



REACT International, Inc.

The REACTer

Official Publication of REACT International, Inc. Serving The Public Since 1962

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COMPLIANT?*

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OF ABILITY TO
COMMUNICATE!*

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REACT 3153 Escorts
World Trade Center
Steel*

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FORM 990N?
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INFORMATION*

OFFICIAL
TRANSPORT
WORLD TRADE CENTER
STEEL
FOR FUTURE MONUMENTS

NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 2010
PREPAREDNESS
MONTH



visit Ready.gov



REACT Involvement

We Provide

**Communications support for
community activities**

**Communications support for
agencies and organizations**

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



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

The REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams) Mission

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

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

Communications volunteers needed. Information at: www.REACTIntl.org

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Public Service Through Communications

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On the cover

William Kofron brings us a story of how Colleton County REACT, Team 3153 of Walterboro, SC participated in the Fallen Hero's Ride July 17th and 18th, 2010 from NY to Bradenton FL to escort steel from the World Trade Center to be utilized for a memorial.

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

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Dawn Drury, KJ4OFT
Editor



Hello all and welcome to the latest issue of *The REACTer*. The first thing I would like to do is to dedicate this issue to past editor Stuart DeLuca who became a silent mic in January 2005. To those that may not have had the pleasure to know him personally, take a look at the March-April 2005 Edition of *The REACTer* which can be found on our website which is located at www.TheREACTer.com/node/14.

I can only attempt to be as an accomplished editor for *REACT* such as he was.

We would like to see more submissions from Teams about their activities. I encourage all teams to submit articles for publication.

Till the next issue,
Dawn

Submission Guidelines for *The REACTer*

E-mail submissions are preferred. Please keep try to keep your submissions under 800 words or less. E-mail submissions can be sent to editor@TheREACTer.com.

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

Paper submissions can be sent to:

Dawn Drury, Editor
REACT International, Inc.
12114 Boydton Plank Road, Suite C
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FROM THE DESK OF THE OFFICE MANAGER

Brenda Cutchin
Office Manager



It has been a pleasure meeting so many members of *REACT*, either by phone or in person. The Office is moving right along, we have spent the last couple of months processing packets for renewals that were still pending to our teams. I am looking forward to the 2011 renewal season. I believe with the updates to the computer system and the files being updated things should move smoothly for next year.

A little about me; I have been married for 28 years and have three children. I bring to *REACT* 23 years of business management experience. Started my career with the Chesterfield County Planning Commission

and Board of Supervisors in an administrative role. Over the years my husband and I have started and maintained several small businesses which we still operate successfully.

Your President, Mr. Don Manlove, was talking to a friend of his and that is how he found me. After talking with Don, the organization sounded interesting to me and I decided to give it a shot. So here I am.

To all of the teams out there, if you have not received your 2010 ID Cards from your renewal, please call the headquarters at (301) 316-2900, E-mail the office at RI.HQ@REACTIntl.org or mail your information to the new address, 12114 Boynton Plank Road, Dinwiddie, VA 23841.



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Donald Manlove, KJ4OUV
President



This is a special notice to all team officials of any *REACT* INTERNATIONAL Chartered TEAM.

The IRS recently announced a one-time relief program for small tax-exempt organizations that FAILED to file either Form 990-N or 990-EZ for the last three (3) years. Filing 990s for smaller tax exempt organizations became a requirement with the Pension Protection Act of 2006, effective for tax years beginning on or after January 01, 2007. The relief applies to filers whose tax returns are due by October 15, 2010.

Those calendar year organizations that did not file were scheduled to lose their exempt status as of May 17, 2010. You must view the IRS list to make sure that your team's name does not appear. If it does, your team must file before the dead line of October 15, 2010, failure to comply; your team will lose the tax exempt status.

The Board, officers, and I cannot stress the importance of this matter to you, as a member of your team and *REACT* International. It is up to all of us to protect the tax-exempt status of our organization. If your team

needs help, please call your Regional Director, or contact the office by email. Also, be sure that the RI office has notice of compliance that your team has filed. This may be sent by email or snail mail.

NOW, FOR THE NUTS AND BOLTS TO FIX IT, There are two types of relief available under the special relief provision:

1. Organizations eligible to file 990-N should go to the IRS web-site (epostcard.form990.org), and electronically file the form by October 15, 2010. Generally, these are nonprofits with less than \$25,000.00 in annual receipts per year. (Most Teams should fall in here)
2. Organizations not eligible to file Form 990-N may use the Voluntary Compliance Program (VCP). Under the program, smaller tax-exempt organizations, those eligible to file Form 990-EZ for all three years, must file Form 990-EZ for its current tax period and the two prior tax periods by October 15, 2010, and pay a compliance fee based upon 2009 gross receipts.



Fast Facts from the Infrastructure and Technology Committee

Roy Drury, K4DCT
Chairman Infrastructure and Technology Committee

REACT International currently has 157 Teams with 2,228 Members!

Out of 157 Teams, 37 do not have a team e-mail address.

Out of 2,228 Members, 1,423 do not have an e-mail address listed with headquarters.

Are you a team or member that has not listed your e-mail address with *REACT* International? If so you are missing out. Due to the increasing cost of postage, many notices and other information are now being sent out via electronic means. This is being done to help

keep costs down so as to not raise your membership dues.

Don't have a computer or internet? Visit your local library. Most libraries now offer free internet use to patrons. Ask about their computers that you can sign up to use for free. Free e-mail accounts are also available from www.hotmail.com or www.gmail.com.

Please go to www.MyREACT.info/update to send your updated information to *REACT* International, or call Brenda our Office Manager at (301) 316-2900. She will be happy to assist you in getting your records updated.



Is your Team “NIMS” Compliant?

Tom Currie, N4AOF
Chairman Training and Development Committee

This is a question we all have started hearing and can expect to hear more often. For some Teams, the question isn't a very important question. The question sounds simple, but the answer can be much more complicated. From the federal standpoint, the answer is basically “You are, if you say so,” or perhaps strictly speaking, “You are, if your Emergency Management Agency says so.”

Nation Incident Management System (NIMS) is a mandatory federal standard, but both “mandatory” and “standard” are often slippery terms, especially when applied to federal programs.

Homeland Security President Directive 5 (HSPD-5) requires all Federal departments and agencies to adopt NIMS. This same directive requires adoption of NIMS by State, tribal, and local governments as a condition for the federal disaster preparedness funding. None of this applies directly to *REACT* Teams and Councils. Under HSPD-5 private sector non-government organizations that are directly involved in response operations are strongly encouraged to have their response personnel receive NIMS training but there is no specific list of mandatory training established by FEMA or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that applies to non-government organizations that are at the local level.

REACT Teams generally work under the auspices of their local Emergency Management Agency – some Teams may work directly with more than one local EMA depending on the area served by the Team. Councils are rarely involved in direct emergency response, but typically have a role on the coordination between their Teams and the State EMA and State VOAD.

State and local government emergency management agencies are required to report their progress meeting the federal NIMS Implementation Objectives using a system called NIMSCAST, the National Incident Management System Capability Assessment Support Tool, where each EMA outlines their plans to implement NIMS within their agency.

As part of the agencies' plans to implement NIMS, the agencies may adopt standards for their personnel and for any local volunteer organizations that are recognized in the local emergency operations plan. Meeting such standards is voluntary for *REACT* Teams, but if you want to be recognized and accepted by your local EMA, it is important that your Team members work towards meeting whatever guidelines your EMA sets and the Team maintain records that can show what training your members have completed.

You may also find that other organizations you work with are adopting NIMS training standards for their volunteers and they may expect you to meet those same standards if you are going to work together.

FEMA has published a Five Year Training Plan for NIMS which outlines their vision of NIMS training. Most of this plan will not apply to individual *REACT* members, but Team and Council leaders should review the plan to at least so they will understand what EMA officials mean about

when they talk about NIMS training, Visit the FEMA NIMS Resource Center website at www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/NIMSTrainingCourses.shtm for detailed information.

For *REACTers*, NIMS training should start with the two on the Incident Command System (ICS) introductory courses and the two overview courses. All four of these basic courses are available online from the FEMA website at no cost.

- IS-100a Introduction to the Incident Command System
- IS-200a ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- IS-700a National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction
- IS-800b National Response Framework, An Introduction

There are a number of other valuable courses available online, depending on the needs and interests of your Team. For example, Teams in farming communities may be interested in IS-111, Livestock in Disasters, while Teams along the Gulf and Atlantic may be more interested in IS-324a, Community Hurricane Preparedness.

Team and Council officers should look at additional courses such as IS-244, Developing and Managing Volunteers; IS-288, The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management, IS-317, Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams, and IS-802, Emergency Support Function #2, Communications.

Go to the FEMA Training website www.training.fema.gov/IS to access any of the online courses.





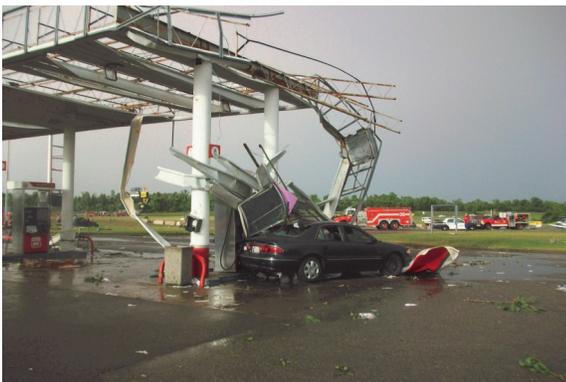
Central Oklahoma REACT Team 6023 Responds to Tornado Disaster

Kevin Sossamon N4AOF
Central Oklahoma REACT 6023

It was around 4:30 pm. On May 10, 2010 and the National Weather Service in Norman had just issued a severe thunderstorm warning for Oklahoma County. Tornadic storms were developing rapidly and moving rapidly across central Oklahoma. The storm spotters from Central Oklahoma REACT team 6023 were activated. REACT members Denise Hines and Rob Anderson were assigned to the American Red Cross Headquarters and REACT member Bryan Packebush was assigned to the Emergency Operations Center in OKC. President Chris Toner was in charge of the incident command center until the other REACT members made it to their posts. REACT Vice President David Spaulding and Board Member/Recruiter Keith Sossamon, were already in the field storm spotting.

Both Sossamon and Spaulding were eastbound on the interstate, Spaulding on I-40 and Sossamon on I-240, following the storm as it proceeded into eastern Oklahoma County. Traffic was very heavy with motorists who did not know what to do. Sossamon had his hazard lights on, alerting other drivers that he was driving cautiously towards the back edge of the storm. Watching the road and trying to watch for developing tornadoes was no easy chore, so safety was the first concern. Staying west of the storm was top priority, in order to keep from driving right into it.

As Sossamon was approaching the intersection of I-240 and I-40, where it connects just west of Choctaw Rd, several emergency vehicles started passing him up. Then, traffic came to a standstill. Both Spaulding and Sossamon were in contact with each other via two-way radio and were trying to determine why traffic had stopped. Spaulding was stuck in the east bound lanes of I-40 and Sossamon was stuck in the east bound lanes of I-240...both of them just west of Choctaw Rd. As traffic moved, Sossamon could see heavy damage at the Love's Country Store and knew right away that a tornado had just hit.



Both Spaulding and Sossamon contacted President Toner and asked for authorization to turn on their hazard lights to get around traffic and assist authorities with medical, search and rescue. Once authorization was given, both Sossamon and Spaulding turned on their hazard lights and followed other emergency vehicles to the scene. Once on the scene, Spaulding grabbed his medical bag and both he and Sossamon started assisting law enforcement and medical personnel with injuries and debris removal. Since cell phones were not working at the time, Sossamon and Spaulding had to rely on their two-way radios to communicate to the command post at the American Red Cross Headquarters.



After spending a couple of hours on the scene and assisting Oklahoma County Sheriff's Deputies, OKC Police, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, OKC Fire and EMSA, Sossamon and Spaulding were released from the scene by OHP. By that time, traffic was moving once again and debris was removed from the interstate. Once released from the scene, both Sossamon and Spaulding headed towards the American Red Cross Headquarters for a de-briefing. There were quite a few emergency workers on the scene, but members of Central Oklahoma REACT Team 6023, were there very quickly and assisted in a professional manner.



SILENT MICS

Robert Lumpkin, of Federal City *REACT* Team 2515 unexpectedly passed away on July 18, 2010 at the age of 61.

Robert aka Bob was an active member up to his death, very seldom missing a team meeting. Robert served as Mobile Safety officer for over 37 years. Robert was a life member of *REACT* International and an amateur radio operator. *REACT* Life Member 502 will be missed by all. Federal City *REACT* Team 2515 members are saddened by the loss of Bob.

Harold R. Miller Jr., 75 of Reading, PA, died tragically on June 3, 2010. Born in Reading, he was the son of the late Harold R. Miller Sr. and Emma L. (Glass) Miller.

Harold grew up in Reading and graduated from Reading High School in 1954, after graduating he joined the Marines to proudly serve his country.

Before retiring, he enjoyed umpiring at local baseball events for many years and was an avid Phillies fans. He worked at Kapp Advertising and the Merchandiser for 27 years. He was previously employed as a mechanic for the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Harold is survived by his son, Harold R. (Sharon) Miller III of Bear, Delaware and his daughters; Toni E. (Donald) Greene of Newark, Delaware, Michelle L. (Bruce) Johnson of New Castle, Delaware, and Julie A. Miller of Newark, Delaware; as well as his beloved dog Lucy. He is also survived by three brothers; Thomas, Richard, and Robert; two sisters Mary Bitting and Joyce Krug; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, including his buddy, Anthony and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the Theo C. Auman Funeral Home, Wednesday, June 9th at 1:30pm. Calling hours on Wednesday from 12:30-1:30pm, the burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Harold's name may be made to the Animal Rescue League of Berks County, PO BOX 69, Mohnton, PA 19540.

Sherrill Palmer, Life Member, Stratford, Ontario

Sherrill's funeral was June 5, 2010. She was a member of Woodstock District *REACT*, Inc. and then a member of Stratford *REACT*, Inc. for total number of years of service 25+ years.

Sherrill is survived by her husband Robert, who also is a life member.

Daniel J. McMahon, 49, resident of Omaha, NE, died on January 18th, 2010 after several years of health complications. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Vincent de Paul in Omaha on January 23rd, 2010, and he was laid to rest at Calvary Cemetery with Military Rites by the Benson VFW Post # 2503.

As an avid supporter of *REACT*, he was a member of the Heartland (formerly Douglas County) *REACT* chapter for 30 years as Unit #46 and was *REACT* International Life Member, #580. He supported the Boy Scouts of America. Dan was active on GMRS and CB radios and was a licensed Amateur Radio Operator, KD0FIF.

Dan is survived by wife Kristine, and two sons, Sean and Ryan, and parents Raymond and Margaret all of Omaha, and sister Mary MacMillan and her husband James of Parker, CO. Kristine and Dan were married for 27 years. Sean is a member of Heartland *REACT* and meteorology major at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Dan will be greatly missed by his friends and family at Heartland *REACT*.

William "Bill" M. Vickers—Was the first life member of City *REACT* of Calgary Team 2627 in 1986.

William passed away August 10th, two days prior to his 76th birthday at Calgary Hospital.

Before his retirement in the 1960's, William had been employed by the City of Calgary as a Sanitation Worker, he worked in downtown area manually sweeping the sidewalks and gutter, in the winter time he used a gasoline powered broom to clear the snow and ice.



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Ed Greany, KB6DOL
Executive Vice-President



Now that the fourth quarter has arrived we are all preparing for renewal time. New team charter requests continue to come into Headquarters which is a healthy sign for REACT's continued growth. Our membership is growing and we are excited to see a new generation of members on the roster.

Your Officers and Board Members have worked diligently and hard to make *REACT* what it has become in 2010 beginning with a giant reduction in expenses for our operation. We have moved to a more affordable office space, cut expenses in the area of postage, copying, and telephone. We were able to hire a new Office Manager who brings with her excellent credentials. Many of our routine processes have been streamlined and we strive for a closer, better, line of communications between our teams, councils, management, and team members than ever before.

Our Infrastructure and Technology Committee has done marvels beginning with a new website to include a Members Only area. If you haven't visited it recently, check it out. Of course, we also have a new editor for *The REACTer* that has

done a great job as shown by the periodical you are reading right now. We hope you enjoy it. We still have some work to do but the majority of the hard decisions were made in 2010 and carried out without a hitch. My thanks and congratulations go out to all whom participated to make it a success. Now we look to the future.

What holds in store for our future? First, we are in anticipation of our 50th anniversary in 2012. Plans are being made for all of us to celebrate it at the 2012 Convention which we have not released the location of yet. Start saving your pennies for this promises to be the highest jewel of all conventions. After all, it is only once we will reach 50 Years! What a marvelous accomplishment that our founders probably never dreamed that we would reach – and we're still going!

Our future also looks forward to streamlined renewal processing for you. We hope to have electronic registration and renewals and when you need a new ID card, you can print it out yourselves any time during the year for any registered *REACTer*. This will be helpful for a lost or damaged ID card replacement.

We are working on a FCC business license process for implementation with all our teams to move toward unification on the air and better interoperability. Of course ham radio and GMRS compliment our CB operations but with a team business radio license, better effectiveness can be accomplished in a disaster and during team events. Watch for more on this subject in the coming months.

One final note; please be sure *REACT* International has your current email address. We promise not to spam any of you but it is important to be able to share vital information with you when needed. Sometimes we are contacted by a person or organization requesting help by a local team and if we have no contact information to offer the caller we look pretty lame when it comes to communicating. We encourage you to have a website, an e-mail contact, and a telephone number for contact. It can be an officer's phone number or any member who is able to pass the word on as appropriate.

Let Headquarters know the information and we will add it to the team information page on the website. Meanwhile, have a great fourth quarter and Be Safe.

Have a new e-mail address or have not provided one yet? Please contact *REACT* HQ and update your information. Call (301) 316-2900 to speak with the Office Manager who will be happy to correct or add any information to your record.

If you want to submit changes via the web, point your browser to www.MyREACT.info/update. There is no need to register or sign in to use this form.



Shocked by the Lack of Ability to Communicate!

Ron McCracken, KG4CVL
Chairman Public Relations Committee

Were you as baffled as I by those "Fast Facts" the IT Committee sent us? If not, look at them again - and wince.

25% of *REACT* Teams have no email address on file with RI. Nearly 70% of *REACT* members are in the same boat.

For Teams and individuals that claim to be 'Emergency Communicators' this is nothing short of dismal. In 2010, it is worse than that. We are well into the computer age now, yet these Teams and members are unreachable by RI via e-mail in case of an emergency.

What an embarrassment.

These same folk ask RI to build 'working relationships' with FEMA, NVOAD, etc., and to seek 'national PR' for *REACT*. Why? RI can't get a key message from these bodies to its full membership in an emergency. Talk about humiliating.

When RI does receive national publicity, it can't provide potential new team member inquiries with an email address for 25% of its Teams. Think of the impression that makes on the young, computer-savvy people that *REACT seeks and needs to swell its ranks*.

Please, make it your personal mission to improve this situation locally. Check with all your *REACT* friends to ensure that RI has a contact email address for each. Check with neighboring Teams to ensure that each has an email address on file with RI. Where you find no contact exists, please invest some time to help that *REACT*er or Team to get an email address and provide it to RI. (The RI website will show you which Teams in your area have no email address.)

Hotmail and Gmail are free. Public libraries offer free computer use. RI should therefore have an email address for virtually every *REACT* Team, and likewise for almost all *REACT* members.

Remember your own Team too. Does RI have a Team email address for it? Are email addresses on file with RI for all your Team members? Ask your Team Secretary about it. Check the RI website for your Team listing and your personal email address as well. Are they current and accurate? Update them as necessary.

Let's make this a 50th Anniversary project. Let's get these 'absentee' figures down to about 1% before our 50th. It needs you to succeed. Go to work on it today. Help some *REACT*er's in your area to be in touch with RI.



National Night Out in Shelby, NC

Jay Flora, WA4JAY
Chief, Cleveland County *REACT*

On August 3, 2010 Chief Flora went to National Night at the Shelby City Park. Chief Flora was able to network with the Shelby Police, the Chief of Police and the City Manager both posed with Chief Flora for pictures and was thanked for the assistance that Cleveland County *REACT* gives to the citizens of Shelby.





Links of Interest to *REACT*ers

***REACT* International Public Web Site**

www.REACTintl.org

***The REACTer* Web Site**

www.TheREACTer.com

***REACT* International Members Site**

www.MyREACT.info

***REACT* International Blog**

blog.REACTintl.org

***REACT* International Web Store**

www.REACTShop.com

***REACT* International Update Form**

www.MyREACT.info

FCC ULS System

wireless.fcc.gov/us/index.htm?job=home

American Radio Relay League

www.arrl.org

EchoLink

www.echolink.org

GMRS Outlet

www.gmrsoutlet.com

GMRS Repeater Database

www.mygmrs.com

QRZ Callsign Database

www.qrz.com

Merchant Services and Merchant Accounts

www.paypal.com



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- Scan - Hi/Lo Powers
- Channel Name Display
- Field programmable
- FCC Part 90 Type Accepted

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- 1300 mAh Li-ion battery
- Spare 1700 mAh Li-ion battery
- 2 Belt Clips (attaches to batteries)
- Flexible antenna & Owner Manual
- SMA-BNC Antenna adapter
- DC Charging cable for vehicle
- FREE Programming CABLE and FREE Programming SOFTWARE



Call or e-mail Ed Greany (760) 868-8113 or CREST25@Verizon.net
 VISA, M/C, PayPal Accepted



Colleton County *REACT* 3153 Escorts World Trade Center Steel

William "Bill" Kofran
Chief, Colleton County *REACT*

On July 19, 2010, two members of Colleton County *REACT* 3153 took part of as a Motorcycle Honor Guard escorting steel beams from the World Trade Center as the procession was passing through South Carolina on Interstate 95.

This was a great honor to be asked to be part of the Honor Guard by the Red Knights. Approximately 60 motorcycles took part along with Chief Bill Kofran and Lt. William "Billy" Todd of Colleton County *REACT*.

We chalked up 250 miles in seven hours of riding that day. The steel will be made into a monument for those brave men and women that died while doing their duty on that unforgettable day and the after math of the attacks of September 11th.

A North Carolina *REACT* member gave his life (Bear) passing away after returning home from ground zero. The final destination of the steel is Bradenton, Florida.





Jack Griffey #07 and a Celebration of his long-standing Presidency

Derek M. Loseke #50
Public Information Officer, Heartland *REACT*

Jack Griffey, a former United States Marine, along with two other friends founded what became Douglas County *REACT* in 1969. Three years later Douglas County *REACT* was incorporated and granted tax exempt status. Eventually the name was changed to Heartland *REACT*.

Through out the past 40 years, Jack has fearlessly lead Douglas County *REACT* though many years of change and in supporting the Omaha Metro area. As an Omaha firefighter and paramedic, Jack recognized the need to organize communications and setup a team. Jack got the team into storm spotter training after establishing a relationship with Civil Defense and the National Weather Service.

There were a number of disasters requiring emergency communications, most notable a massive blizzard that hit the Midwest in January of 1975, and the historic F4 Tornado that ripped through Omaha four months later. Because local radar was washed out and virtually useless at the time and the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club did not have ARES storm spotters at the time, Douglas County *REACT* was the first to report the tornado as it touched down near 108th and Giles and reported the Tornado's location to the Sarpy County EOC as it moved towards 72nd Street. About 15 minutes of warning was given to Ralston and Omaha. After the tornado dissipated, *REACT* was used to secure an apartment complex while search and rescue was conducted, and was later reassigned by the State Patrol for various tasks.

For several weeks after, Jack directed the team in disaster recovery his home as a headquarters.

Damage assessments were taken for the Red Cross. Later, Jack donated his van when the original communications trailer was retired. This and other acts of generosity and organization show the heart that Jack has and his dedication to Heartland *REACT* and the Omaha community.

Douglas County *REACT*, like many other *REACT* chapters utilized Citizens Band Radio as its first form of communications during the CB craze. During the

storms of '75, Douglas County *REACT* was using Class-D CB radios, establishing a Net under the call sign KDR-0868. Because of the limited capability of Class-D CB radios, the use of Class A CB was explored. After the Tornado of '75, enough money was donated to DC *REACT* to fund the purchase a repeater. A used tube-based repeater was purchased at auction from Omaha Public Power District.

Because the members were not able to modify the repeater to the desired frequency, they were forced to use the frequency it was already set for, 462.700 MHz and the appropriate license was acquired. Two years later, a solid state repeater was purchased with money donated from the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben. The frequency stayed and has been the same ever since. Eventually Class A Citizens Band evolved into what is now known as the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS).

In order to provide the best communications modes available, 34 years after the initial repeater's setup, a vote was taken to move Heartland *REACT* from GMRS to the Amateur Radio band, though members are encouraged to continue to maintain their GMRS licenses to present a greater value to the team.

Jack also lead Douglas County *REACT* though the changing world of emergency communications. In a time where *REACT* may not have always had a clear path, Jack helped lead *REACT* though many years of change. Local law enforcement is not as willing to work with *REACT* as it once had been. However, Jack still maintains connections with members of law enforcement, the fire department, and many other organizations in the community such as CERT and OMMRS.

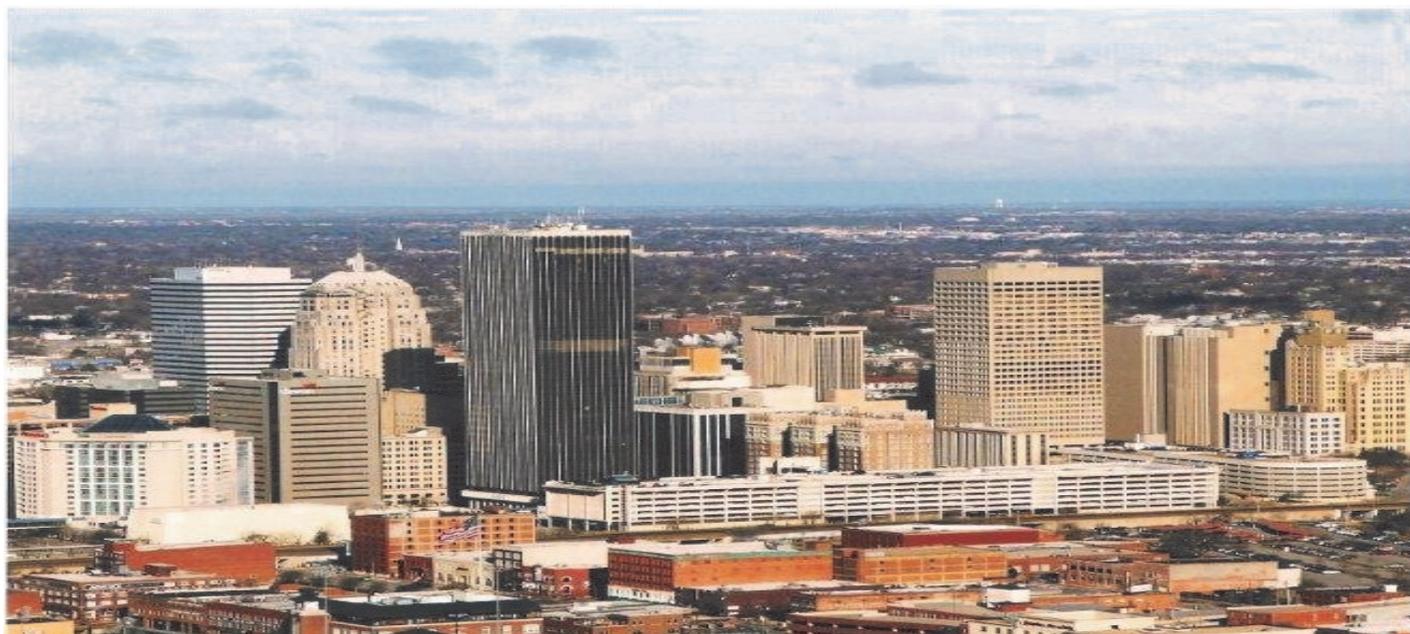
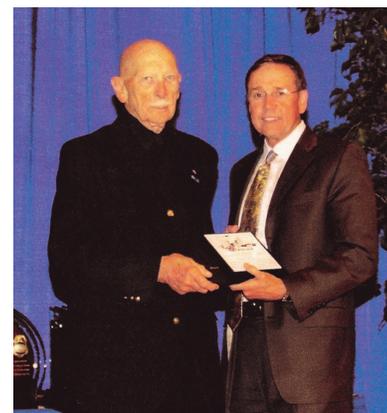
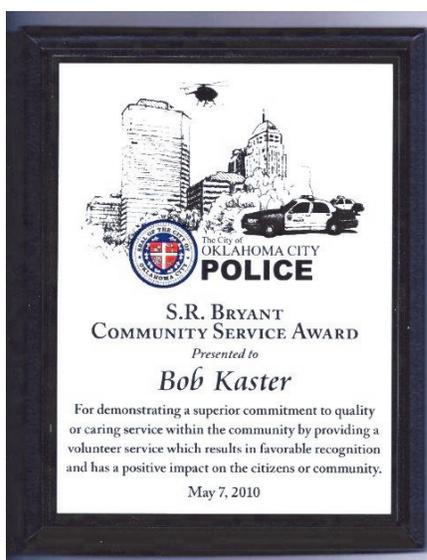
The members of Heartland *REACT* want to thank Jack for his many years of dedication and leadership to *REACT* and for his contributions to the Omaha community. As he hands over the reins of the Presidency, we welcome Jack to the Board of Directors and plan on utilizing his leadership skills and experiences for many years to come.



Oklahoma City Police Department Awards the S.R. Bryant Community Service Award

Dale Ellis
Oklahoma County REACT, Unit 199

During the Oklahoma City Police Departments annual award ceremonies on May 7, 2010, the OKCPD awarded the S. R. Bryant Community Service Award to Robert “Bob” Kaster “for demonstrating a superior commitment to quality or caring service within the community by providing a volunteer service which results in favorable recognition and has a positive impact on the citizens or community”. This award was presented by the Chief of Police William “Bill” Citty. Bob Kaster is the president of Oklahoma County *REACT* #2620. He is the liaison between Oklahoma City and our *REACT* Teams in the Oklahoma City area.





Reports from Cleveland County *REACT*, North Carolina

Jay Flora, WA4JAY
Chief, Cleveland County *REACT*

Severe Weather in Shelby, NC

On July 17, 2010, Cleveland County *REACT* went on alert for severe weather. Chief Flora was out in the community when he spotted a rotating cloud formation in the area of Caser and Bellwood, NC. Chief Jay called in his report to the National Weather Service.



Traffic Control Assistance to Cleveland Fire Department

On the same night of the severe weather as Chief Flora was on his way home he assisted the Cleveland Fire Department with traffic control to help slow traffic on the road as the accident was just on the other side of the curve. The road was then closed briefly while the rollback loaded the car. Chief Flora was then on his way home again.

Severe Weather Cause Traffic Accidents in Shelby, NC

On August 5, 2010 at about 18:25 hrs., Chief Jay Flora, of Cleveland County *REACT* in Shelby, was out in the community due to severe storms in the City and County of Shelby. Ten minutes later Chief Flora alerted the NWS to a funnel cloud on Old Boiling Springs Rd just off of Old Sheriff Allen Rd, which came over the County Fire Channel he was monitoring. At about 18:50 hrs. Chief Flora had to pull off Hwy 226/ Polkville Rd at Hwy 74 due to the fact that the rain was coming down so hard he could not see. Chief again

called into NWS to report the driving rain, wind, lightning and hail in his area, at that time the NWS alerted Chief Flora that there was a storm warning for the City of Shelby and Cleveland County. He was able to continue to driving about 45 minutes later, as the rain had slackened, he continued toward the City of Shelby when he saw a car in a ditch, water was filling the car and flooding the road.

Chief called the Shelby Communication Center to advise that the driver of the vehicle was ok, Chief then used his four way flasher to alert traffic to the danger while they waited for law enforcement to arrive, once they arrived they asked him to continue with his efforts within the city limits as they were extremely busy from the storm and they sure appreciated the help Chief Flora was providing.



Have you been trained for weather spotting. If not its easy to get trained. Contact your local National Weather Service Forecast Office for details on training in your area.

On the web, visit www.weather.gov/skywarn/ for more information.





REACT Month Wind-up

Ron McCracken, KG4CVL
Chairman Public Relations Committee

Seniors at 'Club 55' in Keswick, Ontario were the target of *REACT* Lake Simcoe's final *REACT* Month safety event.

Following a tasty lunch at their weekly gathering, *REACT* president Ron McCracken addressed the group in a short presentation on safety communications for seniors.

The seniors learned how valuable a simple whistle could be in an emergency, should they fall indoors or in the garden or on a walk in the woods. A police auxiliary officer told how they could obtain a whistle from the nearby police station.

They were reminded of how important a basic telephone is to their safety since it requires no electrical power. Many did not realize the risks of cordless

phones or phones that require power to operate some of their features.

Finally, McCracken outlined how helpful an FRS/GMRS radio could be to them should they lose both telephone and power in a storm. With it, they could contact neighbours for help, or just the reassurance that they were not entirely on their own. Several questions brought the safety event to an end.

A drawing following the presentation saw happy senior Georgia Lyons win a set of Cobra high end FRS/GMRS radios to help her prepare. The radios were donated for the event by FutureShop.

REACT Lake Simcoe hopes to repeat the successful program for two other local senior clubs next *REACT* Month.



Tampa Bay REACT Participates In Mass Casualty Drill

Krystle Doherty, KJ4OFR
AEC-Safety, Tampa Bay *REACT*

On Saturday August 21, 2010, Tampa Bay *REACT* participated with its partners Greater Tampa CERT (Lutz and Temple Terrace CERT Teams) and the Temple Terrace Fire Department to implement their yearly mass casualty drill at Boy Scout Park in Temple Terrace. *REACT* participated in assisting with Net Control duties as well as other communications tasks.

Several of our members are also members of the CERT Organization and assisted in planning and implementation of this yearly drill for the CERT Volunteers. This drill was conducted as a full moulage event, meaning that the victims were prepared by a local professional make-up artist to make the training experience as realistic as possible. In addition to providing the CERT Volunteers with realistic injuries to train with, a full implementation of ICS/NIMS was setup and practiced giving needed hands on experience. Real hand-offs of injured participants was also practiced with the help of firefighters from the Temple Terrace F.D.

Assistant Chief Armingier was on hand to provide real world feedback to all participants and to oversee the training evolution. Participants came in from various CERT Team in the Tampa Bay Region to participate.

REACT members who participated on the day of the drill included Dawn Drury (Net Controller), Roy Drury (Logistics), Krystle Doherty (Incident Command), John Neuman (PIO), DJ Farrer (Safety Officer), Khristina Drury (Victim) and Becky Molina (Victim).

Planning staff included DJ Farrer, Krystle Doherty, Roy Drury and John Neuman as well as various others from the CERT Organization.



REACT Helps Easter Seals

Ron McCracken, KG4CVL
Chairman Public Relations Committee

REACT Lake Simcoe (ON) has provided safety communications for a Crippled Kids event for about 30 years. The Team is 31 years old.

Almost as soon as the Team formed, officials with the "Persechini Run/Walk for Easter Seals" requested REACT radio assistance for their new event that supports disabled kids. Perhaps 200 people participated in those early days.

Today, over 2,000 runners and walkers trek the 10K course to raise funds for disabled children. Some years the event is an accredited 10K race and runners come from afar to compete. Over the years, the route has changed several times to handle the growing numbers amid much heavier traffic.

In the same period, REACT Lake Simcoe gave birth to REACT Don Valley. The two Teams now work the event together, with the younger REACT Don Valley now taking the lead.

Few incidents have arisen over the decades to test the REACTers. The most serious was a surprise near-tornado several years ago. REACTers used their vehicles to shelter walkers from hail and rain. One REACT vehicle and its rescued passengers were trapped by fallen trees for a time. Buses are now on stand-by should Mother Nature throw another tantrum.

Occasionally, a child becomes separated from parents or someone experiences a medical problem. REACT radio links help to resolve those situations speedily and have brought high praise over the years.

The event takes place on the final Sunday of May. Thus, it usually is the Teams' wind-up activity for REACT Month. What a great way it has become to wrap up our REACT Month celebrations.





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