

Official Newsletter of the Texas State *REACT* Council



Break-9

NUMBER 27

FALL, 2000

P. O. Box 180922 * Austin, TX 78718-0922

WELCOME TO SAN ANGELO



**Next Council Meeting
NOVEMBER 11, 2000**

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Texas Life Members

BELL CO.

LM C72 Keren Pratz
LM 347 Frank W. Jenkins
LM 348 John K. Eubanks
LM 373 Kenneth Farris
LM 389 Wayne Hempstead
LM398 Richard DeFrehn
LM 399 Earnest Jackson
LM 454 Charles Button

DALLAS CO.

LM 147 Charles Thompson
LM 158 Frances Riley
LM 160 Jerry Brown
LM 180 J. L. Riley
LM 181 Robert Hitch
LM 189 Bernard Parker
LM 190 Judith Thompson
LM 210 John H. Riley
LM 211 Terry W. Allen
LM 218 Ellen D. Arnold
LM 219 Lee M. Pate
LM 230 Gary A. Payne
LM 252 Cynthia J. Riley
LM 299 Robert D. Adler
LM 436 Paul H. Raines

LM 462 Don G. Woods

McLENNAN CO.

LM 382 Walter Smith

SAN ANGELO

LM 208 Jerry Jennison

TRAVIS COUNTY

LM 257 Lois Nulty
LM 412 Marshall Spear

DECEASED

LM C73 Richard E. Pratz
LM 131 Charles Markum
LM 213 Robert Salzman
LM 388 Wylie Durham
LM 390 Noah L. Nelson

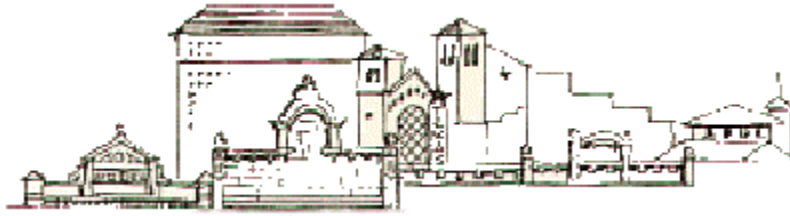
INACTIVE

LM C22 Carolyn Jones
LM 107 Lucky Thompson
LM 108 Vada Thompson
LM 132 Reba Mosley
LM 297 Mildred Culipher
LM 298 Jessie Culipher
LM 300 Eugene Winberry

Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Texas State REACT Council, the officers, or the newsletter staff.

Articles may be submitted to: Paula Coker, 6907 Colt Ct., Buda, TX 78610-4900, or editor@texasreact.org. Articles will be subject to editing for content & space available. Subscriptions are available at \$5/yr. per year (3 issues), payable to TSRC at the above address. Advertisement space is available and rates are available from the editor.

Welcome to San Angelo!



November 11, 2000

Board Meeting @ 8am - 9am
General Meeting @ 10am - 4pm

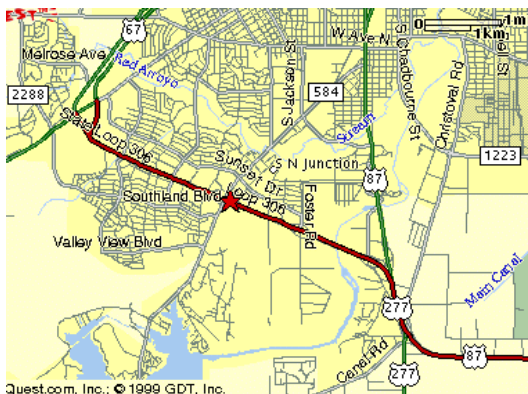
A Group Dinner is normally arranged afterward at each member's own expense, reservations will be taken during the meeting by the host team.

Officer Elections will be held for all positions. Nominations are being accepted by sending e-mail to the committee at nomination@texasreact.org It is very important that every team be represented during this meeting when elections are conducted to choose our leaders for the next two years.

La Quinta Hotel Reservations

Call them direct at 915-949-0515 and ask for Texas State REACT Council rates
(\$49 upstairs room, \$59 downstairs room) Address: 2307 Loop 306, San Angelo, Texas

See maps below for a better idea of directions to the hotel in San Angelo, thanks to the folks at www.mapquest.com, a great place to get driving directions and maps to almost anywhere.



Visit the Council's new website at <http://www.texasreact.org/meetings.htm>

Council Officer Reports



PRESIDENT Sharon Grimm

Well, Fall is here, but it is still so hot it is hard to tell and the fire threats continue to keep many of our teams very busy. This will be my final article as the State Council President since elections are in November and a new Board will take the leadership at that time. Your nominating committee has been busy and will present a slate of officers in this edition of Break-9. I first wish to challenge every Team to bring a nomination for different offices from your Team so that you make sure you are represented and to stir up the fun of this OUR election year by having some fun and exciting competition and team involvement in creating YOUR Board.

We have had a productive and busy two years. Your representatives have attended meetings, sponsored meetings, planned good programs, entertainment and food. The Board has worked well together and have used various means to communicate more frequently than any previous board has been able to.

Everyone has worked hard to represent the interest of the Teams, the State and to work with RI. There have been many firsts. The first woman two term president, the first payments to qualifying Teams of money from State Council from AWTS. We have had coordinated Teams working to earn the points needed to obtain the maximum shares possible for *REACT*. We have worked hard to keep informed and have worked to have good representation from Texas on the RI board. We continue to participate in Special Olympics, VOaid and to support the work of all our joint agencies working in communication and disaster work. We continue through the efforts of many to have a good working relationship with Department of Emergency Management and to serve our local communities and our State well. We have seen the resolution of many problems allowing Teams to work together and members to respect differences in each other. We have welcomed a NEW Team and have many requests to get information about other possible Team start-ups. We have mourned the loss of many of our friends, mentors, partners and great examples of *REACT* volunteerism. They leave behind an AWESOME legacy for the rest of us to recruit new members to carry on and expand. It has been a challenge, fun, educational and a privilege to work with some of the most honorable, dedicated, knowledgeable and creative people imaginable as your President for the last four years. I wish to thank you for your willingness to work with me, to teach me, to communicate with me and to support my leadership during this historically transitional time in *REACT*.

I urge each of you to learn about *REACT*, it's mission, goals, RI by-laws, your Team and to meet and network with other Teams, to tolerate personal differences and to learn to respect and honor each other as our mission to communicate using all appropriate technology brings us together and our dedication to a cause that is BIGGER than us causes us to grow as individuals, friends, Teams and as a viable, dynamic State Council.

I look forward to seeing all the Teams well represented in San Angelo for our election meeting. Please plan to be there and bring as many people from your Team as possible.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Jerry Jennison

As I sit down to write my last report or article for the Break 9, I find myself thinking of the last two years and where we are as a Council. We have several things to be proud of. We have two of our Texas folks that are National officers. We have others that chair or serve on national committees. Most, if not all the Teams in the state are still going strong in their own communities, providing services that are as diversified as the Teams that are performing them.

For the first time that I can remember, the state was able, through AWTS, to give financial support to the Teams. A small amount, to be sure, but that will only continue to get better. It appears that we may have some bright and shiny new faces for at least some of the State Officer positions for the next two years. That's good.

On the other side of the coin, we have not grown as we should. We really need to brainstorm why and what we can do as Teams and Council to make this happen. I for one cannot point a finger at someone else without pointing to myself. I suggest that we don't point those fingers, but put all of those ORANGE-blooded fingers and minds together to solve the problem. I think the Memorandum of Understanding between *REACT* and *ARRL* will be good for both groups and will get new members for both.

Let's talk about the November meeting in San Angelo. We always try to treat you in so many ways, that you are sure to like some of them. We will have sent you information on the meeting by the time you read this article, however, basic hotel and meeting information is enclosed in this newsletter.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you.

VICE PRESIDENT

Allan Tyler

I would like to thank Bell County again on hosting the June State Meeting. It was very enjoyable and everybody had a great time. It was nice to go back to Temple and remember the sites from past meetings there and impulses such as putting 7 people in a Chevrolet Cavalier (small car) and going to eat ice cream. I would also like to thank Wally Smith for his program that he gave at the meeting. What he said in his presentation has happened, is happening, or will happen to most Teams, if not all at some point in time in the Team's existence. It made a lot of us think how much we enjoyed certain Team activities that we do not do anymore.

The time has arrived to elect new officers to lead the Council into the future. As we move into the future, the Council can expect to have new challenges that can effect their existence and the way it operates. I am sure whomever is elected at the November meeting in San Angelo will have the ability to meet these challenges and move in a forward direction. With this in mind, go to San Angelo and represent your Team in the election of Council officers. Remember, the officers are representing YOU and your TEAM.

SECRETARY

Lee Besing

Texas State *REACT* Council Mtg
Temple, TX June 17, 2000
Korean Baptist Church
Hosted by Bell County

Teams Present:

Bell County
Bexar County
Brazoria County
Comal County
Dallas County
McLennan County
Travis County

Teams Absent:

Potter County
Stephens County
San Angelo
Houston Metro
Brownwood



Officers Present:

Allan Tyler, VP
Charlie Land, Treasurer
Lee Besing, Secretary
Jim Coker, Sgt @ Arms

Officers Absent:

Sharon Grimm, President absent because of attending a wedding in Kansas
Jerry Jennison, VP absent because of being in jail. (He was the designated Justice of the Peace on duty)

Board Meeting: No council board meeting held.

General Membership Meeting Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 10:05am by Vice President Allan Tyler. Frank Jenkins, President of Bell County *REACT*, made introductions. Pledge conducted by Lee Besing, Invocation conducted by Pastor Kim of the Korean Baptist Church.

Sgt @ Arms report by Jim Coker, 17 members representing 7 Teams. A quorum of the membership for today's meeting is present.

Minutes from the last meeting were published in the Break-9. Corrections made: Stuart DeLuca is RI chairman of "Publications Review" Committee, not "Publicity Review". Carla Koch asked her first name be spelled with a "C" instead of a "K". Lee stated that he had corrected the minutes to show Dallas County being absent at the last meeting (had been omitted from the list), and corrected the spelling of Carla's name.

Allan Tyler noted that there were some new faces at the meeting, including some members of McLennan County

Treasurer Report:

Last meeting's balance was \$869.10 in checking account. Current balance is \$1,169.09, two bills pending for Break-9 postage (\$142) and AWTS contribution (\$45). Memorial Fund balance is \$1,411.00. Two checks for AWTS distribution have not cleared the bank, issued to Dallas County and Bexar County.

Motion made by Bell County, 2nd by Brazoria County to approve the bills for postage and AWTS. **Motion passed.**

Break-9 Deadline:

Break-9 Deadline is September 15, 2000. Allan Tyler encouraged everyone to meet the deadline since he was 3 days late for the last issue and his article was not included in the publication.

Lunch Arrangements:

Allan Tyler reminded everyone that lunch is being provided free by Bell County *REACT*, and there is a donation jar in the back for a free-will offering to the Korean Baptist Church.

Committee Reports:

Communications:

- (1) Lee Besing reported that RI was introducing a proposal that the FCC set aside channel 1 on the Family Radio Service (FRS) as a calling channel, similar to the function served by GMRS frequency 462.675 or CB channel 9. The proposal encourages manufacturers of such equipment to make channel 1 available with a "no tone" option to allow monitoring of the frequency for other users of the FRS radio.
- (2) Lee Besing reported that RI had established a pilot program whereby *REACT* members in the area of a major disaster can contact a designated "gatekeeper" (trained *REACT* member) who will funnel reports into CNN via telephone. The hope is that after initial clearance thru the "gatekeeper", the *REACT* member on the scene would make his/her reports direct to CNN, perhaps on a 3 way call, and that CNN will begin providing recognition on the air for *REACT*'s participation in this program. More details will be published in the next issue of *The REACTer* magazine.

Membership & Activities:

- (1) New Team pending in Lufkin, Texas, Angelina County *REACT*.
- (2) Inquiries pending from Longview, Victoria and Ft. Worth areas.

Special Olympics:

- (1) Ed & Janelle Williford of Houston Metro brought in radios from Brown & Root and helped the SO with communications. One member from San Angelo was reported present. Dallas County *REACT* had about a dozen members helping on Friday and Saturday night's events only. Discussion held about role of *REACT* members in supporting this event and the delay in planning for the event by SO officials and contacting Dallas County *REACT*. Discussion held about how Houston Metro *REACT* had been assisting

by coordinating the use of the radios instead of tying up manpower to provide the actual communication services.

- (2) Next year's event will also be held in the DFW area. Charlie Land stated that SO will be having another event planned over Christmas Break in addition

Supplies:

Balance of \$188 in the supplies petty cash fund reported by Carla Koch.

Unfinished Business:

Another Way Texas Shares:

AWTS now has 40 member organizations with 5 new member organizations having joined during 2000. The 1998 campaign funds still arriving, and we should be receiving our distribution from the 1999 campaign shortly. One of the problems experienced was that the Council needed to have conducted a financial review before we could participate in the Texas State Employee Charitable Campaign. However the SECC has included the Council in this year's campaign regardless. Stuart DeLuca is the chairperson for 3rd Annual Chocolate Sunday event to be held in Austin on Sunday, August 6th, at the Barton Creek Square Mall. *REACT's* role is to stamp the ticket sheets (public buys sheet of 10 tickets for \$10 donation) each time they receive a "sample" from the vendor. This year it will be held in front of Foley's on the lower level of the mall and they are hoping to have 20-25 vendors participate. Volunteers should arrive by noon, event over by 5pm. Nearly 3-dozen *REACT* volunteers needed for this year's event. Each volunteer gets a free ticket sheet. The weekend is also the "Texas Sales Tax Holiday" so the mall should be busy. Let Jim Coker know if you want to attend (email: kb5ehp@texas.net or phone 512-243-3533)

Team Charter Applications:

Angelina County *REACT*: Rt. 12 Box 6865, Lufkin, Texas 75904. Carl Smith, President, (936) 875-5414, Denise Smith VP, and Jennifer Smith Secretary. It was noted that all three are members of the same family and that Carl Smith was employed as a tow truck driver. Lee Besing contacted Carl Smith on the day of the Council meeting to see if they would be attending, but due to the bad weather, he was unable to attend. Motion by McLennan County, 2nd by Travis County to send recommendation of approval of the charter

Door Prize of special note: Allan Tyler won an IBM Selectric Typewriter.

Special Announcements:

New Phone Number: Jim Coker announced that he and Paula have a new phone number as a result of their move to Mustang Ridge, Texas. The new (non published) number is 512-243-3533.

New 979 Area Code:

It was noted that the (409) area code for Angleton, Brazoria, Clute, etc (Brazoria County members) has been changed to (979) effective immediately. Starting in August, the (409) will no longer work.

New Business:

Regional Directors:

Only Lee Besing has been nominated for Region 7 Director. His bio info is printed in the last issue of *The REACTer*, but it was noted that he only has three children rather than the four (4) specified in the article. Lee asked for the Council and Teams' support of his efforts.

Website Proposal:

Lee Besing explained that he had registered two domain names on behalf of the state council for a web site. He reported that *REACT* Communications Corporation (Chuck Thompson - Dallas) has agreed to cover the annual registration cost (\$35) for the primary domain name. Lee's company, E-commercial.com, has agreed to host the website at no charge, and to provide a sub directory for each County/Team. Each Team will have a User ID and password assigned by E-commercial.com for accessing their website directory. In addition, E-commercial.com will supply free e-mail accounts for the council and one account for each Team. This Team account will be

redirected to a designated Team member's personal account or can be kept as a stand-alone account. Instructions will be provided on a case-by-case basis.

Motion made by Dallas County, 2nd by Bell County to establish a Texas State *REACT* Council Website at the address "www.texasreact.org." Lee Besing's company at no cost to the council will host Website. **Motion passed.**

McLennan County asked their e-mail address be corrected to [Amclennan.county.react @worldnet.att.net](mailto:Amclennan.county.react@worldnet.att.net) in the records and on the website.

REACT International Convention 2000 – Florida

Allan Tyler asked who was planning to attend this year's *REACT* International convention. The following is a list of seven persons, whom are believed to be making plans to attend the convention in Florida the last week of July.

- (1) Lee Besing Bexar County
- (2) Pat Knight -- Bexar County
- (3) David Besing Bexar County
- (4) Chuck Thompson Dallas County
- (5) Stuart DeLuca Travis County
- (6) Charlie Land Travis County
- (7) Patti Land Travis County

Motion made by Brazoria County, 2nd by Dallas County to appoint Lee Besing as delegate and Stuart DeLuca as Alternate delegate. **Motion passed.**

Motion made by Dallas County, 2nd by Travis to pay \$100 per person to the delegate and alternate delegate toward anticipated convention expenses. **Motion passed.**

Nominations Committee:

- (1) Irene Carpenter, Brazoria County, (979) 265-2392, irenecbc@yahoo.com
- (2) Paula Coker, Travis County, (512) 243-3533, kb5ehp@texas.net
- (3) Pat Knight, Bexar County, (210) 656-7657, pat@macanswers.com

It was noted that the Council's bylaws prohibited a person from holding the same officer position two consecutive terms. This affects Sharon Grimm (President), Jerry Jennison (Exec. Vice-President) and Lee Besing (Secretary). Lee Besing put Nomination form on new website for purposes of allowing persons to nominate candidates for any position and the results will be e-mailed to the three committee members direct.

Budget/Audit Committee:

Allen Tyler, VP, proposed to appoint the following persons to the Budget/Audit Committee.

- (1) Stuart DeLuca, Travis County, (512) 836-2861, kc5cfq@texas.net
- (2) Charlie Land, Travis County, (512) 335-7565, cland@mytelco.com
- (3) Omer Bangs, Comal County, (830) 899-2395, comalcoreact@juno.com

Special Program Wally Smith, McLennan County

Wally entertained the group with a story about how to conduct a holiday safety break, and how McLennan County has been using their safety breaks to support their Team and other community organizations. He explained how they contacted prospective vendors and suppliers for donations and coordinated with news media and law enforcement. In the past, the team has used Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to help with manpower.

Motion made by Dallas County, 2nd by Brazoria County, to accept San Angelo's bid to host the November 4, 2000 council meeting. **Motion passed.**

Suggestion made from the floor that Bexar County host the March 2001 council meeting in San Antonio. Lee Besing asked to consult with his team and ask them to perform this hosting function.

Decision announced to ask all Teams to submit their news to the Break-9 rather than taking time during today's meeting.

Irene Carpenter of Brazoria County won 50/50 Pot in the amount of \$11.

Chinese Auction for Dick Pratz's winter *REACT* jacket (donated by Keren Pratz) raised \$60.03 and the winner was Frank Jenkins of Bell County.

Bell County donated the \$40, which they had raised by sale of door prize tickets during the meeting.

Motion made by Travis, 2nd made by Brazoria to adjourn the meeting. **Motion Passed**

Minutes submitted by Lee Besing, Secretary



TREASURER

Charlie Land

Charlie is in the midst of moving from Austin to San Antonio. His new home phone number is 830 980-7574. His e-mail is cland@mytelco.com

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRMAN

George Grimm KK5AV

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has decided to do away with multiple-choice exams on the 5 wpm Morse code element. The new standards will require either one minute (25 characters) of solid copy or seven out of ten fill-in-the-blank questions correct.

Currently many VE teams give multiple-choice exams. This will go into effect by July 1, 2001, but some VECs may implement it sooner. Check with your VE team to find out when they are changing. Exams will also use the Farnsworth method with a character speed of 13 to 15 wpm and audio pitch between 700 and 1000 Hz. Exam fees may also increase after the first of the year. If you are planning to upgrade, take the 5 wpm test soon. It's good for a year towards upgrading to General and confers HF privileges on Tech licenses forever...or until everything changes again.

On August 21st the FCC denied a petition to allow CB communications over 250 km. This means no long distance CB traffic (over 155.3 miles) and no traffic with foreign stations.

Many of us will probably still respond to emergency traffic over 250 km away if nobody closer responds. Would you want to find out that someone 251 km away heard your cry for help and did not send the police, ambulance, etc. because of this ruling? In the past help has been given several states away when stations close at hand could not hear the Mayday. However if you just have to talk to someone over 250 km away, it is easier to get your amateur license now and do it legally.

On July 12, 2000, the FCC created the Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS). It is an unlicensed VHF-CB service. Power is restricted to 2 watts ERP with few other restrictions. MURS can probably be used for CB, phone patch, packet, paging, image, repeater, telemetry and remote control operation. The final rules (Part 95, Subpart J) are not out yet but may be soon. The service could be available as soon as October. It will operate on five frequencies: 151.820, 151.880, 151.940, 154.570 and 154.600 MHz. There are no antenna restrictions (except 2 W ERP) so a fairly large coverage area is possible.

AWTS REPORT

Stuart DeLuca

Chocolate Sunday, the Another Way fund-raiser, was held Aug. 6 in Austin and was a great success. The event raised about \$3,000 to help bankroll the Fall workplace campaigns. The silent auction, added for the first time this year, generated more than \$400. Thanks to Travis County, Comal County, San Angelo, and Brownwood for providing crowd-management on the day of the event, the Council earned a full share of this year's undesignated funds.

Another fund-raiser will be held Nov. 12 in Austin. The "Art with a Heart Holiday Market and Music Festival" will be at the Ben Hur Shrine Temple at Capital of Texas Highway (Loop 360) and Westbank Dr. More than a

dozen artists and craftspeople will have hundreds of gift items for sale, and several music groups will perform. AWTS members, including TSRC, can have a free booth or table for a fund-raising activity or just to hand out literature. Travis Co. will try to take advantage of this opportunity.

“Preliminary final” results of the 1999 AWTS campaign are now in. Total pledges to AWTS came to just under \$200,000, a slight decrease from 1998. Pledges to REACT also were down somewhat, totally \$1,417.93. The breakdown by source is as follows:

<u>AWTS Breakdown by Source:</u>			
	<u>Undesignated</u>	<u>TSRC</u>	<u>Total</u>
State Employee Campaign	\$14,525	\$632.50	\$86,868
Combined Federal Campaign	4,322	344.00	57,807
Private Employers	6,061	-0-	9,473
Public Sector*	<u>12,160</u>	<u>441.43</u>	<u>45,737</u>
Totals	\$37,068	\$1,417.93	\$199,885

*Municipal, county, and transit authorities.

Most worrisome is the complete lack of designated contributions to *REACT* from private-sector employees (mostly law firms and high-tech companies). Apparently public employees know who we are and value our services, but people who work for private companies don't.

TEAM REPORTS

ANGELINA COUNTY

Soon to begin appearing HERE!!

BELL COUNTY

Bell County is getting ready for manning our booth at the semi-annual Belton Ham Fest, held at the Belton Expo Center. Feel free to drop by and say hello to us while you are sampling our hot coffee, cold drinks, and marvelous fresh baked goods straight from Keren's oven.

BEXAR COUNTY

Some of our members have worked with Comal County with their 4th of July Parade at Canyon Lake, plus taking some training for the missing person searches with the bloodhound dogs. At the end of last July, we worked the annual Apple Festival in Medina, Texas. Later this fall, we will be working several events including some outside of the county this fall, up in Bandera, Kendall and Comal counties. During October, the Pumpkin Patch will be in full swing up in Media, Texas, an event for families with kids. In November, we'll be working a Veterans Day Parade in Universal City with the help of Comal County REACT, plus "Christmas in Comfort" the weekend after Thanksgiving up in Kendall County. In December, we'll be back up at Canyon Lake to help

with the annual Christmas Parade and look forward to seeing our friends from Travis and Comal.

BRAZORIA COUNTY

Brazoria County has been quite in the last few months with the exception of 2 bike rides. The team provided communications and logistical support for the Tour De Braz Bike Ride in Alvin in June and the Mosquito Festival Bike & Skate Tour in Clute in July. The team monitored and trouble-shooted the 20, 30, 60, & 100 mile routes on the Tour De Braz Ride and the 15, 30, & 62 mile routes on the Mosquito Festival Ride. The only major incident that happened during these rides was when a cyclist ran into the rear end of a SUV parked on the shoulder of the road. He was flown by Life-Flight to a Houston Hospital as a precautionary measure due to possible head injuries. Other than that, the rides went without any major incidents.

The end of September and the first of October brings a busy time for Brazoria County *REACT*. Our County Fair and Parade starts in early October. The Team is responsible for the lineup of the County Fair Parade to kickoff Fair week. Our next challenge is providing a shuttle service for 8 days (5pm to midnight) from the non-reserved parking lots to the ticket booths and back to the parking lots. We also provide transportation for the calf scramble contestants from one side of the fair complex to the rodeo arena on the other side on 4 nights. We also helped with a Special Kids Day and Senior Citizens Day, which have been held during the

day on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Team has stopped the shuttle service in past years and probably will again this year to help the local explorer post with incoming traffic and parking of vehicles on busy nights. The Team also lets their presence be known in the parking lots late at night to ensure a safer trip for fair goers returning to the vehicles.

November brings the Festival of Lights in Lake Jackson. The Team helps with the lineup of a night parade. Most of the entries have a lighted float or vehicle that you do not see during daytime parades.

December bring Christmas on the Square in Angleton (one evening event). The Team provides a hayride with 3 tractors/trailers around the courthouse complex from 6:30pm to 9:00pm for everyone from kids to grownups.

BROWNWOOD

No Report

COMAL COUNTY

The Team has had a pretty active late Spring and Summer. We worked security for the women's Texas state chili cook-off championship in Seguin, TX. for two days. The "Chili Appreciation Society International" sponsors the cook-off. We have worked their event for the past three years and they are very generous when it comes time to show their appreciation.

We were called out at the end of the school year to work communications and traffic at a bomb threat at one of the area high schools. No bomb was found. We worked the Baptist Memorial Hospital Wildflower 100 bike-a-thon with Bexar County REACT. The Team also worked one-day escorting elementary school students to and from their end-of-school celebration at a nearby entertainment park.

The Team also volunteered our services to control traffic and parking at a day long flea market at Canyon Lake which was held to raise funds for a non-profit children's services organization. The Team controlled traffic and parking for the Bulverde Senior Citizens first annual "5K, Run For The Hills" to benefit the Senior Citizens Center. We worked two days furnishing Rehab to emergency personnel and the victims' family during a search for a drowning victim. We then went out in a members boat on a third day and searched the waters of Canyon Lake. Repeated

dives by experienced divers failed to locate the body in 80- to 100-foot deep water. The Team later searched the opposite side of the lake with Sassy and Katie with no body being found. The body is still missing.

The Team worked the annual Fourth of July parade, sponsored by VFW post 8800 in Startzville, with the help of Travis County and Bexar County REACT. We were given a slightly different route this year and, as of now, have not heard of any criticism of the change.

Two local civic-minded ladies, Robin Ryan and Sandra Krause, both well known in this area and experienced in fund raising, volunteered to organize and promote a fundraiser for Comal County REACT. We eagerly accepted their offer and REACT Summerfest 2000 was born. V.F.W. Post 8573 in Sattler donated the use of their building and parking lot for the Team's use. There were lots of events including arts and crafts, a cake walk, dunking booth, petting zoo, pony rides, a jail house, food booths, snow cones & ice cream, dart board game, a dunking booth and other activities.

The bloodhound teams were on site and, for a small fee, a person could have their picture taken with them. Jack Ryan provided music throughout the event, free of charge. Our air-conditioned communications trailer was used but we were unable to cool off all of the outside working members who needed to be cooled. The July heat was just too severe. We have decided that a Spring Fest or an Autumn Fest might be a better idea for our next fundraiser. Anyway, we brought in a respectable amount of money and everyone was pleased with the turnout.

Team members also assisted with Chocolate Sunday in Austin. Guadalupe County Sheriff assisted in locating an attempted suicide victim; The Texas Rangers requested the bloodhounds to search for a murder victim and the Team conducted two cadaver searches for a drowning victim. The Team also participated in several searches with the San Antonio Police Dept. for missing children, endangered adults and the body of a murder victim.

The bloodhound team has been called upon to assist in searches a number of times recently. The Comal County Sheriff's Dept. requested assistance in locating an assault suspect.

The bloodhounds were called upon to search for four Alzheimer's patients and four missing children during July and August. All of the children, except one, have been located. She is a twelve-year old girl with a history of running away from home. Three

Alzheimer's patients were found alive and one was found dead.

The 81-year-old man who was found dead had been missing for twenty-four hours before the family reported him missing to the Heidi Search Center and the San Antonio Police Dept. The man's son said he thought that there was a 24 hour waiting period before a missing person report could be made. This is a false idea that is still in the heads of many people. There is no waiting period for the elderly or for children.

The REACT bloodhound team responded to a request from the San Antonio Police Dept. for assistance. The Team traveled to the scene in Southwest San Antonio and started Sassy on the trail of the man. Television news teams, detectives from the missing Persons Dept. and uniformed officers, surrounded the bloodhound team to see what they could find. Sassy picked up the trail and followed it for about .6 miles on paved and concrete surfaces to a service station. The man, reportedly, had been seen there. After searching the parking lot/gas pump area her feet became so hot that she had to be relieved on the trail by Katie. The temperature on the Jeep thermometer showed 104 degrees and the official temperature for that afternoon was 101. That is too hot for bare dog feet on pavement for very long. Before starting Katie, she was outfitted in "Cool Paws".

Katie picked up the trail and followed it down a street leading away from the man's usual route of travel on his walks. She followed the trail along the sidewalk for about .6 miles and then turned off into a drainage ditch, which she followed for about another half mile before reaching a wide dry creek bed. There, Katie followed the trail downstream for about 1/2-mile toward the main road, which would lead the man back to his home. The trail led to the bridge crossing over the creek and there, alongside the bridge abutment in the creek bottom, was the body of the missing man. The man had a heart problem; three bypasses a couple of years ago, but the Medical Examiner thought that the heat may have also been a factor in his death.

DALLAS COUNTY

No Report

HOUSTON METRO

No Report

McLENNAN COUNTY

No Report

SAN ANGELO

Communications and helping people is what *REACT* is all about. Members from team #3387 had the opportunity to do both on Sunday evening, July 23, 2000. Unit 5, Don Hall, and unit 47, Roselle Hall had just left the *REACT* building and were on their way home. Don spotted a disturbance on the corner of 7th and Main streets with several people standing around. Upon further investigation, he noted two bicyclists were down on the curb with several people standing around them. Don turned his vehicle around and was able to pull up behind the group and keep traffic in the other lane utilizing the light bar on his van.

Upon further investigation, Don found that the first bicyclist's chain came off his bike, locking it up and his bike went down. The second bicyclist ran over him, was tossed up in the air and came down, stiff-armed, on his right arm. The wrist area was beginning to swell significantly and the young man was in a lot of pain. Unit 47 called Control and unit 16 answered. The request for police and an ambulance were relayed by Control to the police department. The ambulance and police officer arrived on the scene at the same time. Paramedics determined that the young man, Elder Kirby should be taken to the hospital. The police officer stated he could not figure out how to get both bicycles in his patrol car, let alone just one of them. The uninjured bicyclist, Elder Turner, told the group that he and his partner were missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and they were to stay together at all times. Both men were from out of town: Elder Turner was from the state of Washington and Elder Kirby was from Utah. Neither had any family or relatives who could help them with their bicycles.

After discussion with Elder Turner and the police officer, Don offered to take the bicycles to their apartment as he had a bicycle rack in the van, which would carry two bicycles. Elder Turner entrusted their apartment key and their bicycles to unit 5 and unit 47 to take the bicycles to their apartment, put them inside the apartment, lock the door, and return the key to Elder Turner at the emergency room at Shannon Medical Center. This was accomplished in less than 15 minutes.

Unit 5 followed up with the two men on Monday and learned that Elder Kirby's wrist was broken in three places and he would be seeing a specialist on Wednesday. Both men were very appreciative of the help they had received the day before. Once again, *REACT*ers had an opportunity to do what they do best - provide valuable communications and help people.

TRAVIS COUNTY

In place of our report for this period, Travis County *REACT* Team 3022 would like to say Happy Veterans=Day, and a big **THANK YOU** to ALL Veterans of ALL wars.



GOD BLESS AMERICA!!

NEWS OF A FORMER MEMBER COMING HOME

Alfred Fronefield, presently serving in Germany with the US Army, has been reassigned back to Ft. Hood, near Belton, Texas, effective November 2000. He is already looking forward to becoming an active member of Bell County *REACT* upon his arrival. Alfred can be reached via e-mail at kc5vcf@hotmail.com.

DID SOMEBODY SAY AELECTIONS@??

Yep, it's THAT Time again, Folks, when the State Council Officers come up for re-election.

Your nominations committee, consisting of Irene Carpenter-Brazoria, Pat Knight-Bexar, and Your Editor, Paula Coker-Travis, put their heads together (you ever try that through e-mail?) and came up with the following list of candidates:

- Lee Besing-Bexar-President
- Allan Tyler-Brazoria-Exec VP
- Alfred Fronefield-Bell-Vice President
- Pat Knight-Bexar-Secretary
- Serena Martin-Brownwood-Treasurer
- Travis Martin-Brownwood-Sgt-at-Arms

Primary among the reasons for those choices are: **Past attendance at Council meetings, new faces and new blood with new ideas, or new ways to work on OLD ideas.**

Following are the "nominee statements" for the various candidates (if submitted):

Lee Besing –Nominee for President

Lee Besing has been a member of *REACT* since 1974, moving to Texas in 1984 and joining Guadalupe *REACT* in 1985. He became vice president of that Team in 1987, president in 1988 thru 1992, chairman of the board 1993-1994. During that time, he oversaw the merger of Bexar County *REACT* and Guadalupe County *REACT* into a newly named San Antonio *REACT*. In 1996, several members, including Lee, split off from San Antonio *REACT* after differences in leadership, reforming a new Bexar County *REACT*. Lee served as secretary of that team from 1996 thru 1997.

In 1994 Lee was elected vice president of the Texas State Council, and then secretary in 1996 thru present.

In 1997, Lee was elected Director for *REACT* International and over saw the restructuring of *REACT* International and expansion of the board from four directors up to nine regional directors. Lee has served as the corporate secretary for RI in 1999 and 2000, and was re-elected for another three-year term as director this year. Lee is married to Pat Knight and has two sons living with him (David and John), plus a daughter living up in Indiana. Lee is a self-employed computer consultant and provides the host web server for the council's new website and *REACT* International's website.

When we asked Lee what he would do if elected president of the Texas State *REACT* Council, and would it conflict with his duties as Region 7 Director for *REACT* International, he responded as follows:

Let me address the conflict issue first, then move on to my vision for the Council. As Region 7 Director for the past 3 years, and serving as RI Secretary for the past year, I don't think anyone can truthfully say that it has interfered with my support and participation at the Council level. In fact, I probably have as good, or better attendance record than any other officer currently serving on the Council. I have attended every Council meeting, although I was late to one of them due to employment conflicts, arriving at 1pm and missing about an hour of the actual meeting. I have been representing the Council at the *REACT* International

Conventions, from 1991 thru present, missing only the year of 1994. I have been attending meetings of AWTS to represent the Council, along with Stuart

DeLuca (although he has been to more of the meetings than I have), working events for AWTS and making presentations during the annual charity drives to get folks to list AWTS on their donation cards.

As Secretary, I have been typing the minutes on the fly using my notebook PC during the meetings and sharing them with the editor of the Break-9 for publication in the next issue, plus sending them out electronically via the e-mail list server, which I set up for the council's use.

Whether or not I am elected President of the Council, I would like to see the focus of the Council changed. Rather than Council meetings simply being a way for Teams and old friends to gather every four months to exchange reports and having dinner together, I would like to consider changing our meeting structure to include a one-weekend mini-convention in place of a standard meeting. Workshops and seminars could be offered to help share the expertise of particular Teams within our state or region.

Some of our teams have special skills that others don't have. Comal *REACT* has a search dog team, Brownwood has a search and rescue diving team, and Dallas has communications equipment few others can match. The council can serve as a way for these skills to be showcased for the other teams, coordinating these skills for the benefit of Teams statewide.

It's time for the State Council to get off its collective duffs and do more than simply holding three meetings a year, passing out a few bucks to our member teams. I have some ideas for better use of the AWTS funding to promote membership growth within our state.

It's time to elect council officers who want to make *REACT* grow in Texas. If you elect me as president, you will find me pushing for change, for growth. Don't expect to hear me accept the phrase "We've always done it that way before."

Lee Besing
lbesing@reactintl.org
210-680-2680

Allan Tyler-Nominee for Executive Vice President

I was born and raised in Angleton, Texas and still call it home. After high school, I went to work for an electrical construction company as an apprentice electrician. I have been with my present electrical construction company for 13 years as a supervisor in chemical plants in the Freeport area. I married my

wife Peggy in 1979 and our son's name is Bradley who is a senior at Angleton High School.

I got into the CB craze in 1975. In 1976, I joined Brazoria County *REACT* and have been an active member since then with a short absence in 1980. Since my return in 1980, I have held the offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, & Board of Directors. I presently am serving as Vice-President of our local team. I have also held various officer positions on the Area IV Council until it quit operating as an active council. I have been attending Texas State *REACT* Council meetings since 1985. In recent years, I have served as President, Vice President, & Sgt. at Arms for Texas State *REACT* Council. I am presently serving as Vice-President.

I have been part of the Disaster Committee for our local Red Cross Chapter since 1980. I have served as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, & Communications Coordinator for the local chapter. Much of my training with the Red Cross includes Floods of Montgomery County in 1980, Hurricane Alicia in 1983, Brazoria County Floods in 91-92, Brazoria County Floods in 94, Tropical Storm Francis in 1998 & other small activities in the county. Brazoria County *REACT* also serves as communication support and manpower for our local Red Cross Chapter.

With our team, I have been involved with the County Fair since 1976 in lining up the County Fair Parade. For 8 years, ending in 1998 I have served Chairman & Co-Chairman of the Fair Parade Committee with local team members also on the committee. I have also coordinated many activities with our team through out the years involving our County Fair.

Through the years with Brazoria County *REACT*, I have coordinated communication activities such as bike rides, parades, softball tournaments, soccer tournaments, shuttle services, rest stops, disaster communications, & traffic control. Working with my fellow *REACT* members has taught me a lot about working with volunteers and they are a special group of people that will go above and beyond the call of duty if I can use that phrase.

I am also serving my first term as President of the Angleton Athletic Booster Club. With working with volunteers for so many years, I have learned that good communication is the key for a successful organization to exist and prosper.

Allan Tyler
atyler@mastnet.net

Alfred Fronefield-Nominee for Vice President

Alfred Fronefield is a Life Member for REACT, was president of Bexar County REACT up until the US Army transferred him to Europe in late 1997. Alf has served as the chairman for the REACT International Training Committee since 1998, and as co-chair for the Amateur Radio committee from 1998-2000. He has demonstrated leadership at both the local and International levels.

Alf has been transferred back to Texas, specifically Ft. Hood, effective December 13, 2000. He has already contacted Bell County REACT to become an active participating member of that team during his next 3-year assignment in that area, which would enable him to be an active participant at the State Council and local team levels. Alf is a licensed GMRS and Amateur Radio Operator and enjoys setting up and conducting training drills for emergency operations.

He coordinated one of the largest missing person searches held in Bexar County in January 1996 where we had two REACT Teams, members of five Ham Clubs, multiple search dog teams, horse patrols, police and sheriff units, light aircraft and helicopters, all with their unique communication needs. We had ultra-light aircraft using CB radio to communicate with a ground crew, which used Amateur 2 meter to relay back to HQ. REACT had two bases of operations about 20 miles apart with simultaneous operations.

Alf would be an asset to the council, and the minor fact that he can't be at the November meeting due to the US Army's scheduling should not prevent the council from accepting and using his skills to our benefit.

Alf Fronefield
kc5vcf@hotmail.com

Pat Knight-Nominee for Secretary

Pat Knight became a REACT member in 2000 after marrying Lee Besing on Valentines Day. But she got her introduction to REACT within a week of their first date, as she assisted with Comal County REACT's Christmas Parade near Canyon Lake in 1999. During that same month, she met members of Travis, Comal, and Bexar during the annual Christmas parties and other events. Pat is a self-employed computer consultant with two sons, (David and John), plus one daughter.

She has attended every state council meeting since becoming a member, and went to the REACT International convention this past July. Those of you whom have met her at the council meetings know that she is always willing to jump in to assist where ever help is needed, the sign of a true REACTer.

Pat Knight
pat@macanswers.com

Serena Martin- Nominee for Treasurer

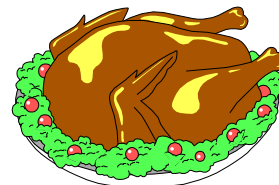
No candidate statement given

Travis Martin-Nominee for Sgt-at-Arms

No candidate statement given

According to our bylaws, a team delegate may present further nominations for any officer position from the floor during the November meeting. Such candidate must be present in person, or have provided a written statement accepting such nomination for the records.

If it's November, it must also be time for:



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!



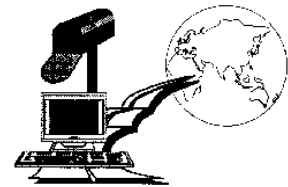
Chuck Thompson (Dallas) receives special award from the Canadian representatives during the 2000 REACT International Convention. Photo taken by Lee Besing.

IN MEMORIAM

Emma Knox	XIT REACT	Rubye Chambers	Longview Area REACT
E.A. Knox	Friend of REACT	F.E. Healer	Sweetwater REACT
Gladyce Wilkins	Bell Co. REACT	Henry Pittman	Longview Area REACT
LaFaye Durham	Bell Co. REACT	Imogene Shoemaker	Houston Metro REACT
Nell Pessink	Piney Woods REACT	Richard E. Pratz	Bell Co. REACT
Curtis Bell	Navarro Co. REACT	Paul Judge	Travis Co. REACT
Ivan Knox	XIT REACT	Noah Nelson	Bell Co. REACT
Tommy Thomas	Potter Co. REACT	Wylie Durham	Bell Co. REACT
Chuck Button	Bell County		

Texas State *REACT* Council goes Electronic! WWW.TEXASREACT.ORG

Thanks to a free offer by Lee Besing's company, E-commercial.com, the Texas State *REACT* Council now has their own website at www.texasreact.org, with space for each Team within the council's site. This will allow each Team to design and build their own website free of charge, without paying hosting charges for their site or the Team's main e-mail account. The new council site is up and ready for public viewing now. If your Team already has a website up, you have a couple of choices to consider. You can use the space within the Council's website to redirect to your current website, or you can transfer your data from the current site to the new one. If a Team chooses not to actively participate in this project, they won't be forced into it, but they will have a one page website that gives the public contact information. In fact, Lee has already created, copied or linked a website for every team in the council.



As an example of a Team's website under the Council, visit www.texasreact.org/bexar. Construction of Comal County's site has begun, www.texasreact.org/comal, featuring photos of their search dogs and a new kind of silent auction they are conducting to sell a hand made *REACT* quilt. Visitors to the site will be able to complete an on-line form to submit their "bid" and a member of the Team will post the results on the quilt page, plus building an e-mail list of all bidders to keep everyone posted as to the new offers. This "process" will be extended over the next several months with full details being published in the *Break-9* and the *REACTer* in order to maximize the amount raised by this effort.



E-mail accounts have been established for each Council Officer and Committee Chair, plus one primary account for each Team. These mail accounts can be stand-alone accounts, which the designated person can connect via the net to send or retrieve messages, or they can be auto redirected to an existing e-mail account, such as your Juno, AOL, or local ISP account. See inside the front and back covers for the new e-mail accounts.

To setup your Team's website, simply contact Lee Besing at (210) 680-2680, via e-mail at lbesing@reactintl.org or talk to him at the Council meeting in November. Lee will provide instructions for each Team, along with assigning a user name and password to access your team's site via FTP software. Lee will have some copies of an easy to use html software program that allows you to manage your site if you need it. Be sure to advise him well before the Council meeting if your Team wants a copy of this software.

QUILT AUCTION – ON-LINE

Comal County REACT is trying something new, an on-line auction using their new website at www.texasreact.org/comal. A quilt has been made with the American Flag, Texas Flag and REACT Logo. The background is white and border is orange. The Flags and REACT Logo are in their normal colors. This quilt will be shown on-line in full color and bids will be accepted via e-mail.

The website will be kept updated as bids are received and the cut-off date for all bids will be posted on the website. Proceeds will be used to help with expenses incurred by the search dog team.



For more information, contact Comal County REACT using their contact info shown inside the back cover of this newsletter or visit their team's website.

Photo At Left: One of Comal County REACT's search dogs get a drink after finding the "missing" child. (Pat Knight's son, John) during an exercise. Photo taken by Lee Besing



EDITORIAL

Paula Coker, Editor

It has come to my attention that there are some people who, having learned of the nominations for officers of the State Council, are not sure they think that those nominees can do the job, or might have personal piques with those nominees. After having talked with several different members of the Council, they think that change is what is really needed in order to make the State Council better, and to keep it from going the way of the Area Councils.

Texas really doesn't have Area Councils anymore, per se, and Area 5 was probably the last one to die. There were only two or three Teams who ever showed up, and often not enough people there to do any business. This is what I see happening to the State Council unless there are new faces sitting in the officers=places. Also, there needs to be new ideas introduced to the members and gotten out to those Teams that don't go to the meetings to try to get more people involved in State Council. We need to encourage formation of new Teams, and work to make State Council something that is enjoyed by all Teams and to bring more of the Teams who have not been attending, back to the meetings.

I think the members of the State Council need to take a long look at what they can do to improve the meetings so that they don't seem so dry. I know that there is business that needs to be taken care of, but it would be nice if there were programs or something that would make the meetings where all the Teams felt like it was really worth coming. Also, I think that more of the Teams that haven't held a meeting in a long time should take their turn so that more people could meet their members and get to know them. Most of all, the Teams are having a hard time keeping and getting new members. This could be something that the State Council might be able to help with.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2000 REACT International Convention

Special awards were awarded by the REACT International Board of Directors at Banquet. This included one to one of our very own, Stuart DeLuca (Travis County). Both Bell County won first place in the Newsletter contest and Bexar County REACT won second place in the brochure competition. See details below:

Goebel Awards -- Bob Leef and Johnny Stowers
President's Awards - Wayne Barringer, **Stuart DeLuca** and David Moore

CONTEST WINNERS:

Website:

1st: Rainer REACT Radio Watch 3366
2nd: Oklahoma County REACT 2620
3rd: Tri-County REACT 6003
Council: Wisconsin Council of REACT Team.

Newsletter:

1st: **Bell County REACT 4047**
2nd: Oklahoma County REACT 2620
Council: Wisconsin Council of REACT Teams

Brochure:

1st: Crest Communications 4252
2nd: **Bexar County REACT 4950**
3rd: Oklahoma County REACT 2620

Scrapbook:

1st: Oklahoma County REACT 2620
2nd: Whiteside County REACT 4714

Placard, Juniors:

1st: Katrina Andrejco
2nd: Joseph Popalis Jr
3rd: Matthew Eckert

K-40 AWARDS

Underwritten by K-40 Communications: (Note awards were not distributed during last year's convention due to administrative reasons, so the 1998 awards are being awarded retroactive and each winner has already received their check and plaque as appropriate. In fact, Lee Besing, Region 7 Director, drove to Missouri to deliver the two

plaques and checks issued to Mark Twain REACT, and to shake their hands in person.)

1998 WINNERS

2nd Quarter Individual Winner: Fred Satterly, St Thomas REACT Team #4760 Ontario Canada

3rd Quarter Team Winner: Mark Twain REACT Inc, Waynesville MO

4th Quarter Individual Winner: Jay Sharkey, St Thomas REACT Team #4760, Ontario Canada

4th Quarter Team Winner: Southwest Iowa REACT Team #4971, Council Bluffs IA

1998 Yearly Individual Winner: Fred Satterly, St Thomas REACT Team #4760, Ontario Canada

1998 Yearly Team Winner: Mark Twain REACT Inc, Waynesville MO

1999 WINNERS

1st Quarter Individual Winner: Mary-Ellen Hicknell, St Thomas REACT #4760, Ontario Canada

2nd Quarter Individual Winner: Chief William R. Kofron, Colleton County REACT Team #3153, Walterboro SC

3rd Quarter Individual Winner: Estelle Riemer, Montgomery County REACT Team #2388, Silver Springs MD

3rd Quarter Team Winner: Tri-City County REACT Team #4365 Janesville WI

4th Quarter Individual Winner: Roberta "Bobby" Ernston, So. MN Albert Lea REACT Team #C-143, Clarks Grove MN

1999 Yearly Individual Winner: Estelle Riemer, Montgomery County REACT Team #2388, Silver Springs MD

1999 Yearly Team Winner: Tri-City County REACT Team #4365, Janesville WI

Awards given by the 2000 Convention Committee:

Winner of the Early Bird Drawing (for those Registering between August 1, 1999 and 15 March 2000): **Stuart DeLuca** (Travis County)

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(kb5bgt@swbell.net)

New/changed information other than
Team name & address is in **BOLD**.

All teams now have a website listed
under the state council's site. Check
out <www.texasreact.org> for more
information.

New Team Charter Kits and other
aids to starting a new REACT Team
are available from the website free
of charge for anyone to download
and print out on their computer.



If this ain't just great!! He's asleep and leaves me and this dumb horse to figger out how to git to San Angelo so HE can vote on them new Council officers!! ^&**%\$#^%*()!! Oughta take 'im to Texline, but I couldn't find it.

Break-9

**Paula Coker, Editor
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