relationship also allows for closer work with other local response groups such as public safety, hospitals and local VOADs.”

This is certainly the case in Colorado. In 2016, the state Legislature officially designated qualified hams as members of Colorado’s new Auxiliary Emergency Communications Unit, under the authority of the state’s Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in the Department of Public Safety.

As a result of this new law, Colorado ARES teams are now part of their state’s emergency management team, with their own roles with their state’s emergency management plans and facilities.

“In many EOCs, including the Colorado EOC, ARES has its own space with its own permanently installed radio gear and antenna installations,” Ciaccia said. “In Boulder, they also maintain a cache of portable equipment that can be deployed as soon as manpower is available. This way, they never have to worry about obtaining anyone’s personal gear for use in an emergency.”

It is worth noting that hams also aid

**“There has been a tremendous amount of interest in emergency preparedness since 9/11 and Katrina, and this is true for the amateur radio community as well,” said Mike Corey, the emergency preparedness manager for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). “**

emergency managers in less dire situations. For instance, "throughout the United States, amateurs assist the National Weather Service's SKYWARN program in providing ground truth reports during severe weather events," Corey said. All told, the growing number of amateur radio operators in the U.S. are self-funding, fully equipped communicators, many of whom want to support local emergency managers and first responders any way they can.



"We have worked extremely hard over the years to become useful and professional with our assistance to our community OEMs and EOCs," Ciaccia said. "The major capability that hams bring to emergency management is our varied modes and frequencies: We can usually make a communications path when others do not exist. Because of those two important and valuable commodities that are usually not available to public service entities, we are an important asset to local authorities in times of need."

## **HELP** on the Open Road

or

## **H**ave **E**very **L**icensee **P**oliced

By W. STEELE

**CB** IS CONTINUING on its meteoric course, and if the road signs are correct, CB tranceivers will soon be stock equipment on all cars. Your license plate may not only serve to register your car, but also to list your channel number.

When this time comes—not too soon, we hope—drivers will be able to shun the fist-waving, nose-thumbing, and swearing that is currently the vogue in inter-car-munications. CB will give every driver a voice, and added to the woes of traffic tickets will be FCC citations for mis-use of your CB rig.

As a matter of fact, those hand signals that we use—or are supposed to use—will be replaced by polite phrases, such as, "Sorry I cut you off, old chap-

pie!" Or, "My, what a shame—weren't you aware that the light had turned red?" Or, "Pay no attention to that on-coming truck—you have every right to your share of the roadway."

We can soon expect that pedestrians will equip themselves with walkie-talkies—making it that much easier for a driver to clearly announce, "Get out of the way, stoopid!" But then, someday a genius in Detroit will invent a little button that can be conveniently mounted on the steering wheel of your car. It'll make a loud raucous noise, and you won't have to turn on the CB rig, or even say a word.

*This little piece was from the old Popular Science Magazine (which is no longer in existence as that magazine) and The REACTer is not certain if this article was meant as humor or not (being back in the day, it may not have been), but considering where we have come, it certainly is today!*



# ***WORLDWIDE REACT INTERNATIONAL***

## ***ZELLO NET***

PLEASE JOIN US  
EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT AT  
9PM EST (DURING DAYLIGHT SAVINGS)  
ON THE

### ***REACT MEMBERS***

**ZELLO CHANNEL**

***ALL COMMUNICATORS ARE WELCOME***

NO LICENSE IS REQUIRED.  
USE YOUR INTERNET-CONNECTED COMPUTER OR SMARTPHONE.

Zello is available from <http://zello.com>



Download the Zello Walkie Talkie app for your platform. Create an account with a username (e.g. call sign) and password, then, add the **REACT MEMBERS** channel.

Press the Push-to-Talk button to transmit.

# ***Request for "May is REACT Month" Proclamation***

**WHEREAS**, through **REACT** (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams)

numerous members participate as volunteers to provide highway safety and emergency

communications using their own two-way radios in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the \_\_\_\_\_ (your city/town)

Area is fortunate in having a local Team known as

\_\_\_\_\_ (your Team name),

Which has served well in many civic endeavors; (list a few big events) and

(If your Team is involved) as a sponsor, and

**WHEREAS**, **REACT's** cumulative efforts, result in the saving of lives annually, along with

Savings to State/City/County by utilization of volunteers, and better communications

provided in time of natural disasters,

**NOW, THEREFORE, I** \_\_\_\_\_ (Mayor's/Governor's name),

do hereby designate the month of MAY, (year) **INTERNATIONAL, REACT MONTH** IN \_\_\_\_\_

(City/State/Province) during which all citizens shall take notice and be aware of the

valuable contribution every local REACT Team makes to the welfare of their local

community, let's take this time to honor and recognize these local groups and their members.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of

\_\_\_\_\_ (City/State/Province), \_\_\_\_\_

(State/City/Country)

To be hereunto this 1st day of May, (year)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Mayor/Governor/Premier)

**(Retype with your Team information included)**