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# The REACTer

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Board/Officers..... Inside Back Cover  
 REACT service ..... Inside Front Cover  
 From the President..... Dick Cooper 2  
 Points of Light.....6  
 From the Executive Vice-president..... Ed Greany 3  
 REACT – Teams and Members ..... 9  
 Calendar ..... 13  
 Advertiser’s Index.....13  
 Editor’s Corner..... 4  
 Installing your CB .....Guy Wells 13  
 Memory Lane with Jim Koritzky ..... 15  
 IRS.....Chuck Thompson 16  
 From ARRL..... 5, 14  
 Sunspots..... 7



Points of Light – p. 6

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dick Cooper



**Welcome to 2008???** Wait, that's how I started my article for the January/February 2007 *REACT*er. Oh well, it still applies. Yes, here we are starting another new year in this young millennium and *REACT* is basically the same as it was a year ago – even longer. Is it time to do something to change our public image? Am I sure that we should take steps to take *REACT* to the next level in our local communities and nationally? My answer can be found in the words from Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In - "You bet your sweet bippy, I'm sure!"

In my last article I talked about the Rebranding Process and the Five Year Plan for *REACT* International (RI). Much to my delight I received comments from several *REACT* members offering their insight and comments. Thank you very much – you know who you are. It's nice to know for a fact that someone reads my article and is moved enough to comment to me whether it's via letter, email or otherwise. *REACT*'s Rebrand-

ing Process has been slow in developing but with the help of more *REACT* members we will be able to make the plan a success.

Just as before we are still looking for more committee members, especially for the Public Relations (PR) and Membership Development and Retention Committees (MD&R). The third committee in the *REACT* Rebranding Process is the Ways and Means Committee, which is the committee that searches for funding for the organization. While all committees are important in the life of *REACT*, the 3 committees that I named above are the most important in the Rebranding Process and for obvious reasons. The PR Committee needs to be active in promoting *REACT* on a national level as well as helping Teams with templates for PR articles that can be used by all Teams after they insert local Team information and also with other forms of PR. The MD&R Committee needs to be actively promoting *REACT* membership by supplying ideas to Teams and also by working in conjunction with the PR Committee to promote membership on a national level. I have started to do some work on the Ways and Means Committee but I will probably need some assistance if someone wishes to help.

I want to invite *REACT* members to talk to me regarding their interest in any of these 3 *REACT* committees so that you can get some questions answered and we can determine

where you can help. In my article of 1 year ago I challenged *REACT* members to make resolutions for the new year – especially resolutions concerning their Team or maybe their activity in the Team, Council and *REACT* International. These resolutions or changes may be about working with local emergency management and other agencies or they may be about getting more involved with the police department or elsewhere in the local community. Whatever the resolutions are, set a timeline and determine member(s) who will be responsible to see that the changes are done. Making resolutions on the Team level allows members to look at various things that they would like to change for the benefit of their Team and *REACT* International. I'll ask members to do the same thing for 2008 – make resolutions to do your part to help your Team and also help *REACT* International change to adapt to the changing times and come into the 21st Century.

In closing I will remind you that the Annual Meeting of the RI Board of Directors will be held at the *REACT* office in Suitland, Maryland on Friday and Saturday March 7 & 8, 2008. I mention this for two reasons. First of all this will be my last meeting as President of *REACT* International. I have completed 2 terms for a total of 4 very interesting years. (Note: I am positive that nobody can fully appreciate what the president goes through unless you have been there). I have informed the Board of my intentions and af-

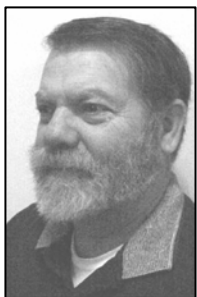
ter this meeting there will be a new President for *REACT*. The other reason for mentioning this meeting is to extend an invitation to members who want to attend the meeting. If you plan to attend and have concerns that you wish to be addressed, please contact your Director or Board Chairman John Knott.

Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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## From the Executive Vice President

Ed Greany



**Now that the holidays** are over, it's time to concentrate on attracting new members and expanding our disaster communications training. The future of *REACT* is all about continuously gaining new members as we lose existing members to other priorities or even death. Much of our *REACT* membership base is made up of senior members who have been around for many years. As we lose them one by one we must replace them with "new blood" or the organization is doomed to die through natural attrition.

There are many ways to increase membership in your Team, but it requires a total effort by all existing members if it

is to succeed. Have a membership drive and concentrate on attracting a certain number of members for the drive to be considered successful. If you have a target number, then you will have a measurement for success; fall short of that number and you will need to work even harder to succeed.

If your Team has ten members, perhaps you should try for three new members in your membership drive. That would give you an increase in membership of 30%. If your Team has only six members, try for two new members – a percentage gain of 33%.

I would hold a membership drive in January and again in July. This could benefit your Team with an overall membership gain of close to two thirds for the year 2008. The July drive could even produce better results if you advertise half-price dues after July 1.

Concentrate on the positive benefits of joining *REACT*. Those benefits can include membership in a major recognized communications organization, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit (which some employers like to see their employees participate in), an organization that has received presidential recognition with the Presidential Volunteer Action Award, an organization that does not splinter out a certain frequency band, but recognizes all radio bands, and an organization that issues an ID card, distributes a magazine bi-monthly, and covers its members with a million-dollar liability insurance policy. Of course,

in addition to these benefits, all members and Teams are also allowed to proudly wear the *REACT* logo on their clothing and to use the registered *REACT* trademark as appropriate. *REACT* members have access to the *REACT* Supply Store for things such as letterhead or stationery, hats, brochures, etc.

*REACT* members also have access to FREE emergency communications training. Our *REACT* ECOMM course is very similar to the emergency communication program developed for amateur radio operators by the ARRL, but the *REACT* course is extensive and includes training material for radio operators in amateur radio (ham), Citizens Band (CB), the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), Family Radio Service (FRS), and the Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS). Upon completion, the member may receive a completion certificate. For information about the *REACT* ECOMM program, contact Tom Currie, Chairman of the Training Committee, 7001 Ethan Allen Way, Valley Station, KY 40272-1305 or email him at <training1@reactintl.org>.

*REACT* members and Teams have always been known for their professionalism in handling emergencies. This is not done without proper training whether achieved through a course book or through on-the-job training with a Team member as your personal trainer. All *REACT* members are encouraged to train in the ICS (Incident Command System) and

NIMS (National Incident Management System).

Local *REACT* Team members must complete NIMS as they work towards becoming fully compliant with NIMS. Currently there are six courses that are required in order for an individual or organization to be considered NIMS compliant through 2007. Present required courses include IS-00100 (an introduction to ICS), IS-00200 (basic ICS), IS-00300 (intermediate ICS), IS-00400 (advanced ICS), IS-00700 (introduction to NIMS), and IS-00800 [introduction to the National Response Plan (NRP)]. Additional information about these courses is available from the FEMA website at:

[http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims\\_training.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims_training.shtm).

### Norman Kaplan Reports:

"Teams have until January 31 to renew. If a Team renews from Feb.1 to Feb 28, there is a \$10 renewal fee for the renewal. If the Team renews from March 1 to March 31, the Team renewal fee is \$20. The policy is a Team is dropped if RI does not receive its renewal by April 1. In practice, RI will renew a Team through December 31 with a \$30 renewal fee added to the renewal.

Note, Teams may renew in stages as long as the first renewal has at least three members. If a Team renews in stages, the late renewal fee is not charged for the later renewals. The Team does not have to wait to renew until the last member gets their dues in."

## Submission Guidelines for *REACT*er:

Electronic submissions are preferred. Please keep manuscripts under 800 words without prior arrangements. Send to:

**<editor1@reactintl.org>.**

Please reduce photos if you can. Paper submissions should go to:

**Don Tarbet  
144 Atkinson Rd.  
Bradford, ME 04410**

**Faxes can go to Jim  
Koritzky at (207) 942-8067**

*We welcome your ideas (though we much prefer complete stories), but decisions as to when and whether to publish must remain ours. If you want further information, you must so specify and include, in the case of hardcopy submissions, a stamped, self-addressed return envelope. Things do fall through the cracks, so sometimes a note of inquiry is in order.*



## EDITOR'S CORNER Don Tarbet

**Here in Maine** we are at the end of a short thaw. Looks like a return to normal (cold and snowy) is coming. *REACT* here participates in the SKYWARN program, and we expect to have more to do soon.

Please note the Points of Light honors gained by two *REACT* members. Please also note that other members can be nominated. We do a lot for the world we live in; why not admit it?

The problems with FRS/GMRS radio units have been noted on the *REACT-L* exchange. We have mentioned these problems before, but it worth a rehash, since manufacturers seem to be growing more and more careless.

RI Training and Development Chairman Tom Currie writes:

*There are VERY FEW of the so-called FRS/GMRS (22 channel) radios left on the market that are legal for FRS (unlicensed) use on channels 1-7 (and, of course, none that are legal for unlicensed use on channels 15-22) -- but most radios do not clearly state this information even in the "fine print."*

*Generally speaking ANY of these radios that claims a range of more than "2 miles" is probably using a power level above 500 mW which is the legal limit on FRS. Some of the radios have a switch to select*

*High or Low power with "Low" power being 500 mW. ALL the legal radios use 500 mW or less on channels 8 through 14, but the FCC does not require them to use 500 mW or less on channels 1-7 because those are perfectly legal GMRS channels just like channels 15-22 which are exclusively GMRS channels.*

*Only the cheapest of the 22-channel radios use 500 mW or less on all channels - these radios are legal for FRS use on channels 1-14 but not on 15-22 even with their low power. Most of these radios are around a 1 to 2 W power level with some even higher. Almost all of them run at full power on channels 1-7 and 15-22, using low power only on channels 8-14.*

Check your equipment. Look at the manual. That still may tell you nothing. Of the FRS units we use here in Penobscot REACT, the Team unit is illegal to use on channel 1-7. Of my own units, 2 are legal, the other illegal. FRS units belonging to Team members are generally legal (They are cheap and old.). Penobscot County ARES has the same type of legal unit. I generally advise using channels 8-14 for our operations. That way we know we are legal.

We have had suggested a letters to the editor column. Are you interested? Would you write letters? What other suggestions would you have? Several contributors have made suggestions for regular features such as: "fine tuning," or CB oriented material. What do you think? Write to: <editor1@reactintl.org>.

We welcome submissions – well, we MORE than welcome submissions. But please read the submission guidelines that appear in every issue. If you have questions beyond that, write to the email address above.

Dick Cooper is completing his second – and final – term as president of REACT. See his column on page 2. The REACTer would like to thank Dick for the time and effort he has put into the job. Dick, you are right when you say in your column that nobody can really know what is involved in being president of an organization of this type unless he or she has been there. Thank you for being there.

As always, emergency preparedness is much in our news. Ed Greany urges us all to get ourselves up to speed. Let's listen to Ed; he has the recent direct experience of the California fires. "Not if..."

See Ed's column on page 3. Also check the possibilities on page 6. REACT's course is described on page 12.

week, effective Thursday, January 3, 2008.

While his successor has not been named, Hollingsworth was quick to point out that the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue.

Hollingsworth told the ARRL: "After about a year of thinking about the 'if not now, when?' question, I decided to retire January 3. I love working for the FCC and I've always had great jobs, but this one involving the Amateur Radio Service has been the most fun and I have enjoyed every day of it."

He continues, "For nine years I've worked with the best group of licensees on earth, enjoyed your support and tremendous FCC support and looked forward every day to coming to work. The Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue without missing a beat, and after retirement I look forward to being involved with Amateur Radio every way I can. I thank all of you for being so dedicated and conscientious, and for the encouragement you give us every day."

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**FROM ARRL  
Hollingsworth  
Retires**

**Riley Hollingsworth**, K4ZDH, Special Counsel in the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, announced his retirement this



**While National Preparedness Month (U.S.) was last September, the need to prepare has not passed.**

Did your Team do anything special? Maybe an SOS drill? Maybe FEMA compliance? An information booth? A disaster drill? An information session for volunteers?

And what are you doing now? Let us know how you plan to meet your preparedness needs for 2008 and the years to come.

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**Don't forget to let us know what your Team is doing.**

Send us your information at:

<editor1@reactintl.org>  
<reacthq1@reactintl.org>

And don't forget Ron McCracken's column in *Popular Communications*:  
ronmccr@hotmail.com.

Those who are responsible for community preparedness presentations or for preparedness activities may find the following information useful. This may also be of interest to Public Information Officers, Emergency Management personnel and the Public Education community.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has made files for the *Ready* Campaign's publications available to the public to download at no cost. As a result, organizations can reproduce these materials and help expand the reach of this critical information.

There are three areas of the preparedness focus: Individual & Family Publications; Business Publications; and Ready Kids Publications. Information concerning this material can be found at the following website:

<[www.ready.gov/america/index.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/index.html)>  
<[www.ready.gov/america/publications/allpubs.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/publications/allpubs.html)>

**Ordering Publications:** Individuals or organizations who would like to order printed copies of *Ready* publications can do so by calling **1-800-BE-READY**. Multiple copies can also be requested by calling the **FEMA Warehouse** at **1-800-480-2520**

### Videos Available Also

In order to encourage Americans to prepare themselves, their families and their communities, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with The Advertising Council, has created instructional videos to help educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all kinds of emergencies. The first set of instructional videos, released in English and Spanish, are designed to detail how American families get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies in their community.

Homeland Security and the Ad Council have also created additional instructional videos with specific information for pet owners, older Americans and individuals with disabilities and other special needs.

To view all of the Ready Campaign's Instructional Videos go to:

<<http://www.ready.gov/america/about/instructional.html>> .

## POINTS OF LIGHT

According to its web page at:

<http://www.pointsoflight.org/about/>

*The Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network engages and mobilizes millions of volunteers who are helping to solve serious social problems in thousands of communities. Through a variety of programs and services, the Foundation encourages people from all walks of life — businesses, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, low-income communities, families, youth, and older adults — to volunteer.*

*Based in Washington, D.C., the Foundation advocates community service through a partnership with the Volunteer Center National Network. Together, they reach millions of people in thousands of communities to help mobilize people and resources, which deliver solutions that address community problems.*

*The Foundation has gained a national reputation as America's Address for Volunteering. As President George W. Bush commented, "The Points of Light Foundation embodies America's spirit of volunteerism and the goodwill of its citizens."*

**Two REACT** members recently won this prestigious award. We honor them for their achievement.

There can be more **REACT**ers in the news. We do more than we tell about. Ron McCracken suggests that we nominate members of our Teams for this award. Instructions are posted on the website: <http://www.pointsoflight.org/awards/nominate.cfm>

Let's do it. The members highlighted here have performed admirably in the public service, but so have many others. Let's go ahead and toot our own horn.



## Sue Currie

By Tom Currie, N4AOF  
Chairman, RI Training and  
Development Committee



Sue Currie receiving Clara Barton award from Louisville Red Cross

**Sue Currie** is a dedicated volunteer who has given many thousands of hours throughout over thirty years service with the American Red Cross. She serves as both a Disaster Services volunteer and as Volunteer Coordinator for the Louisville Area Chapter's Southwest Service Center, where she is responsible for recruiting and mentoring volunteers as well as maintaining records of the training, assignments, and experience of all the Disaster and Blood Services volunteers at the Service Center.

As a Disaster Services volunteer, Sue has responded to numerous large and small disasters throughout the Kentucky/Indiana area, starting with the April Third 1974 tornados and continuing through the most recent severe weather. In addition to doing damage assessment and mass care for large disasters, she performs casework for smaller events such as single family fires.

Seeing a need for enhanced preparedness in the Southwest Louisville area, Sue developed and led a community disaster education program focused on educating mobile home park managers and residents about severe weather. As part of this program, she personally arranged for several community churches and other facilities to provide shelter for nearby mobile home residents during

severe weather. This program undoubtedly saved many people when severe weather struck the Autumn Lake mobile home park in southwest Louisville over Memorial Day weekend in 2004.

In addition to her work with the Red Cross, Sue also volunteers with Louisville METRO-*REACT* Team providing emergency communications for community events, and with the Metro United Way serving as a volunteer telephone operator and receptionist at the United Way's southwest office.

*This story also appeared on the Points of Light website referenced above.*

**William Kofron, Chief  
Colleton County  
(South Carolina)  
*REACT* Emergency Team**



**When people** need help, Bill's there. The Points of Light Program selected William Kofron of Colleton County, South Carolina *REACT* as its January 2, 2008 representative of citizen efforts in the public interest.

This is not Bill's first award. In November he received an award as top responder for North and South Carolina. Also see January-February, 2007 *REACT*er. A survivor of strokes, cancer, and a heart attack, Kofron put it all aside to come to the aid of victims of Hurricane Hugo. In the aftermath of Katrina, Bill trained volunteers and professional people who then carried out relief efforts.

Bill says, "I am a Certified Instructor in CPR, First Responder, CPR for the Professional Rescuer, First Aid, AED and PDT, Oxygen Administration, Pet First Aid, for the American Red Cross. I am also Certified as an Instructor, for the National

Safety Council in Basic Life Support Adult/Pediatric, First Aid Levels 1 and 2. I am also certified as a BLS instructor for the American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute."

He served in the US Marine Corps from 1967 until 1978. He is a fire fighter, member and lodge officer of Fraternal Order of Police. He serves various organizations as chaplain and has been Chief of Colleton County *REACT* since 1980. He writes: "I am the Current Chief Of the Colleton County *REACT* Emergency Team, and have served in that position since 1980. Life *REACT* member #552. I am also certified as a First Responder, and as Air Medivac Ground Crew. I also served as Treasurer and Vice President on the North Carolina State *REACT* Council, which covers both North Carolina and South Carolina."

Bill's other awards are too numerous to name here. Suffice it to say, he is a point of light for *REACT*, his country, and his world.



*Again, let us not forget to nominate our other members who have performed in the public service. And let us not forget to honor – and emulate – Sue and Bill who bring not only distinction to all of us, but more importantly, help to those who need it.*

# REACT News: Teams and Team Members

## CIRCLE CITY REACT

Leo Rhoda, Secretary  
Circle City *REACT* Inc.

Circle City *REACT* Inc. of Indianapolis, Indiana recently wrapped up its activities for 2007. One of our main activities has been to furnish mobile communications around the courses of various runs and walks conducted by many central Indiana non-profit organizations. In 2007 between April and October the Team assisted in 13 Runs/Walks. In addition to these events we also monitored traffic for the Indiana State Police and the Hancock County Sheriff Department during the Indianapolis Air Show, a two day event. We also monitored a MS Bicycle event in southern Indiana that took place between the cities of Bloomington and Bedford. In addition to monitoring these events we offer suggestions to the event organizers that will help them in the future to improve course safety for the participants and correct any traffic flow problems we observed. We also have been invited to participate in the local Community Fair for the last three years. The fair is held at the downtown Monument Circle on Sept 11. This fair is an event where 165 not-for-profit organizations are invited to set up a table and present their message and promote their activities to the general public. This year the mayor of Indianapolis stopped at our table and we got a chance to explain who we are and what we do. Our last Run/walk activity was on October the 27<sup>th</sup> in Irvington, a suburb of Indianapolis. This year was our 26<sup>th</sup> year furnishing course communications for this event. Needless to say it has been a very busy year, but we feel we have performed an appreciated and valuable service for our local communities. After all community service, is what we believe *REACT* is all about.



Some Circle City members at the Jason Baker Run. This run is to raise money for the children of Police Officers killed while on duty. Left to Right: D. Campbell, P. Huckleberry, G. Smith, M. Ferguson, C. Hankins, C. Huckleberry, & L. Rhoda

## Punxsutawney Radio Emergency Service, Inc. RI Team #3522

According to the Sept. 1, 2007 *Punxsutawney SPIRIT*, REACT tradition is alive and well in Philadelphia. "REACT is not only watching out for public safety when its members are called upon to control traffic. They're even looking out for you when they're off duty."

Labor Day weekend REACT set up a trailer for its bi-annual safety break along Route 119. Volunteers served refreshments "from coffee to hot dogs to haluski to homemade soup and chili."

The Punxsutawney Team's safety break has been a regular staple of Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends since the 1980s. "According to 30-year REACT member Carol Hoeh, [the objective] is to protect the safety of travelers." The break is intended to give people a chance to get out of the car, stretch, and have some coffee.

According to REACT member Mary Murray, while some visitors to the safety break are locals, “the majority of people [who stopped] are travelers.”

According to the report, “the entire operation is funded by donations. REACT uses some fundraisers to earn money, but it also receives many food donations from local businesses, including Dean Dairy, Jefferson High Rise, Stroehmann’s Bakery, C&S Restaurant, and many more.” Donations come also from out-of-state, such as Bar-S of Arizona which donated hot dogs.

Punxsutawney REACT also helps out with traffic control for football games, funerals and festivals, and provides first aid at certain events, according to the *SPIRIT*.

According to Trustee William Murray, “For many years our club, Punxsutawney REACT, has participated in and held our bi-annual effort to reduce travel fatigue and possibly [save lives] in our district through our “REACT – Safety Break” Program.

## **Federal City REACT C-2515 By James Henderson**

Federal City REACT Team Inc. C-2515 was chartered in 1970, but REACT history shows that the Federal City Team, formerly known as D.C. REACT, actually started in 1964. The following points highlight the Team’s history:

- In 1965 Federal City REACT started their first monitoring station at Metropolitan Police Headquarters.
- In 1968 the Washington Hospital Center let D.C. REACT hold its Team meetings there.
- In 1970 the Team reorganized its membership to become Federal City REACT.
- In 1980 Federal City REACT began to increase its general membership and initiated a working relationship with the District of

Columbia Office of Emergency Preparedness.

- In January of 2007 the Office of Emergency Preparedness, now known as Emergency Management, moved into a state-of-the-art office building. Federal City REACT also relocated into the new office building.

At this time Federal City REACT still serves the citizens of the District of Columbia with our communications skills.

## **NCREV (National Registry of Certified EMCOMM Volunteers)**

**It has been** a busy time for the Currie family. Sue was just recognized by the National Points of Light Foundation (p. 7). Tom, REACT Training and Development Committee chair has been named to the Board of Directors of the National Registry of Certified EMMCOMM Volunteers.

According to the NCREV website: <http://www.nrcev.org/>

*The NRCEV was founded to serve as a national EmComm Volunteer certification organization to promote and provide a valid, uniform process to assess the knowledge and skills required for competent practice required by amateur radio, and other, EmComm volunteers, and to maintain a public registry of individual operators and Communication Support Teams.*

*As the role of the EmComm Volunteer has evolved, there has developed a need for a means to formally and professionally demonstrate the dedication, willingness to serve, and skills & technical knowledge of these volunteers.*

*Additionally, the National Integration Center (NIC) has issued NIMS Guide 0002 to establish a standard definition and criteria for credentialing requirements as they relate to personnel ordered as single resources or personnel assigned to teams. Once the NIC published standard credentialing requirements for EmComm volunteers,*

*there will need to be a means to meet these requirements as well.*

*Such a means to document an EmComm volunteer's qualifications must be uniform for all volunteers, regardless of the organization they belong to, the agency they serve, or the area of the country in which they live. The best instrument to demonstrate these qualities is through a standardized certification process and an organization to administer it. I.e. a national certification.*

To accomplish their purposes, this organization has established a Board of Directors consisting of committed emergency communications experts. The website gives the following qualifications for REACT's Tom Currie:

*Tom Currie, N4AOF, WPOL710, ex-DAINB, ex-KGQ9027*

- *First licensed almost 30 years ago as a Technician class amateur radio operator, Extra Class since 1994.*
- *Other past and present licenses include Second Class Radiotelephone Operator, General Telephone Operator, and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS)*
- *Over 30 years EmComm experience*
- *Over 30 years as a Red Cross disaster services volunteer*
- *Over 30 years as a member of REACT International; over 25 as a Team and Council officer.*
- *Training & Development Committee Chairman for REACT International.*
- *Secretary of Kentucky Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (KyVOAD)*
- *Member: Louisville Metro RACES; Louisville Metro REACT Team*  
*Former Member: SATERN; Ky 6th District ARES; Clayton County (GA) ARES.*
- *ARECC Level III*
- *REACT Certified Emergency Communicator*
- *Veteran U.S. ARMY*
- *Profession: Training Developer for the US Army*
- *Completed over 40 FEMA courses including IS-100, 200, 700, 703, 800, and the*

*complete Emergency Management Professional Development Series*

In our experience (all three ARRL levels (including teaching), about 14 FEMA courses as well as RI's course), REACT's ECOMM program (p. 12) is very high quality and, because of the nature of our organization, of broader scope than others. Why not get started on the preparedness we keep stressing by taking the course? And look also at the offerings available from FEMA (p. 4). As we are all so fond of saying, it is not a matter of "if", it is a matter of "when."

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## SUNSPOTS

**Cycle 24** is on its way, apparently. The first spot of the new cycle has been detected. While that is wonderful news for those hams using the upper HF bands, is it all that wonderful for those using CB and 10 meters for local emergency work? It may not be.

During the last cycle your editor worked all over the world on 10 meter SSB at 5 watts and a piece of salvage wire for an antenna. The bands were often crowded with signals from everywhere. We all know how the CB channels can sometimes become clogged when there is a skip on.

In Penobscot County, Maine, both REACT and ARES are working toward utilizing the new privileges accorded to Technician class ham operators under the changes in rules eliminating the CW requirement. These operators can now use the old Novice portion of the 10 meter phone band (28.3 – 28.5).

It is unlikely that the upswing of the sunspot cycle will have a major impact, but be aware that on both the 10 meter ham band and on CB you may be getting signals – and sending signals – farther than you want. See the article by Guy Wells in this issue.

# NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

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## Emergency Communications Training

The Level I *REACT* Emergency Communications training manual is available online for members to download free of charge. This program is similar to that offered by ARRL to its members, but has been expanded to include additional materials regarding other radio services (including GMRS, CB, FRS, and MURS, in addition to Amateur Radio) due to the wide variety of radio services often used by *REACT* Teams.

The *REACT* EComm program is available only to *REACT* members. See the EComm Flyer at:

<<http://www.reactintl.org/committees/EComm%20Flyer.pdf>>

for more information about the Emergency Communications Training and Certification Program. *REACT* Members should send e-mail to:

<[IWantEComm@reactintl.org](mailto:IWantEComm@reactintl.org)> for information about downloading the manual online.

If you have more training ideas and want to volunteer to help the Training and Development Committee, contact Tom Currie, committee chairman, at: <[training1@reactintl.org](mailto:training1@reactintl.org)>

## **NO** TESTING REQUIRED!

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## CALENDAR

### January - February 2008

- *January 31*: Deadline for Team renewal without penalty – see page 4.
- *February 5*: Deadline for March-April 2008 *REACT*er.
- *March 7 & 8*: RI Board Meeting, Suitland, Maryland

### Advertisers Index

Cook Towers.....	12
National Communications.....	12
Maryland Council Skywarn .....	16
Popular Communications.....	Back Cover



## Installing your CB By Guy Wells, KI4SDY

**Repeated and predictable** disasters over recent years have hopefully driven home the fact that we may need to use Citizens Band radios to communicate with the public and fellow *REACT*ers when other communication links are destroyed. Further, we should have this equipment installed in our vehicles in case of personal evacuation, since we would be moving away from home GMRS and amateur repeaters in such situations, and these might not be operating when we return. Information regarding clear evacuation routes, food, fuel, and lodging are readily available from truckers on

channel 19. This channel makes a very useful travel tool.

Here is the fast and proper way to install CB radio equipment in your car or truck. You will need a volt/ohm meter, a SWR/watt meter, a short RG58/U jumper cable, auto squeeze electrical connectors, pliers, screwdrivers, fused cigarette lighter plug, the radio, and the antenna. If you want to be able to move the radio from vehicle to vehicle easily, buy a black nylon or vinyl strapped bag for the radio with a top flap that allows the mic cord and mic to be hung on the outside and hang it behind the passenger's seat. It should take you no longer than 30 minutes to install. Improper installation may take longer and damage the radio.

The most important part of any radio installation is the antenna! Of the CB antennas commercially available for mobile work, I know that the following types will provide good performance and can be installed quickly; the Wilson 1000 magnetic antenna, the K40 magnetic antenna, and the Little Wil 300 magnetic antenna. The longer antennas have been listed first, as they will deliver the best performance. Magnetic mount antennas can be installed on the roof (the best location for longer range) or the rear trunk of the vehicle (for lower clearance), and they are wired with the correct cable and connector, eliminating any user problems with that part of the radio installation. Run the cable from the antenna's mounted

position to the radio, taking care not to pinch or bend the cable.

Next comes the installation of the cigarette lighter plug on the radio's power cords. The red power cord is positive and the black cord is negative. If electrical polarity is reversed, the radio will be damaged instantly. I have seen many CB radios burned up by this simple mistake. In all U.S. sold vehicles, the center connector in the female lighter sockets are positive, and the side connector is negative or ground. Using a volt/ohm meter, locate the positive wire of the cigarette lighter plug by using the continuity setting on the meter and touching the meter contact on the plug center metal contact and each of the two provided plug wires. When you have the positive wire located, use one of the auto squeeze connectors to attach it to the red positive radio wire. Check the cigarette plug side metal contact with the meter for continuity with the other wire (just to be sure) and attach it to the black negative radio wire. Now that the radio is properly wired, you are ready to attach the antenna cable and test it.

Plug in the radio and tune it to channel 19, which should be fairly active with radio traffic. Do not try to transmit yet. Disconnect the antenna and attach the short jumper cable to the radio and the "in" connector of the SWR/watt meter. Attach the antenna cable to the "out" connector of the meter. Turn the radio to channel 20 (the center of the band) and select the

AM transmitter mode. Switch the meter to "Forward Power." Hold down the mic push-to-talk switch for just a few moments (no longer than five seconds) while adjusting the calibration knob on the meter for full scale reading. The adjustment must be precise for each channel tested. Now switch the meter to the "Reflected" or "SWR" setting and push the transmit button again. An ideal reading is 1.1 to 1. If the SWR is more than 1.5 to 1, stop transmitting and check your antenna connection. Also check the provided antenna instructions for proper location or tuning of the antenna. An SWR higher than 2 to 1 will damage most CB radio transmitters.

You should take as much care installing a CB radio as any other type of commercial or amateur radio equipment. Improper installation will compromise the performance of low wattage Citizens Band radios. It could let you down when you need it most – in an emergency! A properly installed unit will surprise you with good range and reward you with years of service.

**More from ARRL**  
**WISCONSIN ARES MEMBERS ACTIVATED TO ASSIST WITH TORNADO AFTERMATH**

**A rare January EF3 tornado in Wisconsin destroyed houses and knocked out**

power shortly after 4 PM (local time) Monday, January 7, displacing about 160 people. The Red Cross activated members of the Kenosha County and Racine County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) groups to provide logistical communications at the two relief shelters in Kenosha County, as well as from a communications station at the Kenosha County Emergency Operation Center. Riding along with Red Cross teams, ARES members helped relay damage assessments back to the Red Cross building in Racine.

"Providing communications is essential," said Assistant Emergency Coordinator for the Racine County ARES Alex Voss, N9RGX. "We set up a communications network at the Red Cross building in Racine, outside of the affected area. We were ready to go when activated. I couldn't be more proud of our volunteers. We will work with the responding agencies as long as they need us. We'll take what we've learned this time and use it to improve our response in the future."

*I know REACT members volunteered to help here also. Does anybody have a story to tell?*



MEMORY LANE: with Jim Koritzky: RI convention photos. Where are these from? Last month: San Diego



(This photo by Dick Cooper)

If you have photos you'd like to share, contact Jim Koritzky by phone or fax at 207-942-8067. If you

disagree with our identifications of conventions, also let Jim know.

**General Counsel Charles A. (Chuck) Thompson provides us with the following:**

*The following notice was extracted from Guide-Star, a publication for nonprofit organizations. ALL REACT Teams (except the very few which are required to file Form 990 or 990-EZ) will be required to file this report. Please be aware of the requirement.*

### Temporary E-Postcard Regulations

If you're associated with a small nonprofit, this one is for you. The IRS has issued temporary regulations for the new Form 990-N. This form, also known as the e-Postcard, was introduced as part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Smaller tax-exempt organizations with gross receipts of \$25,000 or less that don't file a Form 990 or 990-EZ will now be required to file a Form 990-N, with the following exceptions:

- churches, their integrated auxiliaries, and conventions or associations of churches
- nonprofits included in a group return (***This does NOT include REACT Teams! ct***)
- private foundations required to file Form 990-PF
- section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations required to file Form 990 or 990-EZ

The e-Postcard asks for basic organizational information, including address, EIN, and the name of the principal officer. It must be submitted to the IRS on-line, as there is no plan for a paper version of the form. Failure to file the e-Postcard for three consecutive years could lead to the loss of an organization's tax-exempt status.

More information on Form 990-N is available at: [www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=169250,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=169250,00.html)

# Are you a **SKYWARN** **SPOTTER?**

*Do you know someone who is?*

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All proceeds go to the Maryland State Council of REACT Teams, Inc. and will be used to further SKYWARN and other programs supported by REACT.

If you are *not* a SKYWARN spotter, shouldn't you be? Severe weather knows no boundaries. It can occur anywhere – and generally does. Check with your local National Weather Service Office to see what programs and training they have available.

It doesn't take much time, and the potential benefits are great.

