



REACT International, Inc

The REACTer

Official Publication of REACT International, Inc.

Serving the public since 1962



2011 Boise Holiday Parade supported by
Valley Wide REACT Team 4956

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

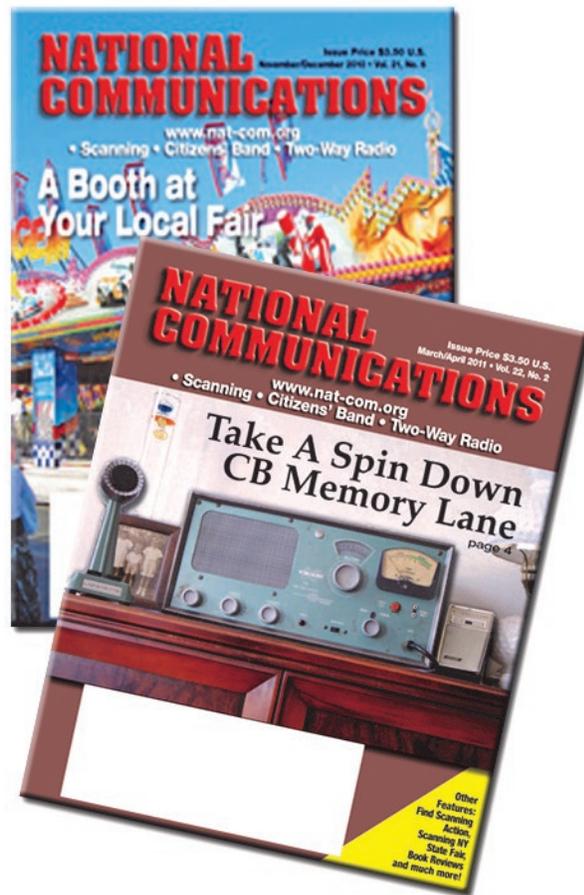
As a subscriber to **National Communications**, you will be able to:

- Access to over 4 million frequencies for your scanner
- Toll free "help line" for your programming questions
- Opportunity for FREE classified advertising
- Learn new and interesting ways to use your scanner, CB and FRS radios.
- Keep up with the "latest and greatest" happenings within the industry
- 40 colorful pages in each issue

To subscribe to **National Communications** call toll free (800) 423-1331, log onto our web site at www.nat-com.org or mail to:

P.O. Box 291918
Kettering, Ohio 45429

A full year's subscription (6 issues) is only \$21.



Every issue is packed with articles, interviews and stories of how to get more out of your scanning, monitoring, and CB radios.

There are product reviews and product announcements of interest to those of us who enjoy the hobby of using the radio waves. And of course, advertisers for making your equipment better!

We accept:



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



REACT International, Inc

The REACTer

Official Publication of REACT International, Inc.

Serving the public since 1962

President:

John Capodanno, KJ6QAJ
 (323) 451-2590
 J.Capodanno@REACTIntl.org

Executive Vice-President:

John Mahon, N1PYN
 (508) 584-2356
 J.Mahon@REACTIntl.org

Secretary:

Michael Castiglioni, KB1VWK
 (508) 294-3218
 M.Castiglioni@REACTIntl.org

Treasurer:

Vacant

Board of Directors**Chairman:**

Stan Walters, AB3EM

Vice-Chairman:

Ed Kerby, Jr.

Region 1:

Stan Walters, AB3EM
 (717) 235-7826
 S.Walters@REACTIntl.org

Region 2:

Norman Kaplan, N3LDM
 (301) 649-6389
 N.Kaplan@REACTIntl.org

Region 3:

Roy Drury, K4DCT
 (813) 377-4182
 R.Drury@REACTIntl.org

Region 4:

Ed Kerby, Jr.
 (419) 204-5705
 E.Kerby@REACTIntl.org

Region 5:

Larry Fry, K9FRY
 (608) 752-4547
 L.Fry@REACTIntl.org

Region 6:

Thomas Jenkins, N7VOI
 T.Jenkins@REACTIntl.org

Region 7:

Charlie Land, KC5NKK
 (210) 568-7092
 C.Land@REACTIntl.org

Region 8:

John Capodanno, KJ6QAJ
 (323) 451-2590
 J.Capodanno@REACTIntl.org

Region 9:

Kenny Jagdeosingh
 (868) 628-2886
 K.Jagdeosingh@REACTIntl.org

REACT International, Inc.

12114 Boydton Plank Rd
 Dinwiddie, Virginia 23841
 (866) 732-2899 Toll Free
 (301) 316-2900 Local
 (866) 740-0936 Fax
 RI.HQ@REACTIntl.org

MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS

When you become a member of REACT International, Inc., you receive several benefits, including:

- \$1 Million General Liability Insurance
- Access to The REACTer, a periodical for you the membership, by the membership
- Free Training
- Access to exclusive REACTer Merchandise

The Officers and Directors of REACT International, Inc. realize that in this current economic climate, the members are looking for a better value for their hard earned dollar. *Continued on page 11*

Editor's Note



Dawn Drury, KJ4OFT

I received a lot of great comments and suggestions regarding the last issue of *The REACTer*. I thank each and every one that took the time to send them to me. I will work on incorporating those into future issues.

Please let me know if you would like to see more of something, less of something or even something entirely different. Your suggestions are what gives us all a better *REACTer*.

The holidays snuck up on us. I hope that my fellow *REACTers* had a bountiful Thanksgiving and will be having a joyous Christmas and New Year.

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

Till the next issue,
Dawn

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

Your ideas are always welcome but we would prefer complete stories. Photographs are welcome and encouraged just remember to tell us who is in the pictures! Decisions as to when and whether to publish your idea or story; remain at the sole discretion of *REACT* International, Inc.

Paper submissions can be sent to:

Dawn Drury, Editor

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

contents

President's Article	5,6
Regional Directorships Up for Election	7,11
Central Oklahoma <i>REACT</i> works Art Festivals	9
Board of Directors Minutes	10
New Team's Chartered	11
Central OK <i>REACT</i> participates in Founder's Day	12
Membership Benefit Highlights	13,15
On the Way to a <i>REACT</i> Event	14
Mission Critical	16
Tropical Storm Lee	17
News from Headquarters	17
Remember CB Radio <i>REACT</i> Teams	18
How Mutual	19
Central OK <i>REACT</i> attends NWS Weather Festival	20
Savannah Band Festival	21
Valley Wide <i>REACT</i> supports Boise Holiday Parade	22
Region 1 <i>REACTs</i>	24



NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Welcome to the October – December 2011 issue of *The REACTer*. I wish all Teams and Members happy holidays and wish all the best for the upcoming New Year. Also, I would like to take a moment to recognize our men and women who are overseas in various military roles and hope that they will quickly and safely return home to their friends and families.

Convention Update

First, I would like to update all on the 2012 Fiftieth Anniversary convention. At the November 2011 Board of Directors meeting the Directors were notified by Las Vegas United **REACT** that they would not be able to continue with hosting the 2012 Convention. At this point, several alternatives are currently being explored and we hope to have an announcement after the January 2012 Board of Directors Meeting.

Membership Renewal

By now, all Teams should have received their 2012 Annual Renewal packets either by Email or by US Postal Service. This year, in an effort to save money and ultimately be able to reduce the dues that each Member pays, we instituted a new process in which your renewal packet was sent out via Email to the Team's Email address that is on file with **REACT** Headquarters. If you have not yet received your packet, please ensure that someone is checking the Email address that is on file with **REACT** Headquarters. If you need to update your Team Email address and have the packet resent, please contact Brenda in the office and she will be more than happy to assist you by updating your Team information and getting the renewal packet sent right out to you. Anyone needing assistance with the process this year can contact me personally and I will be more than happy to assist them with getting their renewals completed and submitted to the office promptly.

Team Records Update

It is very important this year that all Teams closely check their renewal paperwork and submit any needed changes to the records. We are working very diligently to update all the information stored at **REACT** Headquarters to ensure that all the proper information is correct. We also ask that Email addresses for each Member be submitted if they have one. It is important that **REACT** Headquarters has valid up-to-date Email addresses not only for your Team, but for each Member of your Team. We have taken several steps over the last couple of months to initiate new communications mediums to ensure that timely up-to-date information is sent as quickly and efficiently as possible with minimum cost to the organization.

Mail Lists

REACT International now has a multitude of mail lists available for use by the Membership in order to facilitate communication and information sharing amongst the Teams and its Members. Please check them out at <http://reactintl.net/mailman/listinfo>.

Remote Office Operation

After Hurricane Irene struck the Richmond area this year, we took several steps to ensure that the office is stable and available if a weather event similar to that one ever happened again. The **REACT** Headquarters is now using a donated state of the art Virtual System that allows the office to access its data no matter what the weather conditions. This enables us to run the office remotely even if there is no power, phones, or internet from a remote location and still provide needed services to the Membership.

Continued on page 6

Additionally we have just built and started using a Document Management Library to store all the Corporate Documents in one convenient place electronically. While this library will not be available for the Membership to use, it will create a way for the officers and Directors to store important corporate documents in one convenient place that is readily accessible to all.

New Membership Benefits

You will notice in a later article in this issue, that there are new Member benefits available to all Membership classes. These benefits are included in the dues you pay, but you must personally sign up for these benefits in order to take advantage of them. Check out <http://www.myreact.info/rewards> for more information.

Email Forwarding Service

An additional benefit being instituted on January 1 is Team and Member Email forwarding. This service, which will be run in a similar fashion to the ARRL forwarding service, will allow those interested to have a reactintl.net Email address that forwards to their personal addresses. For Teams this will be automatic, so if you didn't want to use your personal Email address on the website, a forwarder will be created such as TeamC001@reactintl.net and will be automatically forward to an Email address that the Team officers will provide. Members will be able to sign up for Email forwarding service via a convenient sign up form that will be available on <http://www.myreact.info> in the near future. We will be working toward a complete management interface for this service in early 2012 to allow registered users to update their own Email addresses on their forwarders so that it will be even easier to sign up and manage in the future.

REACT International Corporate Committees

The officers and Directors need your help on committees. Committees are the life blood of the organization and help to create and manage not only the day-to-day operations of the organization but also to assist in developing new ideas and programs for **REACT**. Many opportunities are available on Corporate Committees; please check them out at <http://www.reactintl.org/CorporateCommittees>. Contact EVP John Mahon at J.Mahon@REACTIntl.org to express your interest in any of the opportunities currently available.

2011 IRS Return for Organizations Exempt from Income Tax

With 2011 coming to a close, it will be time for all Teams to file their annual IRS returns (990-N "postcard" or 990 long form). In filing this year, if a Team has not had total revenue of more than \$50,000, it may file the 990-N Postcard. For 2010, the limit was \$25,000. All Teams and Councils in the US and US Territories are required annually to file either the 990 or 990-N. It is important that if you have not filed in the last two years that you file this year or your Team or Council will lose its non-profit status with the IRS. **REACT** International cannot file this for your Team or Council; it is up to your Team or Council officers to complete this important task by the May 15 deadline. For more information on filing your annual IRS return, please visit <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=1692500,00.html>.

Board of Directors Meetings

The Board of Directors has set its first 3 meetings for 2012, one of which is the Annual Meeting of the Board. Information on Board Meeting dates and times can be found by visiting the website at <http://www.reactintl.org>. The annual meeting will be held this year on March 23 and 24 at the Drury Inn in Morrow, Georgia. Morrow is a suburb of Atlanta and is located just south of the Atlanta International Airport. Any and all Teams and Members are welcome to attend this two-day meeting. There will be a special room rate available for attendees. Check the website for information on the room rate deal and how to reserve your room in advance of the meeting.

Your input is invaluable to the officers and the Board. Teams and Members are encouraged to contact their Directors if they have a concern that they wish addressed. Additionally, any Team or Member can address the Board directly at any meeting. It is asked if you wish to address the board that prior contact is made with your Director, the Board Chairman, or I so that you can be placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting and time allotted for your presentation.

Finally, in closing, my door is always open to personally discuss an issue or concern that a Team, Council, or Member may have. **REACT** is your organization so your voice must be heard in order to make **REACT** successful. I look forward to serving the Membership as its new President and working with all of you to make **REACT** a success.

REACTively,
John Capodanno
President & Region 8 Director
J.Capodanno@REACTIntl.org

REGIONAL DIRECTOR SEATS UP FOR ELECTION

By John Mahon, Executive Vice President

Hello, fellow *REACT*ers. It is again time to elect a Director to represent your region as a member of the *REACT* International Board of Directors. The Region 1, Region 4, and Region 7 Director seats are now up for election.

Are you happy with your Director's performance? Has (s)he been attentive to your Region's needs, working diligently to assist your Team's needs, or to resolve your concerns with the best interests of the program in mind?

Directors are responsible for the management of the property, business, and affairs of the corporation. The Directors may exercise all powers of the corporation as are not by law, or by the Articles of Incorporation, or by the *REACT* International Bylaws, "*directed or required to be executed by the Member Teams.*"

How many times have we heard some Directors state that they have nothing to do with the Teams? Teams in regions one, four and seven have the opportunity to remind their Directors who they should be serving by electing a new Director, if they so choose, to represent and work with you, the Member Teams, in their regions towards bringing the program into the 21st century.

You, the Member Teams in Regions 1, 4, and 7 have the power to bring nominees for the Director seat to replace that Director who you may feel may not have been there for your region, who you may never have heard from in those times you may have needed to.

The *REACT* International program should serve the Member Teams by providing the tools, training, and support to maintain a presence in the auxiliary communications industry, bridging the gap between the citizen based response teams with government organizations, and educating the general public in use of the multiple Citizens Radio Service during times of emergency and disasters. Is your Director working towards these and other goals that Member Teams expect of our Board of Directors?

REACT International Bylaws Section 5.3 *Nomination and Election of Directors* provides that (a) Candidates for Director may be nominated by Teams, Councils, or individuals (including the candidate). (b) Elections shall be conducted by *REACT* International by mail ballot of Teams, in accordance with rules and procedures established by the Board of Directors. (Subparagraph (c) pertains to election of "Outside Directors.")

Nominations must be received by March 15, 2012. The ballots will go out to the Teams in April for the election of your Director who will be seated in July.

Directors and officers serve in a fiduciary capacity because they hold the assets of their organization in trust. While some volunteers treat these responsibilities lightly, a lapse in responsible behavior can bring serious charges and possibly personal liability. Thus, Directors and Officers should take special precaution to three basic areas of fiduciary responsibility.

Duty of Care and Diligence

A Director or officer must exercise a duty of care and diligence and to give informed and prudent attention to all affairs.

Directors therefore have a duty to be informed, which requires Directors to attend most if not all meetings and to be informed of decisions made at meetings that they were unable to attend. Directors should also review the financial and non-financial results and operations of the organization on a regular and ongoing basis.

Continued on page 11

NOTE FROM YOUR EVP



Although our committees are a work in progress, we really have a genuine need for the committee members. Yes, this means you! There are a considerable amount of members complaining of things that need to be changed, but do not offer a solution to effect the changes we need to make. Those of you who feel strongly about changes that are needed, should be emailing the committee, or myself at j.mahon@REACTIntl.org to help bring some of these changes to light.

We currently need many team members for the following:

Three to five team members for the Awards.Recognition@REACTIntl.org to acknowledge team member achievements by establishing and maintaining a well known, proactive, internal publicized program.

Eight to ten team members for the field.operations@REACTIntl.org formulating strategies and training material recommending new initiatives regarding all facets of *REACT* Field Operations, including Communications, Interoperability and member response to requests for Assistance.

The Infrastructure & Technology Committee IITC@REACTIntl.org has many functions, and as well as they are handling these tasks, they could use three more sets of IT skilled hands to help with the many projects we have planned.

The Membership.Development@REACTIntl.org Committee, chairperson, Jerry Jones of Dallas County *REACT* Team C622 in Texas, develops and maintains recruitment programs attracting new members to the *REACT* Auxiliary Communications program. The committee could use assistance as they relate to standards of the regular, junior, affiliate and life memberships.

The role of the Planning@REACTIntl.org Committee is to look for five members to assist the Board of Directors and the organization to think strategically in planning for the future of the program. They will be formulating strategies and recommending new initiatives to advance the growth and development of the program.

The Public.Relations@REACTIntl.org Committee could use five team members to assist the Board of Directors and the organization with innovative approaches in formulating strategies and recommending new initiatives, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, to publicize the program through strategic marketing and advertising techniques, to include the *REACT* Mission, objectives, membership growth, training, capabilities and field operations.

The Publications.review@REACTIntl.org Committee chairperson, Dawn Drury of Tampa Bay *REACT* Team 6127 in Florida needs help with publishing the *REACT*er magazine, and also assist in drafting Bylaws, Policy and Procedure changes as approved and recommended by the Board of Directors. Members should be well versed in proofing documents.

As we roll into the holiday season, I am thankful to each and every member of all five United States Military Branches; past, present and future members, and their families, for the basic liberties that others take for granted. Thank you very much!

In exercising my first amendment right, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanza, Nollaig Shona dhuit, Joyeux Noel, Boas Festas, Feliz Navidad and a very Merry Christmas.

OUR TEAMS & MEMBERS IN ACTION

Central Oklahoma REACT 6023 Works Arts Festival

Keith Sossamon
Treasurer/PIO/Recruiter
Central Oklahoma REACT Team 6023

Every year over Labor Day weekend, the Oklahoma City Community College, in South Oklahoma City, hosts an Arts Festival. It is held all three days of the holiday weekend. This is an event that members of the Central Oklahoma REACT Team 6023 work each year. This year was no different. With the help of three golf carts, several members of the Central Oklahoma REACT team were able to assist the college with shuttling patrons from their vehicles to the Arts Festival and then back to their vehicles again.

Not only were team members instrumental in transporting patrons, they also assisted college security in perimeter/crowd control, and traffic control. One evening, the college put on a fireworks show and the COR Team 6023 was tasked with making sure the fireworks hot-zone perimeter was free of vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The team took the responsibility very serious, due to the fact that someone's life or property could be in danger if they crossed into the perimeter. Fireworks are unpredictable.

Although many people did not understand why they could not cross the perimeter during the day time, they did not realize that even during set-up of the fireworks to prepare for the show, there is always a chance something could mis-fire. The Festival was a total success and thousands of people attended.

A special thanks to the following Central Oklahoma REACT Team 6023 members for tirelessly working during these three days of the Festival; Mike Weiss, David Spaulding, Gabrielle Spaulding, Keith Sossamon, Brett Conner, Brandon Morgan, and Tanner Owen. Central Oklahoma REACT President Chris Toner also worked at the Arts Festival; however, he did not work as a REACT member. He worked as overnight security for the college.



David Spaulding and his daughter, Gabrielle Spaulding



Keith Sossamon



REACT member Mike Weiss

REACT International Board Minutes

Date: Sunday, August 14, 2011

Time: 9PM EST

Meeting Type: Teleconference (**Digitally Recorded**) **Length:** 6 Pages (**Including Cover Sheet**)

Called by: Board of Directors Vote

Minutes Recorded by: Michael S. Castiglioni, Secretary, REACT International Inc.

Meeting reconvened at 9:02pm EST

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS:

Present: Regions 1,2,3,4,5,8,

Officers: President, Secretary, Asst. Sec, Asst. Treasurer Jennings

No Guest Present at the beginning of the meeting.

Date: Sunday, August 28, 2011

Time: 9PM EST

Meeting Type: Teleconference (**Digitally Recorded**) **Length:** 3 Pages (**Including Cover Sheet**)

Called by: Board of Directors Vote

Minutes Recorded by: Michael Cauley, Assistant Secretary, REACT International Inc.

REACT International Inc.

Dues Increase and Reduction Program 2011

Introduction

As membership has continued to decline and revenue fall, the Board of Directors has undertaken to reduce expenses while trying to deliver enough benefit to keep the teams we have. Despite trying to make Family and Additional Family membership more attractive, membership has declined since 1999 at an annual average of 7% to 8% per year. Between 2010 and 2011 that decrease was a precipitous 15%.

REACT International, Inc.
Meeting of Board of Directors
September 11, 2011
Electronic/Teleconference

REACT International, Inc.
Meeting of Board of Directors
October 9, 2011 9:06PM EST
Electronic/Teleconference

http://www.myreact.info/Board_Minutes



NEW TEAMS CHARTERED & RETURNING

New Teams

Team No	Team Name	Chartered	Region	Website
6183	Mutual Aid REACT & Surveillance	1/10/2011	4	
6184	Tri-County React South Roxana	2/8/2011	5	
6185	Montgomery County REACT	4/22/2011	1	montcoreact.yolasite.com
6188	New York City REACT Search & Rescue	8/17/2011	1	NYCREACTSAR.ORG
6189	County Line REACT	9/16/2011	3	
6190	Hancock County REACT	10/13/2011	2	sites.google.com/site/hancockcountyreact
6191	North Okaloosa REACT	10/18/2011	3	www.okaloosaREACT.org

Returning

Team No	Team Name	Chartered	Region	Website
6101	Flag City REACT	10/16/2004	4	sites.google.com/site/fcr6101/
6085	REACT UK	9/26/2003	9	www.reactuk.btck.co.uk/

REGIONAL DIRECTOR SEATS UP FOR ELECTION

Continued from page 7

Directors and Officers should beware of the following: mismanaging or wasting corporate financial assets; negligent maintenance of corporate property; the following: mismanaging or wasting corporate financial assets; negligent maintenance of corporate property; negligent supervision of charitable services; publication of slanderous or libelous statements; failure to withhold or collect or remit taxes; wrongful treatment of employees; defaulting on commercial contracts; improperly distributing corporate assets upon dissolution; making improper loans to corporate Directors or officers; and failure to exercise responsible financial management.

The Duty of Loyalty

This requires honesty, good faith, fairness, and avoidance of conflicts of interest (described in detail in Question Four above).

The Duty of Obedience

Directors and officers comply with a duty of obedience to the organization's purposes, bylaws, and other official policies. Thankfully most of these items may be considered a matter of common sense.

Every charitable organization must allow members of the public to inspect its 1023 application, the supporting documents, and any letter or document issued by the IRS in connection with the 1023 application. In addition, the public must be able to inspect the organization's annual IRS Form 990 returns for the last three years. If someone requests a copy by mail, you must provide a copy of the requested documents by return mail but may charge a small fee for your copying and mailing expenses.

Any Director being considered for a seat on the Board of Directors should be prepared to perform the duties and see that this any all other matters of the corporation are responsibly fulfilled.

Piedmont, OK Founder's Day Celebration

Keith Sossamon
Treasurer/PIO/Recruiter
Central OK REACT Team 6023

For the very first time, Central Oklahoma REACT Team 6023 members participated in and assisted at the Piedmont, Oklahoma Founder's Day Parade/Celebration. Members manned the First Aid tent, assisted with traffic control and crowd control during the parade, and two REACT members, Mike Weiss and Keith Sossamon, entered their REACT vehicles in the parade. After the parade, COR members that were medically trained continued to man the First Aid tent while the other COR members mingled in the crowd, watching for any signs of injury or illness. It was a great day with no medical problems. Central Oklahoma REACT members that were involved were, Mike Weiss, David Spaulding, Brandon Morgan, Brett Conner, Daak Love, Keith Sossamon, and Chris Hadley. The town of Piedmont is a very special place for members of the Central Oklahoma REACT team. This past May, a tornado destroyed several neighborhoods in the Piedmont area. Several COR members were involved in an intense search and rescue mission to find a little boy that was missing after the tornado hit his family's home. With the help of search and rescue dog teams, volunteer emergency responders and many Central Oklahoma REACT team members, the little boy was found. Unfortunately, he did not survive. It was indeed a sad day for his family, the town of Piedmont, and a sad day for REACT members and all the other emergency responders that were part of the search. For the next few days, COR members assisted with the delivery of various supplies, clean up, and some traffic/crowd control throughout the tornado damage path. The Central Oklahoma REACT team was happy to assist with the search and rescue in May, and honored to be able to assist the town of Piedmont in their annual Founder's Day celebration. The COR team has been invited back to assist with future events.



REACT members Chris Hadley (left) and David Spaulding



Mike Weiss



Mike Weiss (left) and David Spaulding

MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS

REACT International is pleased to announce expanded membership benefits available to all classes of members. These expanded benefits that we are calling Membership Rewards include discounts on car rentals, travel, hotels, dining and many other items that you, the member, may use in your daily activities, whether or not you use them for REACT Activities. REACT has partnered with some of the largest providers to bring you the best value for your membership dollars. Our partners include:

- Alamo
- Corporate Perks
- Hertz
- Tickets at Work
- Working Advantage
- and many others

Check MyREACT.info for more information on new programs as they become available.

[Alamo Car Rental Discount Program](#)

REACT International is pleased to offer discounts on car rentals from Alamo. This discount program provides the following benefits:

- Up to 10% off your Car Rental
- Unlimited Mileage
- A wide selection of vehicles including luxury cars, SUV's and minivans

To take advantage of these benefits, contact your travel agent or call 1-800-354-2322. Be sure to request Rate Code BY and Assoc. ID 706768 whenever you have a car rental need. Or click on the below link:

<http://www.alamo.com/index.do?action=/resRentalInfo.do&rateCode=BY&contractId=706768>

[Corporate Perks](#)

As a member of REACT International, Inc., you have access to an employee benefit: REACT International, Inc. Perks.

Many of your colleagues already take advantage of member pricing on thousands of your favorite brands. This program offers savings at over 28,000 merchants and includes exclusive access to thousands of offers and discounts from top name retailer.

[ACTIVATE YOUR ACCOUNT](#)

How to get started:

1. Click on ACTIVATE YOUR ACCOUNT above
2. Register with any email address and use the Company Code of **reactintl99**
3. Start saving at <http://reactintl.corporateperks.com>

[Hertz Car Rental Discount](#)

REACT International, Inc. members can save up to 10% off your car rental with Hertz. Your discount CDP#1926434 is the key!

Wherever your travel takes you, close to home or around the world, your REACT Discount Code: CDP#1926434

[REACT Discount Wallet Card](#) is the key to special savings. Be sure to include it in all of your reservations. [Click here](#) for the lowest rates, special offers and information about Hertz locations, vehicles and services or call Hertz at 1-800-654-2210.

Continues on page 15

THIS ONE TIME ON THE WAY TO A *REACT* EVENT.....

Keith Sossamon
Treasurer/PIO/Recruiter
Central OK REACT Team 6023

At around 7:15 am on September 17, 2011, I was east bound on I-240 in SW Oklahoma City, en-route to a REACT event in Midwest City. While travelling east-bound on I-240, near Anderson Rd, I noticed a pick-up truck on the westbound side with his emergency flashers on. It was strange because the truck was in the left-hand lane and was moving. As I looked closer, I could see a donkey running down the middle of the center median. The driver of the truck was trying to keep the donkey from getting on to the interstate.

I contacted my incident commander by two-way radio and advised him of the situation and he authorized me to continue on and assist in catching the donkey. I took the Anderson Rd exit and got back on I-240 west-bound. As I gained on the truck, he was in the right-hand lane and the donkey was running on the right shoulder. I immediately turned on all my emergency lights and contacted the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

After speaking with the dispatcher, I took the lead and continued to drive in the right-hand lane on I-240 with my emergency lights on, with the donkey running beside my truck. If I had been in my passenger seat, I could have easily stuck my arm out the window and touched the donkey...that's how close I was.

Three other vehicles, including me, continued west-bound on I-240, going from the left lane to the right lane, attempting everything we could to get the donkey stopped and to keep him off the interstate. At one time, I had to block both lanes of westbound I-240 because the donkey darted across the interstate. Once I finally got him back to the right side of the interstate, we were coming up on the Douglas Blvd. exit. There was a railing right before the bridge, so I figured if I could get the donkey to stay on the other side of the railing, he could not get back on the interstate. It worked.

He started down the embankment of the interstate and I followed him in my truck. The driver behind me followed as well, but he was further down the embankment from me. We finally got the donkey to stop running, but when the driver of the other truck grabbed his rope, the

donkey took off again. He stopped at a stop sign and another motorist stopped to assist, but the motorist could not hold onto him, so he took off once again. This time he went northbound on Douglas Blvd from Interstate 240.

So, myself and three other vehicles continued to follow. Behind us were a line of about 10 other vehicles, watching us. We would not let anyone pass. I was stopping all north bound and south bound traffic as we continued north. I finally decided to go ahead of the donkey and try to get the donkey to come to me. I pulled off the side of the road, got out and was able to get the donkey to come to me. Once he came to me, I put one arm around his waist and one around his neck. It was ok until I got him spooked. He took off with me holding on. I refused to release him, so I yelled for the pick-up driver to bring a rope...as the donkey was dragging me down Douglas Blvd.

The driver brought a rope, tied it around his neck and I called animal control. I assumed the donkey belonged to the other driver, but found out it wasn't his and that he was just trying to help get it off the interstate. As we moved the animal to the side of the road, we tied him to a fence, I released all the traffic and moved our vehicles off the road. I left the donkey in the care of the other driver and headed to my original REACT event. I turned off my emergency lights and cleared off at 7:50 am.



MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS

http://link.hertz.com/link.html?id=25978&LinkType=HZLK&TargetType=Offers_overview

Tickets at Work

REACT International, Inc. is pleased to announce our new partnership with TicketsAtWork.com. Now you'll have access to exclusive savings on movie tickets, theme parks, hotels, tours, Broadway and Las Vegas shows and more. Be sure to visit often as new products and discounts are constantly being added!

Company Code: REACT

Order online through TicketsAtWork.com and create an account using the company code listed above to access all the latest savings. Prefer to speak to someone? Call (800) 331-6483 to speak with our knowledgeable customer service representatives.

[Sign Up Now](#)

<http://www.ticketsatwork.com/tickets/?company=REACT>

Working Advantage

Working Advantage is the premier savings portal for more than 8,500 companies and organizations and their ten million employees and members nationwide. Founded in 1995 as Corporate Movie Club and originally offering a focused program of movie theatre and movie rental discounts, we rebranded in 2001 as Working Advantage to better reflect an expanded variety of entertainment and shopping discounts.

Their expansive portfolio of offers includes discounts for:

- Amusement Park Tickets
- Broadway Theatre
- Movie Tickets
- Ski Tickets
- Sporting Events
- Family Events
- Recreational Activities
- Hotels
- Zoos and Aquariums
- Museums
- Merchant Gift Certificates
- Online Shopping and Service Discounts with Select Partners

MEMBER REGISTRATION: Registration is fast, free and easy. Click on the link below to register for Working Advantage, use your Member ID Number to register now to receive all the benefits and rewards of Working Advantage! Register online and receive 100 Advantage Points!

REACT International, Inc. Member ID: 335951548 (You will need this when you register for your account)

Register for your account online at <http://www.workingadvantage.com> click on Register at the top of the page.

If you have any trouble registering, please call the Working Advantage Customer Service Number at (800) 565-3712. It is important that you call this number if you have any problems registering or when taking advantage of any of the offers presented. Please do not call the REACT Headquarters for assistance as the office has no control over this added member benefit.

Sprint to Offer Wireless Emergency Alerts (11/15/11)

Sprint officials said the carrier will be the first U.S. service provider to offer wireless emergency alerts on its mobile network. Wireless emergency alerts allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to accept and deliver warning messages to wireless networks from the president of the United States, the National Weather Service, and state and local emergency operations centers. Sprint customers can effectively and accurately receive warnings and safety information via text alerts to mobile phones that are equipped with the enabling software and based on geographic location....[more](#)

House Subcommittee Considers FCC Reform Bill (11/16/11)

The House communications and technology subcommittee plans to vote Wednesday on two bills to reform the FCC. Rep. Greg Walden, chairman of the committee, introduced the bills that he said, “will improve the way the FCC operates by increasing transparency, predictability and consistency.”[more](#)

Southern Illinois Consortium Begins Transition to i3 9-1-1 Network (11/14/11)

Solacom Technologies began deploying to the Counties of Southern Illinois (CSI) one of the nation’s first next-generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1) networks to incorporate key functional elements as defined by the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) i3 specifications. The technology will bring next-generation call-taking to public-safety answering points (PSAPs) in the 15 counties that comprise CSI and lay the groundwork for further NG 9-1-1 capabilities as standards are finalized by NENA and implemented by the industry....[more](#)

FCC Examines Aerial Solutions for Disasters

The ability to fly mini cell sites or repeaters over areas impacted by catastrophic events could improve communications for first responders and potentially save lives, but questions about technical capabilities, interference and access rights must be answered before such a system takes flight. The FCC is exploring the idea of a deployable aerial communications architecture (DACA), similar to systems already used by the military in battle zones, to provide communications coverage in situations where natural or manmade disasters damage or destroy existing terrestrial infrastructure. After issuing a public notice seeking comment on the potential for DACA earlier this year and receiving input from about 20 parties, the FCC held a workshop last month to further explore the issue with vendors and representatives from public-safety agencies, the military and the commercial wireless industry....[more](#)

Trends in Radio Design

A recent “WORLD NEWS” article began a discussion about why two-way radio size differs so drastically from cell-phone form factors. The article detailed a list of differences between the devices and how those differences affected form factors. There is a natural tendency to compare two-way radios to cell phones because of how prevalent cell phones have become to the public globally. The following highlights the differences to help users appreciate the use, utility and design of two-way radios. This article discusses specifics about how each device is used and how that affects the sizes of the devices, along with a look toward the future of two-way radio designs....[more](#)

An Unsung Hero During Tuscaloosa Tornadoes

Michael Mello is the communications systems engineer for the city of Tuscaloosa, Ala. He has 23 years of experience and acquires and manages the city’s wireless and landline communications, and oversees a staff of eight technicians. The city operates a VHF conventional Project 25 (P25) network. On April 27, a tornado reported to be 1 mile wide, moved through Tuscaloosa from the southwest, taking 32 lives and injuring 600....[more](#)

TROPICAL STORM LEE

Gary Randall
Federal City REACT
Information Officer and Media Relations
Washington, DC

There was a certain quiet all over the city.

The streets were vacant of traffic jammed at the stop lights.

The sidewalks were not busy with kids in the playgrounds.

News and radio broadcasts repeatedly warned of a fast approaching storm from the south and that it would move directly over the Washington area.

This time, the Washington/Baltimore area was ready and prepared for whatever came. Shelters were put in place and manned by the Red Cross, CERT and other city agencies. In advance of the rapidly approaching rainfall, the city began to move fast to assist the citizens. Sandbags were given to those residents who were in areas that could suffer standing water. Many street gutters were swept to make sure they could handle fast moving water. As tropical storm Lee was moving ever closer to the area, the District's EOC was in full gear.

Federal City REACT has an assignment desk at the city's EOC and monitored the 675 machine and the GERC email network. Our CERT teams were in place and RED CROSS was also sitting next to each other exchanging information with each other. Federal City REACT had a couple of mobile safety units on the street relaying reports back to the desk at the EOC on any immediate dangers that needed to be reported to the appropriate agency. Once on line on the GERC network, we received reports from city's below Washington which already felt the rain and the wind of Lee. Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts teams were also on line monitoring the messages coming from the south. Tropical Storm Lee gave the DC area up to seven inches of rain in less than 6 hours!

According to reports from our mobile safety units, trees were down everywhere with water flowing thru neighborhoods as if it were a small river. That was the power of Lee going thru the District with wind speeds up to 60 miles per hour and heading north.

Parts of Prince Georges County and Ann Arrundel County in Maryland received up to twenty-five inches of rain in less than eight hours and suffered the most with trees down and streets

impassable due to the water and trees blocking the roads. During and after the storm, Southern and Eastern Maryland suffered power outages for days due to the damages suffered at power lines thru the trees. In less than three weeks, the city was back to 95% normal service with Maryland obtaining assistance from power crews from other cities to return residents back to normal.

REACT HEADQUARTERS

Happy Holidays to all our REACT members and Teams. It has been a pleasure working and talking with so many of you this last year. I look forward to a wonderful and successful year for REACT. The renewal paperwork has gone out to our teams either by their team email address or by the United States Postal Service. If your team has not received the paperwork please contact the office immediately so it can be sent to be sent to you. When filling out the forms, take the time to completely review the paperwork, make any changes especially to addresses, phone numbers and also add email addresses for your Team and its Members. The more email addresses that we have on file, the better REACT is able to communicate quickly and efficiently to the Teams and its Members.

Throughout the year as members drop or addresses change, forward those to the office, I will be more than happy to make those changes.

During the year when your teams are out their providing a service, send the office stories and pictures of your events. We would love to see and hear from you. Putting your information into The REACTer will allow other teams to see what is going on out there. Here at the office some of the teams have already sent me patches for their team. I would like to put together a collage of these to hang in the office. To those Teams that have already sent me patches, I greatly appreciate them.

If you have any questions or concerns with your renewals, please contact the office at (301) 316-2900 or email RI.HQ@REACTIntl.org.

Brenda

REMEMBER CB RADIO REACT TEAMS?

Maynard Hawkins – WF5TX

Reviving Citizens Band Radio in Wichita Falls?

Have you heard of *REACT*? It stands for Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams. Number one on their list of objectives, according to their website is “To assist in any emergency by furnishing radio communications in cooperation with authorities and other volunteer organizations.” I believe there was a *REACT* team in or around Wichita Falls in the 1970's to 1990's. I found online references to a Texoma *REACT* going back to 1976.

These days, *REACT* groups employ not only CB radios, but also GMRS and Amateur Radio. A regular check of the individual *REACT* team websites shows either a decline in interest and activity, or a decline in interest in keeping their websites updated. Not being in the individual cities, I can only judge the various local clubs by their websites. Many are “static” while some have been “Under Construction” for years. The national website, on the other hand, is always fresh and up-to-date. They also have a great newsletter in .PDF format – although I wish they would format it better for online reading.

The main problem with *REACT*, in my opinion, is my sense that they, like many Amateur Radio clubs, are pre-occupied with the wrong type of public service. There is much talk about providing communications at parades and marathons and bike rides and the like. There's also a lot of talk about providing emergency communications in aid of city and county agencies during disasters and other times of distress. I don't hear any talk about providing any type of service that can be performed on a daily basis that will keep CB Radio on the minds of the public in a positive way.

Looking over a 2007 issue of their newsletter, I found a short article talking about how *REACT* has drifted from their original primary mission of monitoring CB Radio channel 9 for emergency calls for help. This activity, the article says, put *REACT* in “direct contact with the public on a daily basis”. The group experienced no trouble recruiting and retaining members during this period. Now they are no longer in the public eye.

The article goes on to suggest that the organization return to its roots and start monitoring channel 9 again, and also start conducting weekly nets that the public might hear. This would help generate interest and partici-

pation, the article says.

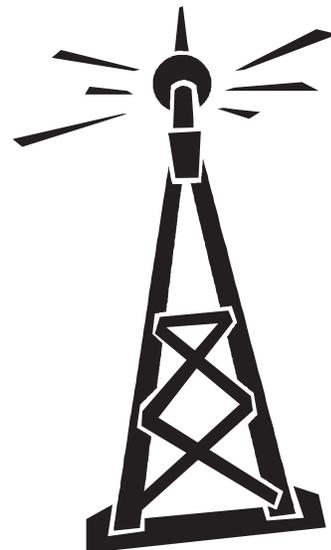
Back in “CB Radio days”, *REACT* teams would monitor Channel 9 and provide “assistance” to traveling motorists. I remember giving a shout on Channel 9 back in 1975 as I was crossing the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge. I was looking for directions to the Presidio Army Post. I got an answer, and directions, right away!

I also remember, during the same time and earlier, that CB Radio clubs would set up “Coffee Breaks” at highway rest stops and invited weary motorists to stop in for a cup.

Activity like this keeps CB Radio, and even Amateur Radio, on the minds of the public from day to day. The fact that a group of radio operators put on an orange vest and passed radio traffic at a parade will be lost to memory in less than a day. Sure, you helped the parade participants, but that's not a large enough group of “memories” to keep CB Radio alive.

Are there enough CB Radio enthusiasts in Wichita Falls to get a team going? I wouldn't mind starting a team myself, but I wouldn't want to get into the “emergency/marathon/parade communications aspect. I would be more interested in “information communications”, keeping the public informed. For some reason, I don't think the national *REACT* people would approve of such a strange mission.

www.maynardhawkins.com/2011/04/remember-cb-radio-react-teams/



HOW MUTUAL?

Ron McCracken

How 'mutual' really is your Team's mutual aid?

Is it just a piece of paper, or is it a *working* agreement? Does your Team *regularly* support a neighbouring Team under its mutual aid agreement? If mutual aid is to work in a full-scale emergency or disaster, that is what needs to happen.

Mutual aid agreements on paper are of little value. They must be *exercised* regularly to root out 'bugs', to let your REACTers become comfortable with their colleagues on another Team. A disaster scene is not the place to test your mutual aid agreement.

Steve Souder, Director of Emergency Management, Fairfax County, VA made these and other worthwhile points recently at a public safety seminar in Hamilton, Ontario.

Air Florida Flight 90, the disaster in which REACTer **Evie White** earned REACT the coveted President's Volunteer Action award, taught Souder priceless lessons about mutual aid.

Then Director of Emergency Management, Arlington County, VA, Souder was unable to get emergency equipment to the disaster scene. Routes were plugged with rush hour traffic in the blinding blizzard that had brought down Flight 90.

Souder learned from that failure and applied the lessons immediately. Thus, on 9-11, he was ready when a plane nearly struck his office en route to the nearby Pentagon. Emergency services from the six (6) counties that surround DC responded promptly and effectively to that disaster. They did so that day because that is how they respond *every* day.

Emergency personnel from the *closest* station respond to a call, *regardless* of county lines. Emergency resources converge at assembly points and await instructions rather than descend randomly on a dangerous, congested disaster scene. All radios are now inter-operable. Each vehicle now has a unique number to avoid confusion.

REACT Teams can apply these same lessons to safeguard volunteers and best aid partner agencies.

- Use plain language. No codes, etc.
- Ensure radios are inter-operable.
- Maintain a cache of radios in a 'go kit' complete with ample fresh batteries.
- Assign unique unit numbers to avoid confusion.
- Assemble a safe distance from the scene and get instructions.

Lives were lost on 9-11 in NYC because some failed to apply these precautions. If it can happen to professionals, it can happen to REACTers.

Exercise your mutual aid agreement each time your Team has an event where it is practical. Get used to working together. De-brief after each event to learn and to update mutual aid practices for greater safety.



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA *REACT* MEMBERS ATTEND NWS WEATHER FESTIVAL

On Saturday, October 29th, 6 members of the Central Oklahoma *REACT* Team 6023, attended the annual National Weather Service Weather Festival, in Norman, Oklahoma and participated in the Storm Chaser/Spotter car show. COR members Mike Weiss, Brett Conner, David Spaulding, Mike Furrer, Brandon Morgan, and Keith Sossamon all entered the car show to display their Storm Chase/Spotter vehicles and to talk to the public about *REACT* and tornado safety. In an excerpt below, Yahoo News interviewed COR 6023 member and Storm Chaser/Spotter Mike Weiss, who has been chasing storms for 19 years, “before it was cool.”

PUBLIC SERVICE

Mike doesn't take video or photos to sell; he does it simply as a public service with **Central Oklahoma *REACT* Team 6023**. As a Storm Spotter, he reports what he sees to the National Weather Service and other government/local agencies. “If there's a misconception about Storm Chasers,” Weiss said, “it's that Storm Chasers are all thrill-seeking daredevils. If you don't know what you're doing, he added, it's a good hobby in which you can get yourself killed” he added, without a grin.



In this photo, COR 6023 member's vehicles from Left to Right; David Spaulding, Keith Sossamon, Mike Weiss, Brett Conner (photo by: David Spaulding)

SAVANNA BAND FESTIVAL

November 19th was one of our largest events of the year. With only six *REACT* members and eleven CREST volunteers the CREST team assisted the Savanna Band Festival in Anaheim, CA park (position) 102 school busses full of band students along with support vehicles for 35 bands.

Starting at 0600, members ensured the parking lot to La Palma Park was clear of overnight or early morning cars parked in order to leave enough room for the busses. The adjacent one-block long access street to the parking lot was barricaded at both ends by permit and a one-way traffic pattern was established.

This not-so-large parking lot is mostly filled all day with incoming school busses and outgoing busses. We have to plan the parking in order that the busses that wish to leave before the award ceremonies at 2200 can leave without getting blocked by other busses desiring to stay the entire day.

Room also has to be considered for the bands to setup in the parking lot to practice their routines prior to competing. Of course this takes up a tremendous amount of precious real estate in the lot. Often unauthorized EZ-Ups are setup for feeding or setting up makeshift dressing rooms for the students. This year there were almost 4500 students from the 35 bands competing. There were two medical incidents; one involving a student that fainted in the parking lot after competing in the stadium and another who had a knee joint alignment issue and both were released to their parents.

One *REACT* member set up a hot cocoa and hot cider stand for, us monitoring it from the wee hours of the morning until the late hours of the event. Rain was always on our mind and threatening. Rain cancelled the event last year due to the soggy condition of the stadium grass. Marching on it would have absolutely ruined the grass.

Two years ago UCLA arrived and gave a performance. This year they were trying to attend but the timing was too close from a performance in the Rose Bowl for them to do it. Maybe next year.

CREST has been involved in this event for some 10 or 15 years and has an excellent reputation known throughout the H.S. band community for excellence and professionalism in getting the busses parked and coordinating other operations. Communications is done on GMRS for the members and on a business channel between us and the event coordinators. Through years of planning and executing different traffic patterns, we have a record of exiting all the busses in just ten minutes through only three narrow fence gates.

These schools come from towns several hours away from San Diego to Los Angeles and even at times Las Vegas. Some larger bands with very active parent involvement in their booster club even have semi-tractor trailer rigs set up for instrument storage, uniform storage, and two dressing rooms. It is always satisfying to watch our next generation perform their heart out in competition. These are truly the good kids you just never read about in the paper or on the evening news. Our team looks forward to next year by a critique of this year. Your team may wish to check with your local high school band director for possible involvement in a similar activity.

Ed Greany, President
CREST Communications, Inc. / CREST REACT
Southern California



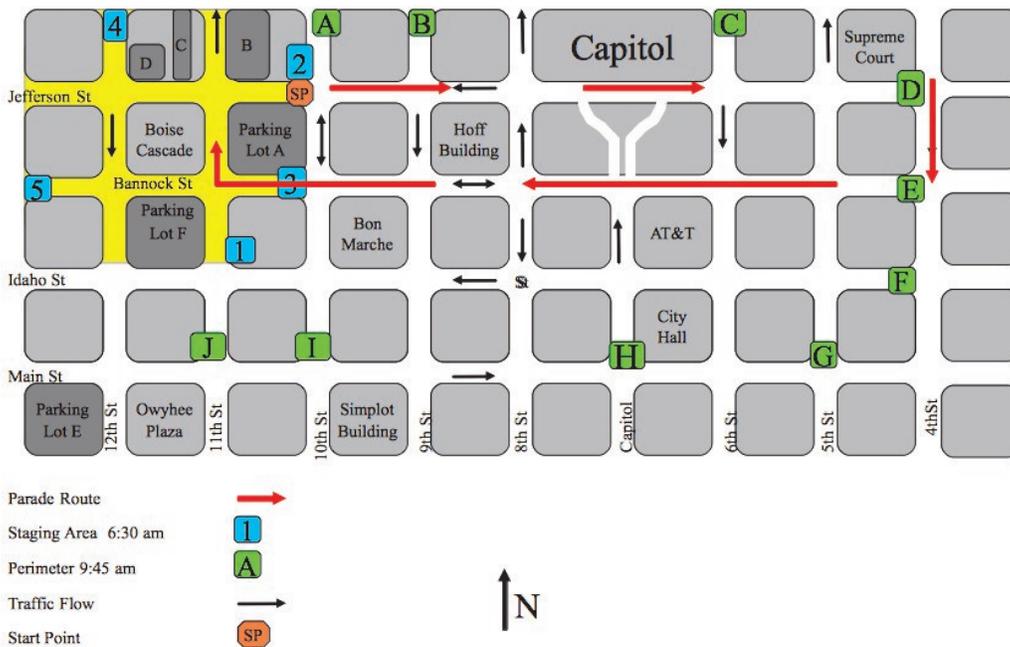
2011 Boise Holiday Parade supported by Valley Wide REACT Team 4956

Valley Wide REACT Team supported the 2011 Boise Holiday Parade in downtown Boise, Idaho this past Saturday, 19 November 2011. This was the 28th public event we have assisted with this year, and is typically the final event for the year. However, we still have 2 more parades and even a 5K race on Thanksgiving Day.

Russ Dunn, N7SMA, met with the organizers at 0530 for breakfast at a nearby restaurant, then began running through the course. A local construction supply company provided barricades and signage at the staging area and along the parade route. Typically the event volunteers setup the street closure barricades around the staging area by 0630. But because of a shortage of event volunteers this year, Russ and AJ Grantham, K6LOR started setting up this closure at 0730 as participant horses were standing in the traffic lanes. More area containment “holes” were found in the staging area closure and barricades were relocated to block those locations.

The remaining seven REACT Team volunteers arrived between 0815 and 0900. They provided assistance in directing parade entries to the correct staging entrance. At 0915 the team met with Boise Police Department's motor units (motorcycles) for a short briefing before moving to our assigned locations for the duration of the parade.

Holiday Parade Route Plan



2011 Parade Route courtesy www.boisesholidayparade.org

At 0930, just prior to the hard closure, AJ, K6LOR was approached by a citizen in distress at the intersection of 6th Street and Bannock where a male was on the sidewalk having a seizure. AJ was able to contact a Boise PD motor sergeant who called dispatch utilizing an interoperable police, fire and ambulance radio system. The sergeant arrived and set up an emergency perimeter for the medics and fire units to park so they would not be trapped inside the parade route when the festivities began. By 0945 the medic unit transported the patient out of the closure area, just in time for the parade to step off. The parade was recorded by the local NBC affiliate for future playback. Typically this parade is on the Saturday following Thanksgiving and broadcasts live. However, the parade was moved up a week this year to accommodate Boise State University's winning Bronco football team schedule.

REACT volunteers along 3rd Street found their barricades mistakenly delivered to 2nd Street. Boise PD's motor units were

able to move the barricades quickly in time for the hard closure.

AJ, K6LOR had one of the event organizer radios issued to him and forwarded the frequency to the REACT command staff for monitoring during the event. In the past this has been on UHF-Lo. This year the organizers were on analog narrow band VHF which facilitated monitoring.

Communication challenges persist in the downtown Boise event area with our existing VHF repeater system. High rise buildings, combined with a high noise floor on two meters, sometimes results in less than a two block range on simplex and poor talk-in coverage to our VHF repeaters. Plans are in place to add a voting system with receivers in the downtown area, along with a UHF repeater system to provide a command net and improved in-building coverage.

Thus another successfully completed a Valley Wide *REACT* parade, which has been supported since 1997. Huge thanks go to our unpaid volunteers. To this spirit of cooperation the Boise PD sergeant summarized, “We couldn’t do it without you fine folk!”

Russ Dunn, N7SMA
David Lowenstein, K6CWD
Frankie Black, KE7YEM

AJ Grantham, K6LOR
Marlene Moore, KF6YNC
Ed Fuji, W7IZZ

Tim Brewer, WA7TJB
Travis Brewer, KD7PPX
Brian Adams, W7CVS

Photo is from 2010 Parade



REGION 1 *REACTS*

Submitted by Stan Walters, Director, Region 1

There is nothing routine about the service that *REACT* teams provide. But 2011 will go down in the history books as extra challenging here in Region 1. Let's take a tour of parts of Region 1. We won't visit every team in this article but stay tuned for future installments.

Starting our tour in western Pennsylvania, United Valley *REACT* in Beaver County maintains a very active schedule throughout the year. United Valley *REACT* is one of several volunteer communications groups to support the Beaver Valley Atomic Power Plant. They conduct drills every other year. In addition, the team has a busy schedule of community events which they support. The impacts of Irene and Lee were not felt so much in western Pennsylvania but who knows what the coming winter will bring.

Further east, York County *REACT* and Harrisburg Area *REACT* support Amateur Radio ARES/RACES events and drills. Both teams are in the very active South Central Task Force region of Pennsylvania. The Three Mile Island and Peach Bottom Atomic Power Plant drills cover York, Lancaster and Dauphin counties so there is a drill at one plant or the other every year. South Central Pennsylvania as well as counties east saw a lot of damage from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee due to wind, rain and flooding. Montgomery County *REACT* was activated and supported SKYWARN and ARES/RACES operations.

Further north, teams in the New York City area were activated in support of various served agencies. Dutchess/Putnam *REACT* used their communications vehicle to assist local responders. (Picture contributed by Warren Deitz, President Dutchess/Putnam *REACT*.)

In the greater Boston area, members of Commonwealth *REACT* and South Shore *REACT* used the GERC chat room to coordinate personnel assignments prior to the arrival of Hurricane Irene. Fortunately the storm took a more westerly track and spared Boston from the brunt of the winds and rain.

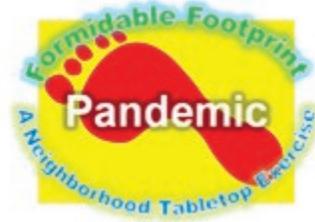
We'll introduce you to more teams in Region 1 in future editions of *the REACTer*. Until then, this York County *REACT* Unit 56 signing off.



Photo by Warren Deitz



Formidable Footprint Pandemic Exercise



National Community/Neighborhood Exercise Series

On January 28, neighborhood, community and faith based organizations across the country will have the opportunity to assess their capabilities in preparing for and responding to an Influenza Pandemic by participating in the [Formidable Footprint Pandemic Exercise](#).

During the past year teams from across the United States have been participating in the internet based series of Formidable Footprint exercises. These exercises have provided participants with the opportunity to assess their capabilities to respond to various disaster threats.

Pandemic Exercise – January 28 2012

Exercises have also been scheduled for the following scenarios:

Earthquake – Flood – Hurricane – Tornado – Wildfire

The Formidable Footprint exercise series has been developed in accordance with Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) protocols. The objectives of the exercises are for CERT's, Neighborhood Watch Programs, Neighborhood Associations, Community/Faith Based Organizations, Citizen Corps, Fire Corps and others to work as a team to become better prepared for the next disaster their community may face.

There is **NO CHARGE** for participation in any of the Formidable Footprint exercises.

For additional information or to register for the up-coming Tornado Exercise please access the following web site today:

www.FormidableFootprint.org



As emergency radio communications volunteers we all know the importance of communicating important information both accurately and quickly in the aftermath of disasters. As more and more people eliminate their landline, the cell phone is taking on a greater role in family emergency communications planning. Along with this shift comes a greater demand on cell tower bandwidth, especially in the wake of wide area disasters, as was recently experienced with the East Coast earthquake. Recognizing the increasing challenge in post-disaster communications as well as the shift to greater use of smart phones, in January I began development of a smart phone application with these goals in mind:

Help people communicate the information that matters most to those they love in emergencies as well as the wake of disasters – including their whereabouts, personal status, how to contact them, and their reunification plans.

Minimize the effort required to build these messages as an aid to those who may be injured, shaken up, trapped, or physically or visually impaired.

Reduce the amount of telecommunications bandwidth required to communicate that information so that more people, especially those facing life-threatening circumstances, can get through more quickly to those who may be able to help them.

On October 17th, the 22nd anniversary of the San Francisco Bay Area’s Loma Prieta earthquake, during which my husband and then 18-month-old son were almost crushed by a very large toppling piece of furniture, “What R U up2?” was released. I was 45 minutes away at work at the time and, like everyone around me, wanted nothing more than to know if they were okay.

Like any good emergency tool it is important to become familiar with its use prior to the need to use it. So “What R U up2?” was designed not only for use in emergencies and disasters, but also for everyday communications as exhibited by this example of an everyday message status (or “What R U up2?”) screen.

“What R U up2?” has three main components:

Set Up – this is where you enter your personalized information, like your cell phone number, email address, Twitter or Facebook ID, and the radio frequencies and tones you may use for communicating in the wake of disasters. This is also where you build your emergency contact list and set up the names of the stores, restaurants, parks, churches, doctors, hospitals, gym, workplace, and other places you frequent and/or may be found or seek refuge in the wake of disasters. Be sure to include the name(s) of the school(s) your children or grandchildren attend or that may become emergency shelters in your area. The more information you set up, the less time you will take and the more informative the emergency and everyday messages you send to loved ones can be. You can even choose which icons you want to use to build your messages.

Everyday Message – this is the fun part of the application where you get to use large buttons with intuitive icons on them to build everyday text messages with little or no use of the QWERTY keyboard - so little or no typos or problems with the annoying “autocorrect” feature that can change the content of your message. As you can see in the illustration, Everyday Message-building buttons include things like: running late, on the phone, in a meeting, love you, stuck in traffic, hungry, sending hugs, miss you, etc. Once you have answered who the message is from and entered your status (or what you are up to), you can include as much or as little information as you choose by skipping screens or choosing to send the message at any time in the sequence of questions.



Continued on page 28



REACT Involvement We Provide



Communications Support for Community Activities

- Marathons
- Fairs
- Halloween Patrols
- Walkathons
- Parades
- Cart Races
- Bike Races
- Chili Cook-Off
- Tractor Races
- Hot Air Balloons
- Triathalons
- Drag Races
- Air Shows
- Motorboat Races
- Road Rallies
- Radio Classes
- Fireworks Displays
- Safety Breaks
- Canoe Races
- Radios for Mexico
- Animal Evacuation
- Traffic Reports
- Amber Alerts
- Neighborhood Watch
- National Celebrations
- Easter Seal Run / Walk
- Special Populations Programs
- Vehicle Assistance
- Search and Rescue



Communications Support for Agencies and Organizations

- American Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Missing Persons Searches
- March of Dimes
- Emergency Operations Centers
- News Media
- Fire Watch
- Special Olympics
- Toys for Tots
- Local Government Agencies
- State and Federal Agencies
- SkyWarn and NWS/NOAA
- Accident Reports
- Flood Watch
- CERT
- School Districts
- Parks Departments
- Disaster Emergency Drills
- Ministry of Transportation
- National SOS
- Simulated Emergency Test (SET)
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Hurricane Watch
- Emergency Rescue Unit Fdtn
- Cancer Society
- Audubon Society
- American Diabetes Association
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- GERC

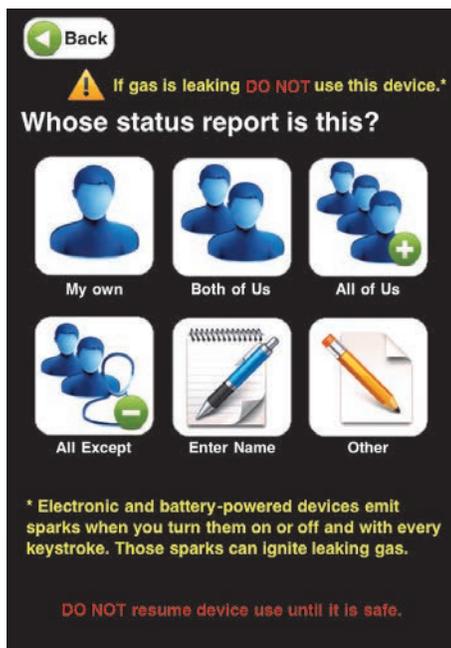
The REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams) Mission

"We will provide public service communications to individuals, organizations and government agencies to save lives, prevent injuries and give assistance wherever and whenever needed."

"We will strive to establish a monitoring network of trained volunteer citizen based communicators using any and all available means to deliver the message."

Communications Volunteers Needed. See www.REACTIntl.org for more information

Emergency Status Report & Plan



- this is where the user is taken through a series of questions that can be answered by tapping a single, large iconic button for each answer that applies to their particular situation. If the user presses the “Hurt or Sick” button in response to the “What is your status?” question, for example, a “How serious is your illness or injury?” screen appears. If the user presses the “Hospital” button in response to the “Where do you plan to go?” question, a list of the hospitals the user entered in the Set Up will display so the user can select the right one with a single tap of the screen. If the user never performed set up then “going to hospital” will be sent - as shown in this icon-aided preview message screen). The user also has the option to choose the “Other” icon button and enter the hospital name if it is not on the Set Up list.

The messages you build using “What R U up2?” are sent as straight text messages. So they can be sent to anyone who has a cell phone capable of receiving text messages – including your children and grandchildren or elderly parents who are less likely to have a smart phone.

Many people are unaware that battery powered devices, including flashlights and cell phones, emit sparks that can ignite leaking gas. So the first screen the user sees after choosing the Emergency Status Report & Plan option has a blinking symbol and warns them of this danger.

The bottom line...by selecting the large, intuitive iconic buttons that best answer the series of questions the user is asked about their status, whereabouts, preferred method of communication and plans, a meaningful and informative text message can quickly be built and then sent to the user’s entire emergency contact list with a minimal amount of effort in everyday emergencies - while also significantly reducing the use of vital telecommunications bandwidth when disasters strike.

“What R U up2?” is available in the App Store for the iPhone – just enter “up2” to find it. You can also visit the app website at <http://whatruup2.com> for more information. I hope to be able to afford to port it to the Android platform in the near future. It can make a great stocking stuffer or Valentine’s Day gift for those you love that do not happen to be emergency radio communicators.

SILENT MICS

Nancy S. Johns, 69, died Aug. 26, 2011, at St. Rita's Medical Center.

She was born Dec. 26, 1941, in Bellefontaine to William F. and Emma Janett Scott Parks, who preceded her in death. On March 9, 1976, she married Donald Johns Jr., who died March 5, 2005.

Mrs. Johns had worked at Tip Top and had been a nurse's aide at Lima Manor Nursing Home for more than 15 years. She had been a volunteer with Allen County Van Guard and REACT. She enjoyed fishing, camping and spending time with her family.

Survivors include five children, Anna Hershey, of Lima, Evelyn (Darryl) Connette, of Leland, N.C., Chuck (Rosemarie Bear) Cartwright, of Port Clinton, and Daniel Johns and April (Randy Devinney) Hicks, both of Lima; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and her fiancé, William Hershberger, of Lima.

**Happy
Holiday
From
the**

**Officers, Directors
and Staff**



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

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

If you enjoy radio communications, you'll love

POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

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



FOR FASTER SERVICE FAX 1-516-681-2926

Name _____ Call _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

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

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