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# the REACTer

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*Drawing by Samdel.*

**The REACTer**(ISSN 1055-9167) is the official publication of REACT International, Inc., a nonprofit public service corporation. © 2004 RI. All rights reserved.

Mailed at Periodicals Rate at Suitland, MD, and other mailing offices.

**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to REACT, 5210 Auth Rd., Suite 403, Suitland, MD 20746-4330.**

*The REACTer* is published bimonthly (six issues per year); the subscription price is included in members' dues. (See *About Your Subscription* on the last page of this issue.) Subscription rate for nonmembers is \$7.50 per year (U.S.).

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# From the President

by Dick Cooper

In February of 2003, Chuck Thompson announced that he would not run for another term as president of *REACT* International. Chuck has been one of the driving forces behind the organization of *REACT* into a well-oiled machine. At the Annual Meeting of the *REACT* International Board of Directors in February 2004, I was proud to be elected to the two-year term as president of RI.

When you read this article I will have held office for two months. At this time I think that it would be appropriate to tell you something about myself. I have been a *REACT* member for twenty-four years and Life Member 329 for eighteen of those years. I have held nearly every office in two different Teams and the Council, all in New Jersey.

Concerning RI, I have held positions on various committees as well as Region 2 Director, Executive Vice-President, Vice-Chairman, and Chairman. I thank the RI Board of Directors for having the confidence to vote me into office and I will certainly try my best to keep that confidence.

There is a very capable list of members to assist me in my duties: Ed Greany (Executive VP), Lee Besing (Secretary), Norman Kaplan (Treasurer) and Chuck Thompson (General Counsel) as well as very capable committee

members.

Of course the first challenge of my term was the insurance situation. The Insurance Search Committee was established to explore all leads in an attempt to find liability coverage. Their efforts were rewarded (to a lesser degree than desired) when we obtained the members-only coverage as described in the article that can be found elsewhere in this issue.

I anticipate working the next two years growing *REACT* International particularly in the areas of membership, public relations, and finance. Our goals in these areas cannot be reached without capable people on the *REACT* committees. Some of the committee positions are filled but many are vacant.

Ed Greany will be working toward filling these positions so that the committees can function properly and benefit *REACT* membership. You are needed to volunteer your time and talents on a committee. Many of you volunteer your efforts to your Team and/or Council, so why not add RI to that list? There is a complete list of committees on the RI web site, showing the description of each committee and the name of the current chairperson (if there is one).

I look forward to your participation in growing *REACT*. Remember that this is your organization and you have a vested in-

terest in seeing it grow. There is a rewarding feeling knowing that you had a part in the success of *REACT*.

## **New Membership Brochure**

**available now from  
REACT International!**



Not Just  
Another  
Radio Club...



**This new full-color,  
tri-fold pamphlet tells  
the REACT story -  
who we are, what we  
do, why it's a great  
volunteer opportunity!**

100 @ \$10

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**From the Executive Vice-President  
by Ed Greany**

Some of you already know me or may have had contact with me concerning membership matters when I was the chairman of that committee. To others, this is my first introduction to you. First I wish to acknowledge the confidence and support shown to me by the Officers and Board of Directors in electing me to the position of Executive Vice-President.

This job requires the input and cooperation of many people. It requires the understanding and cooperation of our various Officers, Board members, Teams and members alike. My first order of business is to fill some vacancies in order that *REACT* may continue to grow. We are in need of several good people to chair a committee ~ Membership Development and Retention, Public Relations, and Ways and Means come to mind first.

No organization can survive without new members. Membership attrition can be due to loss of interest, change of personal circumstances, or death. We *must* have new members to replace those we lose for whatever reason.

We also must have a good image to attract potential new members. This is called public relations and is basically selling *REACT* to everyone with whom we come in contact. It includes good stories in the newspaper and magazines, and responsible advertising.

Then we must come up with a way to finance the organization in order that the burden does not fall on our members through their dues. This is what will keep our dues at a reasonable level.

These are simply three functions that I feel are the most important to any organization, and we need all three. It is a balancing act for if we lose members, the overall cost will increase to those remaining. If our membership is steady but we can't afford to promote membership, our membership will suffer in numbers and again, the costs will increase to the remaining members. So everything is predicated on new members continuously coming aboard and keeping our existing members. Are *you* the person who can fill just *one* of these slots? We are all volunteers here and we understand that everyone has outside responsibilities too. I will be happy to work with you and assist you as I can.

**From Headquarters  
by Norman Kaplan**

At the Winter Board Meeting, held February 20-22, 2004, the dues structure was modified to include third and successive members of a family living at the same location as the first member. Because some Teams start collecting renewals in July, the following dues structure is being sent out now:

	<b>US, Canada</b>	<b>Other Internat'l</b>
First member	Adult \$20 Junior \$18	Adult \$15 Junior \$5
Second member*	Adult \$18 Junior \$18	Adult \$10 Junior \$5
Third**	All \$5	All \$5

\*in the same household as first member  
\*\*and all successive members in the same household

Affiliate Dues (for balance of the year, depending on date joined as an Affiliate): January 1-April 30, \$25; May 1-August 31, \$18; Sept. 1-Dec. 31, \$10.

Life Member dues remain the same as before. Life members will receive a copy of *the REACTer* regardless of whether they are in a family group. A Family Group is a first member, second member, and one or more additional members. A single copy of *the REACTer* will be sent to a Family Group. If additional *REACTers* are wanted, they may be ordered for a \$4.00 subscription in the United States, US\$5.00 in Canada, and US\$6.00 elsewhere.

You can view the job duties and responsibilities on the [www.reactintl.org](http://www.reactintl.org) website by clicking "*REACT Committees*" then select an appropriate committee name. We also do not consider a committee to be a "committee of one." Perhaps you don't care to chair a committee but you would like to serve on one. That's good too as it spreads the workload off the shoulders of a few and no one person carries a big load. Little bites are always easier to chew.

*REACT* has come a long way in the past forty years and I would love to have you be a responsible part of *REACT's* next forty years.

Please contact me today by e-mail to [egreany@reactintl.org](mailto:egreany@reactintl.org), [Crest25@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Crest25@sbcglobal.net), or by telephone (909) 735-4153.

# The Insurance Crisis

by Charles A. Thompson, General Counsel  
REACT International, Inc.

***Editor's Note: For many years, REACT International has provided general liability insurance to all U.S. and Canadian Teams and members. The insurance has been regarded as a major benefit of membership. When the insurer refused to renew the policy for this year, RI's Officers and Board of Directors were taken by surprise. As soon as the membership was informed, there were howls of protest, and some dire predictions that this would mean "the end of REACT." But the Officers and Directors immediately went to work to find a new insurer that would offer the same benefits. This is a report on the progress that has been achieved so far. The story is not over, but at least the crisis is abated!***

The general liability policy furnished by REACT International to Teams and Councils was not renewed by the insurance company. It expired on February 29, 2004. No reason was given for not renewing the policy. Claims paid under the policy were not the basis, as only one claim for under \$400 was paid in the past five years.

Intensive efforts by RI officers to find replacement coverage have not been successful. It appears that, since the 9-11 disasters, insurance companies have been much more restrictive in issuing new policies.

However, REACT International has been able to secure liability coverage, effective April 1, 2004, for individual members of U.S. Teams from Volunteer Insurance Service. This coverage does not afford protection to RI, Councils, or Teams nor, according to Volunteer Insurance Service, does it cover individual members in Canada, Puerto Rico, and other non-U.S. areas.

The personal liability in-

urance is underwritten by Employers Insurance of Wausau, a Mutual Company. All U.S. Team members registered with REACT International for the 2004 membership year are covered up to a limit of \$1 million, with an annual limit of \$3 million for all paid claims under the policy.

The policy provides protection for personal injury or property damage liability claims arising out of the performance of the registered volunteer's duties. The coverage is in excess of, and non-contributing with, any other valid or collectible insurance the volunteer may have.

Exclusions from coverage are similar to those under the former general liability policy. A complete listing of all the exclusions is detailed in the policy. Following is representative of losses that are not covered under the plan:

—Injury or damage arising out of the use of an automobile, aircraft or watercraft (except non-owned watercraft);

—Errors or omissions in con-

nection with the registered volunteer's professional services;

—Personal injury resulting from assault and battery committed by or at the direction of the registered volunteer;

—Property damage to property in the care, custody, or control of the registered volunteer, and;

—Injury or damage by any person who is part of, or associated with, a work release or court-ordered program.

Under this coverage, the insurer will defend *any covered suit* against the volunteer seeking damages for personal injury, bodily injury, or property damage which exceeds any other valid or collectible insurance available to the volunteer.

A continuing effort will be made to find a general liability policy that will cover REACT International and its Councils and Teams. In the meantime, this personal liability insurance will protect individual REACTers from most losses arising from performance of their volunteer duties.

# The Candidates Are...

Regional Directors will be elected this year in Regions 2, 5, and 8. The candidates for these offices are described below, from information each of them has submitted.

## Region 2

DC, DE, KY, MD, NJ, WV,  
VA

**Don E. Manlove, Jr.**, of Chester, Va., is the only candidate for this office; he was appointed to the Board in February to serve the remaining term of Dick Cooper. Don is 45 and self-employed; he is married and has three children. He has been a member of Prince William *REACT* since 1986. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth of Virginia *REACT* Council and the Richmond Metro *REACT* Team. Don is a graduate of Richfield High School in Waco, Tex., and attended McLennan Community College there.

Don did not provide a photo or nominee's statement.

## Region 8

AZ, CA, NV, UT

**Eric Hutchins** is the current Region 8 Director and is a candidate for re-election. Eric is 35 and lives in Vista, Calif., a suburb of San Diego; he is single. He is a self-employed printer. Eric is a member of Seacoast *REACT* and is the founder (and still member) of Rio Grande Valley *REACT* in Albuquerque, N.M. He has been an officer in both Teams and in the Southern California Council.

Eric provided this nominee's statement:

I was born in Oceanside, Calif., in 1968 and have lived in San Diego County for most of my life. I

## Region 5

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

**L. O. "Larry" Fry** currently is the Region 5 Director and recently was elected Chairman of the RI Board of Directors. He is 62 and is an engineer for a manufacturing and research company in Janesville, Wis. Larry is married and has eight children, three of them still at home. He has been a member of Tri-City *REACT* since 1983 and has served as Team president and as Wisconsin Council's vice-president, president, and past president. He has been Region 5 Director since 1999. He is a high school graduate and amateur radio licensee.

Larry submitted the following nominee's statement:

In the early 1990s there was a meeting held in Wichita at the *REACT* headquarters. In attendance at the meeting there were four people, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Hanger, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Fry. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the direction we needed to go in order for *REACT* to thrive and prosper.

The meeting was created and chaired by Mr. Stone and a proposal came out of the meeting and was presented to the Board of Directors. Mr. Stone advised them that in order for the proposal to

come from a long line of volunteers and business owners, my mother chartered a local Lions club and is also a member of the local Soroptimist club. My grandfather owned and operated (at the same time) a concrete construction company and a bowling alley.

*Continued on page 21*

work it needed to be implemented in its entirety. Parts of the proposal were adopted and parts of it were left out. Needless to say the proposal was a failure.

Mr. Jennings and Mr. Stone spent many hours going over the history of *REACT* and developed a new proposal that followed very close to the original proposal that we had worked on. The plan was put into effect after the convention in Nebraska. Today the plans are in effect and *REACT* is once again holding its own.

The transition that was made and the change that is taking place is most gratifying. I was most fortunate to be part of the team that made it happen and the job is not done. The change that is happening may never end, if it did the growth of *REACT* would probably end.

I am very proud to be the Director of Region 5, and I am more proud of the people that I am serving in this region. The people are doing a fantastic job and are very committed to the task in front of them. They have come together and are working toward a common goal with a minimum amount of discord.

To me the task is not yet completed and there is a lot more to be done. Therefore I have chosen to seek another term as Director of Region 5.

**David Ingersoll** of Muscatine Co., Iowa, *REACT* also has been nominated for Region 5 Director. David is 27 and single. He was a member of Riverbend *REACT* until earlier this year when he moved to Muscatine, where he is a newspaper carrier for the local newspaper.

David did not provide a photo or nominee's statement.

# Measuring the Weather

text & photos by Dale Ellis, Oklahoma County REACT

As of March 4, 2004, Oklahoma had gone a record 292 days without a tornado in the state. However that record period has ended and the members of the Central Oklahoma REACT Teams are getting ready. Oklahoma County REACT and University of Oklahoma REACT are the weather spotters for the City of Moore and Cleveland County.

Spotters are the eyes and ears of the Emergency Operations Centers. The weather radars of the National Weather Service are not able to see all the way to ground level and the spotters fill that void.

Many of the spotters have equipped their vehicles with

is the case with the modification and installation of the weather station on their vehicles. Using parts available at most building supply stores, members are able to mount a full weather station on their ve-



magnets.

Fit the pipe flange and rain gauge on the plate. Install the rest of the equipment per the WM-918 instructions. You will have to determine the proper mounting location for the display. Connect your car battery to the display unit. Mount the weather station



hicles. Using magnets like those from magnetic mounted light bars, members can remove the external weather sensors when desired, or the system can be permanently mounted. The WM-918 is inexpensive (list price \$169.95), provides a full range of weather conditions, and is easy to mount and operate. The WM-918 currently comes with free computer software to record and display your weather readings.

Ingredients:

- \*A flat metal plate, painted or stainless steel. Size depends on mounting location and if you are mounting the rain gauge

- \*A 12-inch length of 1-inch diameter plumbing pipe

- \*A pipe flange

- \*A cap to fit the pipe

- \*A power

- connector to fit the display
- \*If magnetically mounted, proper



on your vehicle. Connect the sensors to the display and you are now a mobile weather station.

As a weather spotter, you now have more local weather information at your fingertips than do some television weathermen. And when you provide a weather spotter report, you can provide detailed measurements, not just a "guess-timate."



The Oregon Scientific Weather Station WM-918 is available from the manufacturer at < <http://www.oregongadgets.com/prod.asp> >



weather stations from Oregon Scientific, Inc. Using the WM-918 weather station, the spotters are able to providespecific measurements of wind speed and direction, air temperature, relative humidity, amount/rate of rainfall, and more. Prior to the use of the weather station, members could only provide educated estimates based on experienced observation of local indicators.

Members of REACT have always been innovative and that

# SPREADING THE SIGNAL: THE WHAT AND WHY OF SPREAD SPECTRUM

BY JEFF SCHMIDT, N5MNW, TRAVIS CO. (TEX.) REACT

Spread spectrum is a term used to describe a special communication mode that uses a wider bandwidth, or more "channels," in its operation. Spark gap radiotelegraph was technically a form of spread spectrum, as it took up hundreds of kilohertz of bandwidth, mainly around the present AM broadcast band (1MHz).

The first patent for spread spectrum names Hedy Lamar (Yes, the famous 1940s Hollywood actress!) as one of the principal inventors. The original concept was to remotely control torpedoes without control signals that could be detected or jammed by the enemy.

First, let's briefly discuss the modes that are most familiar.

The signals of "conventional" modes like AM and FM have prominent carriers that, when unmodulated, are indistinguishable from one another. These analog modes change the carrier directly with the audio modulating signal, and little else. When modulated, the differences become apparent: the resulting output RF signal bandwidth is closely related to the audio's amplitude and bandwidth.

Audio Bandwidth - ~3KHz  
AM Bandwidth - ~6KHz  
FM Bandwidth - ~16KHz

Most forms of carrier modes use a bandwidth just 2x or ~5x the modulating bandwidth, regardless of the RF carried frequency.

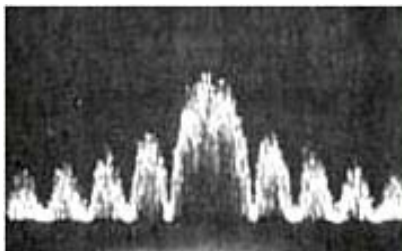
Spread spectrum systems

typically range from 20-250 times the modulating bandwidth. Some are as high as 1000X, with military applications going up to a million times the modulating signal's bandwidth!

A major difference with spread spectrum is that stuff is transmitted along with the modulating information.

The main modes of spread spectrum are *direct sequence* and *frequency hopping*, or some combination of the two.

In direct sequence systems, a code sequence is sent along with the modulating signal. The rate of the code sequence determines the bandwidth more than the audio input does. Rates of a few bits/sec to hundreds of megabits and codes with decades of trailing zeros have been used. The high-frequency coding signals create sidebands with a wave shape like this:



Frequency hopping, as the name implies, uses an almost random pattern to move the transmitted signal around. The transmitted signal looks like a flat box-car, with flat frequency response, extending from the lowest to high-

est frequency:



With either of these techniques, the receiving stations must be programmed with the exact sequence or no communication can occur.

The military quickly discovered that spread spectrum signals behaved like noise and were less able to be jammed or intercepted. A potential jamming signal would have to mimic or follow the original signal. To be intercepted, the same code needs to be determined and employed at the monitoring site. The key code is often very complex and can change, making on-the-fly monitoring difficult. This is of great interest to law enforcement, since their signals are less likely to be picked up by cheap scanning devices.

The benefits to commercial applications have, of course, to do with money — in particular, how many users can be jammed into one hunk of RF real estate. Digital satellites are using this method to increase the number of fee-paying broadcasters.

With conventional radios, only one user can occupy a given frequency in a given area at a

*Continued on page 22*

# REACT and the Street

by Eric Conrad Epie, *REACT* Kaamulan

*Editor's Note: We all know that REACT provides a variety of communications services for emergencies and disasters, and for such community events as parades and bicycle races. But some community events are more "special" than others! In the Philippines, street-dancing competitions are a traditional event -- and REACT Kaamulan is there.*

Five days before the scheduled street dancing competition, several *REACT* members volunteered to assist the city Traffic Management Center in rerouting the traffic passing on the national highway. Traffic was diverted to allow competing municipalities to practice along the national highway down to plaza Rizal without disrupting normal traffic flow.



Alexander Asok with Rito Micayabas and the rest of the transportation team posing before the *REACT* van after successfully transporting the street dancing judges to the capitol grounds.

Armed with red *REACT* vests, 250,000-candle-power spotlights, and four new traffic wands that were donated by Nomis Bayan, Jr. of CARE *REACT* of California, eight team members joined to help

redirect traffic from 9PM to 2AM.

Three days before the event took place the group set up a temporary *REACT* Operation Center near the Philippine National Red Cross building and activated two repeater systems at Barangay, 21 kilometers away from the city proper with an elevation of 1,628 meters above sea level.

On Saturday, March 6, around 5:30AM, thirty volunteers assembled to assist this year's street dancing competition. Final instructions were made at the Operation Center before heading towards the starting point.

At exactly 7AM a prayer was made by the "lumads" (natives) chanting in Bukidnon dialect, to ward off bad spirits and protect the performers and audience from harm. You could feel the fever-pitched atmosphere when all the musical instruments sounded together,

A Junior volunteer monitors real lumad (native) performers from the municipality of Maramag; check the real spears they are using.



The *REACT*er



# Dancers of Bukidnon



Eric Conrad Epie watching a contingent from Malaybalay city performing while rain hopelessly attempted to stop the dancers from showing off .

making your heart pound heavily. This signals the start of the competition.

But when it started, rain came pouring in, turning the hazy bright heavens to a gloomy overcast sky, soaking competitors and spectators. Onlookers began drawing in, filling the streets by the hundreds with umbrellas sprouting like mushrooms, nothing could stop the country's only authentic and true ethnic festival from unfolding.

Thirteen contingents from the different municipalities in the province of Bukidnon with their respective parade floats started to roll down the highway, bound to the capitol grounds where the final competition converges.

Our volunteers' main task was to escort the contingents and guide them up to the capitol grounds while others were assigned to escort and transport the judges, work as contest dispatchers and radio controllers. Of course all carried their UHF and VHF portable radios. This was the right opportunity to prove the worthiness and durability of all communication equipment in

spite of the bad weather.

As it progressed, around 9:30AM the last group was dispatched, and all *REACT* members were called back to the starting area to join the parade, a group tradition that also shows onlookers what *REACT* can do to serve the community. After the last contingent performed at the grounds, miraculously the sun appeared, proving that "Ka-amulan" means "come *ulan* (rain)." In fact, rain has never missed a single festival since it all started.

When all was done and things seemed to look smooth and successful, our controller called us back to the OC. Then our food committee distributed packed lunches for our volunteers. We had some relaxation and fellowship, and enjoyed the rest of the whole day celebration.

Thanks to the Tourism office and the rest of the technical working group, they made our volunteers burp with excitement and brought smiles to all who made this year's celebration a success, an annual operation that fulfills what *REACT* Kaamulan is all about.

One float pushed by native dancers from the municipality of Quezon with a prized catch stripped and hung to dry, confirming that they still do hunt the wild.





Salvation Army's communications vehicle

# Emergency Management

## *A Chance to Learn*

double what they were a few years ago. They still get more grant requests than they have money for, but the lines are shorter. Teams with emergency management/disaster relief functions should be writing grant proposals.

The purpose of volunteer Citizens Emergency Response Teams (CERT) is to provide disaster relief/mitigation after a disaster or terrorism strike occurs until the regular emergency response agencies can respond.

Typical emergencies that CERTs prepare for are loss of power for an extended period of time; a mass casualty event, such as a hail storm at an outdoor event (which happened recently near Fort Worth); a bombing such as the commuter train bombing in Spain; contamination with a toxic substance, etc. CERTs are organized through the same chain of command as Neighborhood Watch. Grants fund "Train the trainer" workshops

to train individuals who then train the CERT teams.

There is grant funding available through the state Emergency Management agencies to fund training, equipment, or other needs for CERT teams. Grant requests must be signed off by the local mayor or county elected official.

There were many vendors on hand with many new products and services for emergency and disaster relief efforts. There were several exhibitors with decontamination chambers – tents that looked like the brushless carwash setups – lots of water jets and systems of rollers to roll patients through on backboards. There were some outrageously equipped communications vans. The Red Cross had a Ford Excursion that had been outfitted with every radio known to man, an 8kw on-board generator, and a hydraulic antenna mast. The Baptist Men had a similar van as did the state Department of Natural Re-

This article is inspired by attendance at the Texas Emergency Management Conference.

This is an annual conference and trade show put on for people involved in emergency management and disaster relief. Similar events are held in most states; check with your state emergency management agency for dates and sites. These conferences are a fantastic opportunity to learn, to network with other emergency personnel, and to shop – or at least window-shop!

To put terminology in place, we all know what an emergency is: some event that threatens or has caused loss of life, serious bodily injury, or major property loss. A disaster is an emergency that overwhelms the local emergency response resources.

Those federal agencies (mostly the Department of Homeland Security) that give out grants have a lot more money than in prior years. Most grant budgets are about

The Baptist Men's organization operates this mobile kitchen for mass feeding.



# Conferences:

by Charles Land

resources. All of these have satellite phone access so that they are not dependent on local communications infrastructure.

We saw a vendor with a civilian version of MREs - Meals Ready to Eat – under the brand “Heater Meals.” They had single-serving boxes of items such as lasagna, beef stew, or a scrambled-egg type of breakfast. These could be stored at room temperature for up to two years. They had a small pouch of magnesium and a pouch of salt water. When mixed these create the heat to warm the meal. These single-serving meals sell for a little over \$3 each (minimum quantity of ten) and they had three-course meals (added a fruit, salad, etc.) that sell for about \$6.

There was a huge array of gas detectors to initiate alarms when certain gases are detected, and analyzers to determine what, and how dangerous, the contaminants are.

There was a demonstration of the industrial database: every industrial site that has a potential for release of toxic substances has to register with a federal database. This permits response agencies to prepare for various problems and to have ready access to current

data when responding.

We also saw a trailer that is designed to be attached to an ambulance for response to a mass casualty event.

The average ambulance is equipped to deal with a couple of patients. This trailer had supplies to care for up to about a hundred patients.

Texas A&M has grants to help communities put on WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) training and exercises. They come to a community with equipment and materials to conduct a mock WMD attack. Some of the attack scenarios they use assume two or more attacks/incidents, and thus assume that some of the emergency response capability itself has been disabled – testing the diversity of resources and backup capability.

Many of the emergency management professionals are licensed amateur radio operators. Some admitted that they weren't regularly practicing the hobby, but recognized that during the performance of their jobs, using ham radio would likely be a need. All of the



Communications van owned by Texas Dept. of Environmental Quality

comm vans we saw had ham radios.

Conclusion: As more funding is available to disaster relief agencies, the role of volunteers will change. These agencies are purchasing satellite and other very sophisticated communications and reducing their dependence on ham and other older radio technologies. But their operations still revolve around *trained* volunteers – and that is where *REACT* Teams come in.

*REACT* Teams are already trained in some areas, and they are well positioned to take advantage of additional training that is now available (and it is free in most cases; travel expense is even reimbursed in some cases). And everyone can take advantage of training to learn how to be a better part of the emergency operations teams that they support.

**Summary of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
of the Board of Directors of REACT International, Inc.,  
Held at Suitland, Maryland, February 20-22, 2004**

**Directors Present:**

Dick Cooper (N.J.), Chairman & Region 2  
Bob Kaster (Okla.), Region 7  
Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson (Tex.),  
President, *ex officio*

**Directors Absent:**

Fred J. Lanshe (Pa.), Region 1 (arrived 3:30  
p.m., Friday, February 20)  
John Knott (Fla.), Region 3  
Paul C. Jackson (Ohio), Region 4  
Larry Fry (Wis.), Region 5  
Frank Jennings (Wash.), Region 6

Eric Hutchins, (Calif.), Region 8  
D. Kenny Jagdeosingh (Trinidad & Tobago),  
Region 9

**Officers Present:**

Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson, President  
Dick Cooper, Executive Vice President  
Lee Besing (Tex.), Secretary  
Norman Kaplan (Md.), Treasurer

**Officers Absent:**

None

**Others Present:**

Dora Wilbanks, Office Manager

Meeting called to order by Chairman Cooper at 9:11 a.m., Friday, February 20, 2004. The Chairman expressed appreciation to those in attendance.

**1. Establishment of Quorum; Agenda.**

The President presented the Chairman with an Agenda. The Secretary announced there were three of ten Directors present, and there was not a quorum. After consulting the Bylaws and the Illinois General Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (IGNFPCA), the President appointed a Temporary Executive Committee consisting of himself, Chairman Cooper, Director Kaster, Secretary Besing, and Treasurer Kaplan. The Temporary Executive Committee will consider each item on the established Agenda, and make recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Chairman will convene a Board meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 21, with as many Directors as possible present by conference telephone, as permitted by the IGNFPCA (805 ILCS, Ch. 32, par. 108.15). Minutes of the

Meetings of the Temporary Executive Committee will be furnished to each Director.

*The Chairman recessed the meeting at 10:11 a.m.*

**Following are summarized minutes of the Temporary Executive Committee:**

**Agenda Item 4 – Minutes of July 2003 Special Meeting of the Board.** Committee recommends approval.

**Agenda Item 5 – Officer Elections.** Mr. Kaster asked President Thompson if he would serve another term, but he respectfully declined, reminding that he had announced at the February 2003 Annual Board Meeting that the term commenced then would be his last. Motion Mr. Kaster to nominate Mr. Cooper as President for a two-year term. Motion Mr. Cooper to nominate (for one-year terms) Ed Greany (Calif.) as Executive VP, Mr. Besing as Secretary, and Mr. Kaplan as Treasurer. Committee unanimously approved, recommending appointments take effect at the conclusion of the Annual Board Meeting.

**Agenda Item 6 – Chairman Election.** Committee recommends Larry Fry be elected as Chairman of the Board, Bob Kaster as Vice Chairman, to take effect at the conclusion of the Annual

Board Meeting.

**Agenda Item 7 – Officer Reports –** defer to teleconference.

**Agenda Item 8 – Reports of Committees of the Board.** – No reports received.

**Agenda Item 9 – Corporate Committee Reports**

Publications Review – Stuart DeLuca submitted written report.

**Agenda Item 10 – Review Policies –** defer to teleconference.

**Agenda Item 11 – Financial Review.** Committee reviewed CPA audit report. Treasurer Kaplan commented on various items. Changes to the handling of charges for credit card sales were made. Changes on how certain payroll-related taxes are reported resulted in exceeding budget on several items, but avoided 20% penalty for not making changes. Chairman Cooper signed the Audit Report on behalf of the Board. Office staff is following board policy regarding single or dual signatures. Treasurer Kaplan distributed written copies of P&L and Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2004. No recommendations made.

**Agenda Item 12 – Insurance Coverage.** Quotes are pending for new policies. Committee recommended that if a quote is received with a premium that is within the budgeted amount (\$23,000) and no material change in coverage, the Treasurer be

authorized to accept the policy without further action by the Board.

**Agenda Item 13 – Office Procedure Manual.** Most of the routine office procedures are included in the RI Office Procedures Manual.

**Agenda Item 13a – REACT Store Items.** The CPA/auditor recommends that several store items be repriced. This was handled by administrative action. CPA recommends that all store items be priced at 40% above cost. This is the usual procedure, but some items may be slightly more or less. The President suggested consideration of a full-sized REACT plate, which could be used where no front license plate is required under state law.

**Agenda Item 14 – Budget** – Treasurer Kaplan presented proposed \$105,500 budget based upon last year's expenses and anticipated income/expenses for 2004. Committee recommends approval.

**Agenda Item 15 – Timing of Board Meeting.** Stuart DeLuca suggests that Board meet in January so that minutes could be published in March/April REACTer. This would probably mean poor weather and the annual audit would not be available for review. Committee recommends no change.

**Agenda Item 16 – Consideration of Special Board Meeting in Summer 2004.** Mr. Kaplan recommended returning to Suitland in August for a Special Board Meeting. Discussion held about travel distances, airport hubs, and tourist seasons. Committee recommends meeting be held Friday, August 6, and Saturday, August 7, in or near Dallas, Texas, it being a major airport hub in the central US.

**Agenda Item 17 – National VOAD Conference in Kentucky 18-21 May 2004** – Tom Currie (Ky.) recommends RI have display (bumper stickers, the new RI brochure, PowerPoint presentation, etc.). Registration fee is \$500 for booth and 1 attendee, \$195/ additional attendees. Mr. Currie was contacted and said that if RI did not attend, he could arrange for several

items to be placed in attendees' goody bags. Mr. Kaplan may be able to attend. Committee recommends that RI send brochures to the NVOAD conference and make decision on other ideas after cost issue is resolved.

*Director Lanshe arrived 3:30 p.m. during discussion of Agenda Item 17.*

**Agenda Item 18 – Team Problems (Nebraska, Pennsylvania).** Mr. Kaplan discussed some serious problems with a group in Scranton, Pennsylvania, claiming to be a REACT Team (but isn't registered) causing problems on CB and amateur radio making threats against the United REACT Team in Scranton, which is causing them to quit monitoring CB. RI's FCC Liaison (William Riley) will contact FCC to share tape recordings and report on the interference. Mr. Lanshe will investigate possible action via state law. Nebraska problem involves improper radio operation by a registered REACT Team; referred to Mr. Fry for initial handling. No Board action necessary.

**Agenda Item 19 – Convention 2005.** No report from Convention and Site Selection / Review Committee Chairman Paul Oby (Minn.). Discussion held about idea of cruise ship convention. Mr. Thompson called Ed Greany (Crest REACT, Calif.) and asked if Team and/or SCRC would sponsor convention. Answer was "Yes." No action needed until formal bid received.

**Agenda Item 20 – Citizen Corps SOU/MOU.** Mr. Thompson has contacted FEMA, but the action officer has not been available. Continued efforts will be made.

**Agenda Item 21 – Midland Proposal.** Mr. Kaplan will contact Bob Leef and/ or Tony Lane at Midland to determine status.

**Agenda Item 22 – Nextel Proposal.** Don Manlove (Richmond, Va.) was unable to attend but will make report Saturday morning.

**Agenda Item 23 – Radio Hero Award.** Discussion held on rules for nominating for this award. The Board

originally adopted criteria that included users of any type of radio service, but that was changed to limit the award to those using radios in services supported by co-sponsor Cobra. A nominee using FRS is available if a group can receive this award. Committee recommends that RHA include groups.

**Agenda Item 24 – Status of PSA (Oklahoma project).** No progress has been made with original source in Oklahoma City, but Mr. Kaster has located possible alternate resource. He suggested developing streaming videos and making them available from the RI website for download for local use. Discussion held on costs. Mr. Lanshe recommended subsidizing this project. Mr. Kaplan asked for a restricted web site area for members only. Committee recommends adding \$1,000 to 2004 budget to cover public relations expenses.

**Agenda Item 25 – Membership Dues Restructuring for Extended Family Members.** Discussion of Mr. Besing's proposal, made in July 2003, to establish lower membership rate for extended family members to encourage more families to register all of their members. Mr. Kaplan provided a worksheet with an alternative proposal. After discussion, Committee recommends that US and Canada dues, effective for 2005, for first member of family be set at \$20 (unless Junior, then \$18), second member of family be set at \$18, and all other members of family at same address be \$5. Under this plan, only one REACTer would be sent to the family address (except that all Life Members will continue to receive REACTer). International rates (non- US or Canada) would be set as \$15 for first family member (adult), \$10 for second family member (adult) and \$5 for all other family members residing at same physical address. If first or second family member is a Life Member, the dues plan will remain the same, except the Life Member's dues are already paid. (Note: All amounts stated in US\$.)

**Agenda Item 26 – REACT International Amateur Radio Club.** Mr. Kaplan asked how to handle applications for “RI Amateur Radio Club.” Form for this is in Team Handbook. Mr. Thompson recommended discontinuing as it is no longer useful (there being many Amateurs in REACT now, compared to when the RIARC was started in 1989). Any inquiries would be referred to Teams and/or Council. Committee recommends discontinuation of “REACT International Amateur Radio Club” (Mr. Lanshe dissenting). Mr. Lanshe asked if Steve Gobay and the Pennsylvania Council could pick up responsibility for this “project.” The Committee was not receptive. Mr. Kaplan noted that Board would have to authorize deleting of application form from Team Handbook, and Committee so recommends.

**Agenda Item 27 – Five-Year Plan.** Mr. Cooper presented a Five-Year Plan addressing growth in the areas of membership, promotion, and financial income to become a more viable part of the general emergency and service organization structure in North America and other areas of the world. It set some general deadlines for establishing a structure at RI level no later than 1 September 2004. Committee recommends the Board accept and implement the goals in this report. Copies of the Five Year Plan will be distributed with Policies and Bylaws to each Team.

**Agenda Item 28 – Office review / operation status.** Mr. Thompson asked Mr. Kaplan if there were any issues affecting the operation of the office that the Board needs to address in order to improve or fix a problem. Mr. Kaplan said that all was working well, except that perhaps there should be some better guidelines as to when a matter needed to be referred to the entire Board. Mr. Thompson said that all matters should be referred to the President before the Board was involved, as the President was the “interface” between the officers and the Board.

**Agenda Item 29 – Office Staff Salary.** Discussion held on office manager’s pay. Committee recommends change from “hourly” to “salary” basis and recommended an increase in pay.

*Committee Meeting recessed at 7:15 p.m., Friday, February 20.*

*Meeting reconvened at 10:00am, Saturday, February 21 .*

*No change in officers / directors present; 1 guest present (Don Manlove, Va.)*

**REACT International Amateur Radio Club (Item #26 revisited).** Discussion held about changes in REACT membership regarding number of amateurs (All US directors/officers are licensed Amateurs), many of the Councils have the majority of their officers as amateurs. Mr. Thompson pointed out RI Bylaws recognized “Teams” as members, not individuals (other than “Life” and “Affiliate” members). REACT International will continue to encourage individuals to obtain amateur licenses.

*The Secretary reported that a copy of everything handled prior to 7:15 p.m. Friday was e-mailed to all Directors not present. All Directors have been contacted about the teleconference arrangements.*

**Nextel Proposal (Item #22 continued).** Don Manlove (Richmond, Va.) contacted Nextel, which has a plan for unlimited direct-connect minutes (nationwide calling coverage), limited daytime use 300 minutes outbound, but Nextel wants a commitment for 500 phones from REACT International before giving any corporate/group discount off their posted rates. Mr. Manlove has asked Nextel for donation of certain number of units to REACT International for activation during disasters. Committee thought that posted price was not favorable, but asked Mr. Manlove to see if Nextel would offer a discount

as a “membership benefit” to REACT members who chose to sign up. RI would offer a discounted REACTerad rate to promote program. Mr. Manlove to pursue further options with Nextel and report back to the President.

**Agenda Item #30 – Regional Elections.** Mr. Cooper announced that Directors in Regions 2, 5 and 8 are up for election / re-election in 2004. Nominations are being accepted at present time. Ballots will be mailed to all Teams in each region. Mr. Cooper reminded those present that the practice in recent history has been to separate the duties of officers from Directors, *i.e.*, it is preferred that Directors not serve in officer positions. The Board appoints RI officers and the RI President is a voting Director (and part of quorum). Mr. Lanshe suggested that Don Manlove be appointed as Region 2 Director (if Mr. Cooper is appointed as President by the Board, as Mr. Cooper has said he would resign as Director). Mr. Manlove will accept appointment for remaining term.

*Temporary Executive Committee was recessed at 12:00 Noon, Saturday, February 21.*

**2. Call to order.** The Meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, February 21, 2004. All officers and Directors were present either in person (Lanshe, Cooper, Kaster, Thompson) or by teleconference (Knott, Jackson, Fry, Jennings, Hutchins, Jagdeo-singh). A speakerphone was placed in the center of the conference table for all persons present to hear the conversations, all other directors listed participated via telephone. Also present in person was Don Manlove (Va.).

**3. Procedure.** The Chairman used a separate telephone to

control the meeting and made opening comments with general guidelines for the meeting. All Directors were sent, by e-mail, a copy of Committee recommendations. President Thompson will read agenda items with Committee recommendation and make motion to approve, Director Kaster will second each motion. Keep discussion brief as possible followed by call for vote by region. Meeting is being recorded (audio). Director Kaster will record all votes. `

1. Quorum established by Secretary.
2. Approval of minutes, no objection. Passed.
3. Officer Elections – Nominations by Mr. Thompson, seconds by Mr. Kaster.
  - A. President - Dick Cooper. 8 for, Lanshe and Knott against. Passed.
  - B. Executive VP - Ed Greany. Unanimous.
  - C. Secretary - Lee Besing. Unanimous.
  - D. Treasurer - Norman Kaplan. Unanimous.
4. Chairman.
  - A. Mr. Thompson nominated Larry Fry as Chairman; second Mr. Kaster. Unanimous.
  - B. Mr. Thompson nominated Robert Kaster as Vice Chairman; second Mr. Lanshe. Unanimous.
5. Officer Reports – None
6. Reports of Committees of the Board – None
7. Corporate Committee Reports.
  - A. Publications Review Committee – Stuart DeLuca
  - B. 5-Year Planning Committee – Dick Cooper
8. Review Policies – Approved at July 2003 convention, no changes.
9. Financial Review – No recommendation.
10. Insurance Coverage – Working on insurance coverage with similar policy with competitive insurance premiums. Also available, a policy

- from CIMA that covers only individual members, doesn't cover repeaters, etc. Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Lanshe, to approve GL policy if within budget and no major difference in coverage.
11. Office Procedure Manual – Status okay. Board advised that trash bags have been repriced and other recommendations of auditor implemented, will look into full size license plates.
  12. Budget (copies sent out just prior to teleconference) – changes recommended to distributed budget for promotion and payroll expenses. Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Kaster, to adopt the budget as amended. Changes result in \$4,000 deficit. Unanimous.
  13. Timing of Winter Board Meetings. – No change in normal date due to unacceptable weather in Suitland and lack of time to review annual audit.
  14. Special Board Meeting Summer 2004 – Mr. Knott suggested Internet Voice Software be considered for future teleconferences. Discussion on location. Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Kaster, to set Summer Meeting for August 6-7 in Dallas, Texas, area. Unanimous.
  15. National VOAD Conference in Kentucky. Recommendation to send brochures & other bag stuffing items approved unanimously.
  16. Team problems will be handled by office.
  17. Convention 2005 – No action needed, pending receipt of proposal by California group.
  18. Citizen Corps SOU/MOU. No action needed.
  19. Midland Proposal. No action needed.
  20. Nextel Proposal. No action needed.
  21. Radio Hero Award. Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Kaster to expand award criteria to include groups. Unanimous.
  22. Status of PSA. No action needed (funds allocated in budget).
  23. Membership Dues Restructuring for Extended Family Members. Mo-

- tion Mr. Thompson to approve, 2d Mr. Kaster. Unanimous.
24. REACT International Amateur Radio Club. Motion Mr. Thompson to discontinue, 2d Mr. Kaster. Passed, 8 in favor, Mr. Lanshe and Mr. Hutchins against.
  25. Five-year Plan. Not sent to Directors, so action deferred until August meeting.
  26. Office review / operation status. No action needed.
  27. Office Staff Salary. Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Kaster to change Dora Wilbanks from hourly to salary with an increase (included in budget). This will be first increase in three years. Unanimous (Mr. Lanshe abstaining).
  28. Resignation / Replacement of Director. Mr. Cooper submitted a written resignation conditional upon his election and assumption of the office of President. Don Manlove (Va.) has agreed to serve the remaining term. Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Kaster to appoint Mr. Manlove as Director for Region 2. Unanimous.
  29. Comments by Mr. Thompson thanking everyone for helping during his years of service and congratulating Mr. Cooper as the new President. Mr. Thompson will remain as General Counsel.
  30. Comments by Mr. Hutchins regarding April 22 deadline for filing for Director, stating that this date is too late in the calendar, causing problems in submitting ballots to Teams. Deadline was published in REACTer, and deadline for May/June REACTer is before this deadline for filing. Mr. Thompson advised REACTer date was an error, as SOP deadline is March 15, but since it was published, and there is no convention this year, the April 22 date would be used for 2004.
  31. Question by Mr. Jackson asking what procedure or authority Councils have to intervene with problems involving Teams. Mr. Thompson explained board policy on subject (see policy).

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## Board Minutes

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32. Question by Mr. Knott about a problem reported with the North Carolina REACT Council. He will confer with Mr. Thompson (as General Counsel) on the situation.


33. Question by Mr. Jagdeosingh. Answer was Mr. Thompson will not be on the board as a voting member, but will remain General Counsel.

**4. Adjournment.** Motion by Mr. Thompson to adjourn, 2d Mr. Kaster. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee W. Besing, Secretary  
(General Counsel Charles A. Thompson prepared this summary from the extensive minutes submitted by the Secretary. The complete minutes are available electronically by sending e-mail to <secretary@REACTintl.org> or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with \$0.83 U.S. postage (for U.S. delivery) to REACT International, Inc., 5210 Auth Road, Suite 403, Suitland, MD 20746-4330.)

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# Ohio Dairy Fire Tests Four Teams' Disaster Readiness

by Rufus Kilpatrick  
Great Lakes REACT

**A**t 5:45 PM On Friday, March 12, 2004, Massillon-Stark County (Ohio) REACT, put out the call for mutual aid from any available REACT members. Thanks to the quick action by Jason Boone, Assistant to the President of the Ohio REACT Council, help was a short time away.

President Brian Gutscher and his Massillon-Stark Co. REACT Team were faced with the possibility of having to evacuate an entire neighborhood. There was a large fire at the Superior Dairy production facility in Massillon that included the possible rupture of four anhydrous ammonia storage tanks.

Tom Thorpe, Joe Sapara, Rufus Kilpatrick, Larry Cooper and Kim Thorpe from Great Lakes REACT, in Cleveland, responded to the call for assistance along with members of Tuscarawas & Carroll REACT and Medina County REACT. The Great Lakes REACT members started to arrive on the scene at 9:20 PM and some stayed until 3:00 AM in sub-freezing temperatures, manning traffic control posts surrounding the neighborhood adjoining the fire scene.

On Saturday, March 13,

Massillon-Stark Co. REACT, assisted by Tuscarawas & Carroll REACT, returned to the fire scene because the fire flared up again.

The members of Great Lakes REACT are pleased that Teams in adjoining counties can call on us to assist in an emergency and we look forward to working together on other events as well.

In a letter from the Perry Township Fire Department, Chief Gary M. Justice wrote, "Due in no small part to your assistance and that of approximately thirty other agencies, the outcome was the best that could be expected. Four of our department's personnel suffered minor injuries but are doing fine. I have heard of no after effects to any of our residents in the area surrounding the fire scene. For this we are extremely thankful."

Chief Justice went on to write, "Please accept a huge THANK YOU from the Perry Township Fire Department and our residents."

Our thanks go to Chief Justice for the kind words. As REACTers, we realize that a Thank You from the community and public safety officials is the "pay-check" for any volunteer.

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## Tell us about your Safety Break!

**Is your Team planning a Safety Break for Memorial Day or Fourth of July? Send us the story -- with pictures! -- for the next REACTer!**



# REACTivities -- Team & Council News

## Kings County (Calif.) REACT

**R**EACT Team 4965 again refused to join the crowd of onlookers as the 2003 Hanford, Calif., Christmas Parade went by. They refused to join them, because they were too busy. Instead, they were the volunteer communications staff deployed for crowd control and pedestrian safety as the floats, marching bands and dignitaries passed by them.

"Keeping everyone safe is the most important aspect of our involvement in this event," said Kurt Ervin, president of Kings County REACT. "We have spent lots of time preparing for this event, and once again, it went off without a hitch because our members stayed alert."

The Team attended safety briefings with law enforcement and city officials and went on maximum deployment during the early afternoon. All volunteer communicators with the Team arrived early to check their equipment and be ready to deploy



The ambulance is part of the parade in Hanford, Calif., but REACT is there in case of a genuine emergency.

early.

"Getting into position early helps to establish a presence," said Ervin. "We introduce ourselves to the police officers assigned to our sector and there are always last minute details that change our deployment plan. We have learned over the years to arrive early and play it safe, especially because the event goes into the hours of darkness."

The Hanford Christmas Parade is an annual event featuring city officials, local businesses, various school children and local citizens. This year the parade started at 5:00 p.m. on November 28 and featured a theme of, "Christmas Through The Eyes of A Child."

## Flagler Co. (Fla.) Assist REACT

**F**lagler County Assist REACT volunteers responded to the Flagler County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on Thursday, April 1, as a wildfire threatened parts of Seminole Woods subdivision of the City of Palm Coast. Volunteers responded to a call from the Emergency Management Division Chief, who requested additional personnel to be on stand-by in the EOC.

Members provided technical assistance in the EOC as they helped set up phone lines and relayed messages within the facility. Members also were on stand-by to help with any communications need.

Two days later, Flagler Co. Assist REACT provided assistance to the Humane Society for the Bark at the Park fund-raising event. REACT members provided parking control, communications along the walk-a-thon route, and guidance to help keep walkers going in the appropriate directions.

## South Point (Conn.) REACT

South Point REACT will be having its first holiday highway safety break during Easter weekend, April 9-11. With the help of Tobacco Valley REACT and Pioneer Valley REACT, we will be provid-

ing donuts and coffee to the public at Connecticut State Police Barracks Troop E in Montville, Conn. Troop E is located on Interstate 395 Northbound in Uncasville, Conn.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has provided the team with literature to give out. South Point REACT and Eastern

Connecticut Chapter of MADD have developed a cooperative agreement to work together on educating the public on the importance of safe driving. South Point REACT will also be handing out literature about REACT and the proper use of CB Emergency Channel 9.

-Matthew Welch

# **REACT Teaches the Teachers**

**By Bob Leef, President  
Saddleback Valley (Calif.) REACT**

Even the principal was a student when three members of our Team presented a fifteen-minute show- and-tell to all sixty staff at Rancho Santa Margarita Intermediate School April 5. Talking in “class” was very acceptable as, with suggestions from *REACT*, the motivated group discussed FRS and how it could be used on campus.

In a brief one-minute introduction, Team President Bob Leef explained what *REACT* is, and passed the podium to Vice President Paul Amestoy for the main part of the program. Leef then went into the audience and passed around samples of FRS radios for the “students” to examine while Amestoy spoke of how these inexpensive models could be a useful tool in and around school grounds.

Amestoy cited one nearby school where FRS radios combined with GMRS programmable radios were used to complete a very robust communication solution. Parents were informed to monitor and communicate on specific FRS/GMRS channels. School personnel used FRS/GMRS radios and selected supervisory employees were given programmable radios that monitored and transmitted in those FRS/GMRS channels along with specific GMRS repeater-capable channels. Due to other specific requirements these radios were also programmed to a specific

business channel for communications among key personnel. This solution provided the following communication channels:

1. FRS (.5 watt) between parents and school personnel on selected FRS/GMRS shared frequencies

2. GMRS communication to parents and other school personnel by supervisors using GMRS radios on shared frequencies ( 4 watt )

3. Supervisors using repeaters on GMRS channels for wider area coverage

4. Supervisors using business frequencies for internal business communication.

The key to the success of this solution is the use of widely available FRS radios. The shared channel capabilities of these radios along with more powerful GMRS radios allowed key personnel to communicate important messages to parents and care-givers. This will alleviate problems that arise when cell phone and landline communication is not possible. Parents’ ability to speak to and monitor communication is vital to reduce or eliminate stress in these kinds of situations.

With twelve million and more of these radios being sold annually, buyers think of them as a convenient way for family members to stay in touch over short distances of approximately half a mile. With no license required, and a cost of approximately \$30

a pair, quite a few of the staff already had FRS for neighborhood communications with their kids, to use at amusement parks, while on hikes, etc. However, we presented the idea that besides being a convenience tool, all schools should be aware of the usefulness for their purposes of daily traffic flow, supervision, and especially for emergencies when the most people possible - including parents - should know what is going on.

A third *REACT* member, Bill Westfall, spoke about his Saddleback Valley Preparedness Committee on the related subject of being ready for unexpected situations such as power outage, lack of cell phone availability, etc. At the end, everyone received a Saddleback Valley *REACT* brochure that explained the difference between FRS, GMRS, and ham radios. We hope that those teachers and parents who do not have FRS get wise to its full capability. Beyond that, we could even have some new members in our Team!



## REACTivities -- Team & Council News

### Belmont County (Ohio) REACT

**B**elmont County REACT has signed on to a communications project that is aiding the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in Division 3/Flotilla 9.

The Team will provide the use of GMRS repeater frequencies in the eastern part of the county along the Ohio River, the auxiliary will have seamless operations for over 125 miles of the waterway.

This was a "hole" that

needed to be plugged in a system of frequencies that are used by both business owners and public safety agencies along the route.

Belmont County, Ohio, is north of the Port of Huntington, West Virginia, the sixth busiest port in the nation. There are many steel, coal, aluminum, chemical, and petroleum facilities along with electric power plants, locks, and dams.

The addition of the REACT Team's repeaters on GMRS frequencies will be invaluable toward protecting the safety of more than a million citizens.

-Stephen G. Finney

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# REACTivities -- Team,

## Circle City (Ind.) REACT

Circle City REACT provided essential course monitoring and event communications at the First Annual Pacers' Run & Walk, Saturday, April 3, 2004. Team members reported for duty at the west entrance of Conseco Fieldhouse at 8:00 A.M. for assignments along both the five-mile run and the five-kilometer walk course routes. As volunteers, Team members received an event t-shirt and a ticket to the Pacers v. Knicks basketball game on April 6.

Larry Bird, who also participated in the event, started the 450 runners promptly at 9:00 A.M. Boomer and Bowser, the Pacers' mascots, started the 320 walkers at 9:20 A.M. The routes covered numerous major streets in downtown Indianapolis, boxing in a half-mile square area between I-70 and the RCA Dome. In addition to the REACT contingent, 36 Indianapolis police officers were positioned along the routes for traffic control, two private ambulances were on-hand for medical incidents, and two water stations were established.

There was one medical incident, a male runner became disoriented and despondent about two and a half miles into the run and was transported via ambulance to the finish line for release.



Members of Circle City REACT gather on the steps of Conseco Fieldhouse before deploying for the Pacers' Run & Walk

The routes were opened to general traffic and Team members were relieved from their position at 10:20 A.M. After a short debriefing, event coordinator Donald Campbell compiled a few suggestions for the event management. These mostly resulted from planning oversights of this new event and included: co-locate a representative with an event of-

ficer to streamline organizational communications, assign and have in place lead and sweep vehicles for each event, provide detailed procedures for contacting event hired medics, and prioritize event participants over traffic.

Additional event information and pictures are online at < [www.tuxbro.com](http://www.tuxbro.com). >

-Donald Campbell

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# Council, & Region News

## Oklahoma County (Okla.) *REACT*

**O**n March 13, Oklahoma County *REACT* set up a recruiting and safety information booth in the entrance of the Main Base Exchange on Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

The Base Exchange is much like a K-Mart or Wal-Mart for military members. Brochures, posters, flyers, and state maps were obtained from the State Department of Transportation, local emergency management offices, Safe Kids coalition, seatbelt safety offices and other safety organizations. *REACT* trash bags, obtained from the International office in Maryland, were stuffed with these flyers. Coloring books on safety topics and crayons were provided for kids. The coloring books and crayons were purchased with a grant from a local hospital. Pens, imprinted with our Team information and web address, were handed out to those that passed by.

The recruiting booth was set up at 8:30 A.M. and closed at 5:00 P.M. We estimate that we had over two hundred visitors. We handed out ten applications and 162 tornado safety posters. Our booth was staffed by experienced storm spotters so we were able to answer visitors' questions at the start of severe weather season. We all had a good time and

Military personnel and their families show a lot of interest in the Oklahoma Co. *REACT* booth



provided a variety of safety information to those that serve in the defense of our country.

-Dale Ellis

## Seacoast (Calif.) *REACT*

**A**fter over thirty years of service, Seacoast *REACT*'s communications trailer was decommissioned recently. A cracked frame, water damage and normal wear-and-tear caused the Team to make the difficult decision to discard the trusty trailer. The costs of repairs made it impossible for the team to continue using the mobile command post.

The trailer was used as a command post, lost-and-found and a base of operations for events and emergency responses over a span of 32 years. The trailer contained CB, GMRS and amateur radios as well as a thirty-foot mast for the mounting of a super big stick antenna for CB and antennas for the other radio services.

## Candidates

*Continued from Page 4*

I joined Seacoast *REACT* in Oceanside, Calif., in 1986, a few months after graduating high school. I was a member until 2000 when I moved to New Mexico and chartered the Rio Grande Valley Team in Albuquerque. After two and a half years, I returned to my native California and rejoined Seacoast, although I do still hold membership in Rio Grande Valley.

I have served in many different positions during my eighteen years of membership in *REACT*. The positions I have held are team Training Officer (1992), Vice-President (1994-95), President (Seacoast, 1996-98; RGV, 2001); Southern California *REACT* Council President (2003). I am currently Region 8 Director, having been appointed to finish the term when Bob Leef resigned last year.

I believe in *REACT* and what it stands for. If *REACT* is to survive, we must evolve with the times. If we don't evolve, we get left behind. I will do my best to make sure that doesn't happen.

## Spread Spectrum

*Continued from page 7*

given time. Multi-channel "trunking" systems automatically switch "Call-groups" around to keep interference down, but we still get the "buzz" (busy) tone from time to time.

Spread spectrum systems can (theoretically) accommodate as many users as there are codes, but in practice, the limit to the number of simultaneous users is less than that. "Smart" spread spectrum systems are proposed that monitor channel loading and nearby frequencies, actually tun-

ing their center frequency enough to clear the way for other users.

All of this complex RF magic is dependent upon precise timing and coordination between the radios that are and those that are not supposed to talk together. There have been many instances where even relatively simple trunking systems' computer controllers have failed and lost track of call-groups. Unless each individual radio "fail-safes" to a simple or "talk-around" mode, that nice HT, mobile or base becomes an expensive dash ornament or paperweight! Spread spectrum systems are even less fault-tolerant.

Backup radio systems that utilize simple radio techniques and experienced operators like those in Amateur Radio or other services are very important as our served agencies rely more on new, complex, secure, but often fragile modes.

I hope this short note on spread spectrum has helped in some way. There are plenty of places on the web that will cover the subject in as boring detail as you wish. If you do an Internet search on spread spectrum, you might also include Hedy Lamar in the search box. There is some great history on a great American inventor!

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## Silent Mics

### **Patricia Pelo, Bayshore REACT**

March 2004 saw the passing of **Patricia Pelo** of Bayshore *REACT*, Cliffwood Beach, NJ. Pat's death came as a result of cancer and heart failure. Pat was a long time *REACT* member who served her Team as president for several years and as an officer of Garden State Council of *REACT* Teams for a few years. Pat's Team, Bayshore *REACT* was very active in many public service activities in the New Jersey and New York area.

Under Pat's leadership, Bayshore *REACT* was presented with the K-40 Team of the Year award for 1992. Bayshore *REACT* was also very active in the 1994 *REACT* International Convention held in Somerset, New Jersey. Patricia Pelo, Life Member #482, will be sincerely missed as a dedicated *REACT* member but especially as a very caring individual. Pat and some of her Team members served extensively with the Salvation Army during the 9/11 recovery efforts. Some of her favorite memories dealt with bringing smiles and happiness to children and people less fortunate. Thank you for touching the lives of so many people.

### **Kenneth Conner, Mountain REACT**

Although our Team is less than two years old, we are experiencing our first "silent mic." **Kenneth Conner** suffered a fatal heart attack on February 9, 2004. He was only 52 years old, but had suffered from cerebral palsy since birth, restricting him to a motorized wheelchair. During the 2003 wildfires, he monitored both GMRS and amateur frequencies, often 18 hours a day, and served as our link between the mountain and the flatlands. He will be sorely missed.

### **Other Silent Mics:**

Eugene McGinley, Lema *REACT*, Team C546    Carl Madison Westfall, Winchester *REACT*, Team 4751  
Mona Commodario, Lema *REACT*, Team C546    David Lawrence, Middle Tennessee *REACT*, Team 6079

# 100 PerCenters!

**The following Teams have renewed at least the same number of members as last year.**

3462 - Greater Anchorage (AK)  
3625 - Tobacco Valley (CT)  
6033 - Howard County (MD)  
2988 - Brazoria County (TX)  
C101 - Stephens County (TX)  
C256 - Jackson County Wolverine (MI)  
C125 - Centinela South Bay (CA)  
C199 - Pickaway County (OH)  
6080 - Muscatine County (IA)  
4714 - Whiteside County Emergency (IL)  
C250 - Champaign County (IL)  
6031 - Loudon/Monroe (TN)  
2871 - Shenandoah Valley (VA)  
2240 - Westchester County (NY)  
2651 - Rutherford County (NC)  
C490 - National Capital (VA)  
C324 - Muskingum County (OH)  
3791 - St. Cloud (MN)  
4736 - Lake County (SD)  
4270 - *REACT* Lake Simcoe (ON)  
2369 - Martin County *REACT* & Rescue (KY)  
C059 - *REACT* of Greater Long Beach (CA)  
4815 - Chicago Metro (IL)  
4534 - Apollo VII (IL)  
C085 - Metro (CA)  
6052 - Big River (ID)  
2627 - City *REACT* of Calgary (AB)  
4098 - Houston Metro Emergency (TX)  
C697 - Madison County (IN)  
C546 - LEMA (PA)  
C117 - Upshur County (WV)  
2785 - Abington (PA)  
4651 - Hamilton-Mercer (NJ)  
3330 - Lake County (IN)  
6024 - E.R.C. Monroe County (NY)  
4866 - Don Valley ON)  
4811 - Dresden (OH)  
C480 - Summit County (OH)  
6030 - Cullman County (AL)  
6043 - Rhode Island State (RI)  
3038 - Hawkeye (IA)  
4552 - Reli (NY)  
3425 - Mendocino Coast (CA)  
2609 - Bay Area (CA)  
6057 - Sheboygan County (WI)  
C320 - Superstition (AZ)  
C422 - Colorado West (CO)  
2632 - McDowell County (NC)  
C375 - Wabash Valley (IN)  
C158 - Louisville Metro (KY)  
C445 - Harrisburg Area (PA)  
4105 - Ossipee Valley (NH)  
C733 - Lincoln Railsplitter (IL)  
2947 - Unity (IL)  
4748 - Cedar-Loo (IA)  
4258 - Mount St. Helens (WA)  
C128 - La Habra (CA)  
2148 - Clinch Valley (VA)  
2125 - Great River (IL)  
3301 - Bay County (MI)  
3073 - Pawnee (NE)  
C102 - Northern Rhode Island (RI)  
2538 - Ramsey County (MN)  
4738 - Bergen-Passaic (NJ)  
3763 - Harrison County (KY)  
C232 - Garden State (NJ)  
4760 - St. Thomas (ON)  
3138 - Marion County (KY)  
6048 - Southeast Louisiana (LA)  
4813 - *REACT* Services Diversified (WI)  
3153 - Colleton County (SC)  
4656 - Charles County (MD)  
C075 - Santiago Communications (CA)  
2914 - Christmas City (IN)  
C261 - Circle City (IN)  
C602 - Bloomsburg Area (PA)  
C729 - Simi Valley (CA)  
6055 - Polk County (IA)  
4816 - Frostburg (MD)  
4650 - Annapolis-Arundel (MD)  
6061 - *REACT* Kaamulan (BU)  
C310 - Peoria-Pekin Metro (IL)  
C264 - Lansing (MI)  
4911 - Harlan County (KY)

## **Congratulations to All!**

**Additional listings will appear in future issues; this list complete as of March 31, 2004**

# Unquelched

by **Stuart M. DeLuca,**  
**Editor**

**F**lap, flap, flap! My goodness, what a lot of noise over the Great Insurance Crisis of 2004! The news that our insurance carrier for many years had decided not to renew our general liability policy came too late to be reported in the March-April *REACTer*. By the time the magazine reached your mailbox, RI's officers were already working overtime to find another carrier.

Meanwhile, the response of loyal *REACT* members was entirely predictable. The vast majority took the problem in stride, understanding that this was not the result of a conspiracy on the part of renegade Directors, that no one had made off with the insurance funds, that the responsible officers and Directors would do everything possible to solve the problem quickly and thoroughly.

Of course, not *everyone* responded that way. Some people (judging by their messages on the *REACT-L* e-mail list) went into denial. Others acted out their juvenile fantasies. A few proclaimed the impending End of *REACT* Forever.

This is an organization that promises to respond effectively and professionally to *real* disasters?

Now, I realize that, for many years, the stock answer to the question, "What does *REACT* do for me?" has been, "Well, there's the insurance..." I also realize that some Teams have relied on that insurance to meet their contractual obligations to community event sponsors or to the property owners where they meet or place their repeaters. So yes, the cancellation of the insurance was a nasty surprise.

But if that's *all* you think you get from RI, you're not paying attention. What you get from *REACT* is membership in a highly regarded community service and emergency response organization, whose volunteers are recognized throughout North America and other parts of the world for their discipline and professionalism. What you get is the opportunity to play with your radios and other gadgets in a way that provides a vital service to your community; that's the essential difference between *REACT* and a hobby. What you get, if you're very lucky, is the extraordinary reward of knowing that you've helped save another person's life or property, or that you've helped your neighbors survive in the midst of tragedy.

There is a club in my city for button collectors; it is said to have more than three *hundred* members. We have a hard time keeping our *REACT* Team at more than a couple of dozen people. So maybe I'm wrong; maybe the members of the button collectors' club get more out of that than our members get out of *REACT*. (As far as I know, the button collectors' club doesn't provide its members with insurance against needle pricks – but I could be wrong there, too.)

My point: Yes, the insurance is important, and the officers of RI are doing everything they can to get it back. But for heaven's sake, people, keep things in perspective!

## About Your Subscription

All Regular, Junior, and Affiliate members in the U.S. and Canada automatically receive a subscription to *The REACTer*; the subscription price is included in the annual RI dues.

If for any reason you do not wish to receive *The REACTer*, let us know. Send a note or e-mail to RI headquarters. However, your dues will not be reduced.

All Life Members also automatically receive a subscription to *The REACTer* but may discontinue their subscription if they wish.

Members outside of the U.S. and Canada may subscribe to *The REACTer* but the subscription fee (U.S.\$6) is not included in their dues. To subscribe, send your name, full address, and payment to RI headquarters.

Nonmembers may subscribe for \$7.50 per year.

Members may order an extra subscription for a family member at a different address, a friend, a local library, or anyone else, at the same rate as members' subscriptions: \$4 per year in the U.S., \$5 in Canada, or \$6 anywhere else.

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