

# CREST REACTivities

Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams



*“Public Service Through Voluntary Two-Way Radio Communications”*

Crest REACT Team #4252

Apr-May-Jun / Corona, CA

Year 2001, Issue 2

## [ In This Issue ]

- Test Drill Plans.....	1
- Traffic Watch Update.....	1
- Changing Face of Monitoring.....	2
- RRT in the Southland?.....	2
- Headlines & Information.....	3
- Team Information.....	4
- Membership Application .....	5
- Mailer Cover Page .....	6

*“If you always do,  
what you’ve always done,  
You’ll always get,  
what you’ve always got.”*

### RADIO NET:

Monday Night @ 8:00 p.m.  
462.675 MHz

***DON’T WAIT — until  
disaster hits to begin  
preparing. More than  
likely, typical resources  
will be scarce or non-  
existent and you’ll be  
unable to help yourself  
or those who need it.***

***Start Preparing Today!***

## Stage is Set for “Test” Emergency Drill by Local REACT Team

***Team Crest to test radio capabilities and member skills by creating “mock” emergency scenario.***

**Corona, CA, April 5, 2001** — Team Crest will be conducting a simulated “emergency” on August 25th from 09:00 to 11:00. The “test” will create a range of “unexpected emergencies” that will be recorded for later evaluation and to develop training materials for later use by the team.

Special attention will be given to maintaining radio discipline, proper radio procedures and coordination of resources. A full range of communications options will be deployed during the “test” scenario, to include GMRS, Amateur and FRS radios. Cellular phones, electronic mail and other team resources will be available and may be used during the 2-hour period.

“These drills are an important part of team preparedness,” said Crest 46/Tom, the team’s Training Officer. “We have been training for this type of exercise all year long and are excited to finally put it all together. In the past we’ve had some real unexpected surprises that really tested our capability. If a real emergency develops, we’ll be better prepared to assist those who need it the most.”

The public will be invited to participate. A special e-mail account will be activated during the test and selected incoming messages will be broadcast during the drill.

More detailed information, including how the public can “join in” is located on the team’s web site: <http://www.crestcom.org>

## “Traffic Watch” Program: From the Desert to the Sea

***Local Monitoring Program Reaches Into Inland Valley to Provide Additional Services.***

**Corona, CA, January 19, 2001** — Inland Valley radio operators are a little safer today because of Crest 71/Mary Lou. By “stepping up to the plate” and volunteering for the “Traffic Watch” monitoring program, she effectively extends its geographical “reach” from “the desert to sea” and extends the blanket of safety being established by Traffic Watch monitors.

Inland traffic and weather information will now be available on week-days in the morning from 09:00 to 11:00 and in the afternoon from 15:00 to 17:00 on the Snow Peak repeater. Additionally, situations requiring a CHP or emergency response will be handled through Crest 71.

“Traffic Watch” is a local REACT monitoring program started by Team Crest. Volunteers “sign up” for a designated block of time and monitor specific radio frequencies.

When contacted by field [usually mobile] units, they gather traffic-related information that can then be shared with other radio operators. Monitors also contact law enforce-

*(Continued on page 3)*

# RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

## Crest Communications

REACT Team #4252  
P.O. Box 395, Corona, CA 92878  
800-99-REACT - or - 800-997-3228  
Fax: 714-994-6565

**"REACTivities"** is the official newsletter of Crest Communications. Published quarterly, it is mailed approximately one week prior to our monthly meetings of August, November, February and May.

This publication is supplemented each month by our Crest "REACTivities e-Gram" sent to members and guests via e-mail.

Our team has a strict **"no spam"** policy regarding the distribution of e-mail.

### Editors:

Crest 94 / Wayne  
Crest 1 / Bob  
Crest 42 / Goody

### Contact Information:

On the Web:  
[www.crestcom.org](http://www.crestcom.org)  
Internet mail:  
[info@crestcom.org](mailto:info@crestcom.org)  
Membership Info:  
[membership@crestcom.org](mailto:membership@crestcom.org)

### Distribution:

In addition to team members, a courtesy copy is sent to local REACT teams in the southern California area and selected guests.

Non-member subscription rate is \$6.00 per year within the U.S.

### Communications:

Team Crest maintains an extensive repeater network that is used by members and local REACT teams.

The repeater network is also used by many licensed GMRS operators to maintain family communications throughout the Southland.

A copy of the GMRS license must be provided before users are authorized to use the team's repeater network.

***"A brain is an organ that starts working when you first get up in the morning, and doesn't stop until you GET TO THE OFFICE!!"***

***- Anonymous -***

# The Changing Face of Monitoring

## *Technology offers increased capability to "behind the scenes" radio operators focusing on public safety.*

Technology has forever changed the way business is done. Computers, networks, e-mail and the Internet have each had an impact on how businesses collect, store and distribute information. REACT and its membership have been quick to see the benefits of new technologies and use them to assist in their public service efforts.

"The REACTer" is the official publication of REACT International [RI]. Mailed to all paid members on a bi-monthly basis, it serves as the only source of "outside information" regarding the activities and efforts of teams outside their specific region. RI also has an web site available for public viewing at: <http://www.reactintl.org>

But that's not the end of it. REACT worldwide is supplemented by member-developed team web sites, electronic mail, specially created "chat" rooms and a newsgroup that has been developed to quickly share information among REACT members.

Team Crest also makes every effort to maximize its communications capability. In addition to the traditional base, mobile and hand-held radios, Crest had developed and maintains an extensive repeater network throughout southern California.

In addition to its team web site, the team also distributes the **"Crest REACTivities e-Gram,"** an electronic version of this printed newsletter. Sent via e-mail each month, each issue focuses on team activities and events, late-breaking team and REACT news, and a section devoted to contact information on a host of topics.

Monitoring remains a basic tenant responsibility of every REACT member and Crest has embraced that responsibility through the creation of its "Traffic Watch" program. Volunteers use a range of radio communications and technology to gather and share much-needed information to other radio operators and the general public.

Many volunteers use the Internet to view traffic-oriented web sites, obtaining information on traffic accidents, "SIG-Alerts" and general freeway data that can be transmitted to REACTers who need it. Many members use multiple "sessions" so they can quickly "click" to different screens and provide up-to-date information without delay. The team uses e-mail to share information, both among its members and to REACTer of other teams, both local and faraway.

Technology has changed the face of monitoring. It has provided volunteers with additional tools that enhances their ability to monitor and provide a valued public service.

It also "fills in the gap" between calls much better than an unquenched CB radio!!

# # # # #

## What's It Going to Take?

### *Will southern California ever have a Rapid Response Team?*

**Southern California** — They sometimes happen without warning, causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damage, taking weeks or months to repair, and ultimately leaving personal loss and tragedy in their wake. Yet we still don't have one.

Although Californians expect most of their days to be full of sunshine and ocean breezes, Mother Nature is always full of surprises when it comes to the topic of weather.

Yet, ironically, we still do't have one.

Earthquakes, Santa Ana winds, heavy surf advisories, and (as pictures) wildfires ... all of these and more are part of the California lifestyle. It has been that way for a long time, and there are no signs that it's going to change in the immediate future. So, why don't we have a REACT recognized/sponsored Rapid Response Team?

Southern California serves as the "base of operations" to one of the largest group of individual REACT members in the continental United States. 20+ REACT teams continue to gather communications resources for their team's use in the future, yet no team has "taken the bull by the horns" and attempted (in recent history) to broker a deal between the teams and create an RRT. What will it take before individual teams begin to think beyond their own memberships and plan for the greater good?

# # # # #



Images of past wildfires are difficult to forget easily.

# HEADLINES & INFORMATION

## PROGRESS REPORT

### Team on Target for 2001 Goals

*Members are proud of year-to-date progress*



**Editor's Note:** The previous issue numbered Section "D" goals erroneously. Instead of Goal 1 1 2 2, they should have been listed as 1 2 3 4. This status update assumes the 1 2 3 4 for reporting purposes. We apologize for the error. -- Wb sends.

**Corona, CA** — Setting goals is an important aspect of moving forward. Members of REACT Team #4252 have every right to feel proud, because their list of 2001 team goals is keeping them moving at an almost "hectic" pace. The list of goals that have been accomplished so far is getting longer.

For example, the following is now completed:

[ Section A: Training ]

A1, A2, A3 and A4 are completed and 100% finished.

[ Section A: Communications ]

B1, B2, B3 and B4 are 100% completed.

[ Section C: Marketing ]

C3, C5 are In Progress. C1 and C4 are being planned. C2 is drafted, but not distributed.

[ Section D: Information & Documentation ]

D1 and D3 are implemented. D2 and D4 are being developed for implementation.

[ Section E: Awards & Recognition ]

E1 is completed. E2 and E3 are implemented & ongoing. E4 is drafted and awaiting implementation.

## Very Impressive!!

**"In all of nature there is no such thing as staying the same. You are either striving to make yourself better.....or allowing yourself to get WORSE!!"**

**Keep Informed.  
Stay in Touch!!  
Keep Your e-Mail Address and  
Contact Information Updated.**

## EARLY NOTIFICATION

### Crest 210 Begins Laughlin Rally Preparations

*Annual Laughlin, NV event requires lots of preparation and coordination*

Just like Santa Claus, Crest 210/Michael is starting early this year. No, he won't be assisting Jolly Saint Nick with his "one big night" delivery job, and he won't get near as much publicity, but he knows lots of communicators will be depending on him. So, he's starting early.

The 2000 Rally boasted 50+ volunteers from all over the U.S. Communicators used their own equipment, which required plenty of advance planning and frequency coordination. Not everything went as smoothly as possible, so this year 210 is taking no



chances. Like his jolly counterpart, he's "checking it twice" to make sure all the bases are covered, and so last minute changes will be minimized.

Volunteers are being accepted already. In fact, the more the merrier, according to 210. [Doesn't this sound more and more like we're talking about "that other guy???"]

Contact Crest 210 for more information, or see details on the 2001 Schedule of Events page on the team web site.

###

## "Traffic Watch" Program

*(Continued from page 1)*

ment to report traffic accidents, freeway obstacles, or other situations impeding the normal flow of traffic. Traffic Monitors also assist in relaying information to the mass media to report situations that affect the general public. Many times this information is re-broadcast on local radio or television stations.

Monitors with Internet access frequently use their personal computers to aid in monitoring efforts. Freeway-related sights providing CHP and other information are referred to when responding to inquiries regarding specific routes.

Additional monitors are needed to enhance existing coverage. Volunteers must be a current member of REACT, have GMRS capability and be able to respond to emergency requests by making telephone contact with CHP or local law enforcement. Preferences are being given to volunteers wanting to monitor during afternoon "rush hour" periods.

Information about the Traffic Watch program or membership in REACT in southern California is available FREE by calling the REACT "Hotline" at 800-99-REACT or 800-997-3228.

###

## TOPICS OF INTEREST

**IRVINE, CA., April 21, 2001** — Volunteer communicators from Team Crest arrived early and “assumed their positions” at the Traveland Chili Cook-off. The event was coordinated by our own Crest 46/Tom, Team Training Officer. Banners sporting “Crest Communications” hung proudly near the lake and at the exit. Pictures are available from the “News Page” of our team web site.

# # # #

**GMRS “On Line” Repeater Directory** — Thanks to the combined efforts of Crest 1/Bob and Crest 94/Wayne, a new resource is available on the Internet for GMRS users. It’s the new web-based GMRS repeater directory: [www.g-m-r-s.org](http://www.g-m-r-s.org). The site features repeater and contact information that can be printed locally on a standard 8.5” x 11.0” sheet of paper.

# # # #

**REACT’S SILENT MICs” REMEMBERED** — Although many REACT members volunteer their time, energy and radio equipment resources, there was no “single point of focus” on the Internet where they are remembered, until now. Our own Crest 94/Wayne created [www.r-e-a-c-t.org](http://www.r-e-a-c-t.org) so that past members will be remembered. The site also features the “V-NET” program for all REACT teams and members. What’s V-NET? Surf on out to the site and find out for yourself!!

# # # #

**New WebMaster for RI Site** — Dale Ellis has been selected by the Computer Services Committee at REACT International to follow our own Crest 94/Wayne as the next RI WebMaster. He brings Dale brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new assignment. As an active webmaster involved with numerous Oklahoma State and REACT organizations, as well as designing numerous personal web site, he serves as Vice President of OK REACT, designing their site: <http://www.okreact.org>.

“I am looking forward to making the RI site one that we can be proud of. It has already come a long ways from the first few pages. I hope to keep it that way,” said Dale in a recent e-mail posting.

Dale can be reached by e-mail at: <mailto:dale02@bigfoot.com>

# # # #

## — VOLUNTEERS NEEDED —

**After almost 4 months of relaxation, it’s time to “get kicking” and be ready to participate in making 2001 another successful year for Team Crest. We need YOUR HELP by VOLUNTEERING IN ADVANCE and making it EASIER TO PLAN for event staffing as the summer approaches. 4th of July is JUST AROUND THE CORNER. It’s YOU who MAKES US STRONG, so PLEASE GET INVOLVED and VOLUNTEER EARLY.**

## TEAM INFORMATION

### IDENTIFICATION:

Crest Communications / Crest REACT  
REACT Team #4252 — California  
Proudly Serving Since 1978

### YEAR 2001 OFFICERS:

Crest 94 / Wayne .....	President
Crest 30 / Chuck .....	Vice President
Crest 210 / Michael .....	Communications
Crest 46 / Tom .....	Training
Crest 25 / Ed .....	Secretary
Crest 51 / Barry .....	Treasurer
Crest 95 / Mark {Honorary} .....	Sergeant At Arms

### COMMITTEES:

Awards & Recognition, Internet Operations, Membership, Public Relations, Repeater Operations

### TEAM MEETINGS:

Crest REACT meets on the first Thursday of each month @ 7:00 p.m. at the Corona Senior Center on the corner of 10th & Belle Streets. “Talk in” on 462.675 MHz simplex. A valid FCC license is required on this frequency. For directions or information, please call 909-279-9358 or 800-99-REACT.

An auto-reply “info-box” provides an extensive amount of FREE information on Team Crest and REACT membership in the Southland. Send an e-mail to: [membership@crestcom.org](mailto:membership@crestcom.org)

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Crest REACT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides volunteer two-way communications. By using a combination of GMRS, amateur and CB radios, we facilitate all kinds of community events such as parades, festivals, races, etc. Members also assist Red Cross, Salvation Army, and other selected agencies. We carry \$1,000,000 of liability insurance.



On a daily basis we report freeway accidents and problems that impede the normal flow of traffic. Some of this information is broadcast on AM and FM stations in Southern California, helping millions of drivers. For our work, we have been bestowed The President’s Volunteer Action Award.

### RADIO OPERATIONS:

We use a range of authorized frequencies licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. The team uses the GMRS 462/467.675 frequency pair for their primary operations.

**More Info: <http://www.crestcom.org>**

# CREST COMMUNICATIONS



## Membership Application

***PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM TODAY!!***

APPLICATION IS FOR:  NEW  RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP > CREST UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ [ASSIGNED BY CREST]  
BE SURE AND DESIGNATE YOUR DESIRED MEMBERSHIP STATUS BELOW. ONE SHEET PER APPLICANT.

**- PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ALL INFORMATION -**

**TELL US ABOUT YOU:**

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4: \_\_\_\_\_

[ HOME ]: TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FACSIMILE: \_\_\_\_\_

[ WORK ]: TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FACSIMILE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGER: \_\_\_\_\_ GMRS LICENSE? \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR? CALL SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER OF ARRL?  YES  NO. IF YES, MEMBER NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS:**

- REGULAR (\$23.00 / ANNUALLY): For Primary Member. Use family & Junior options for family members.
- FAMILY (\$21.00 / ANNUALLY - PER MEMBER): For spouse or family members living "UNDER THE SAME ROOF"
- JUNIOR (\$21.00 / Annually Per Member): Please complete and mail / fax to 714-994-6565. We will contact you.
- LIFE (Information available upon request. Complete information and mail / fax to 714-994-6565. We will contact you.
- TRANSFER (\$23.00 / ANNUALLY) Please provide the following:  
From what State? \_\_\_\_\_ Team Number? \_\_\_\_\_ Years active in REACT? \_\_\_\_\_

For JUNIOR Applicants ONLY: You must provide your birthday: Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE NOTE: 100% of your membership is passed on directly to either REACT International or the Repeater Users Group. Membership in Crest REACT is absolutely **FREE**. Our team collects, but does not keep ANY of your membership dues.

**AREA OF MEMBERSHIP INTEREST:**

- I would like information on GMRS repeaters for personal use ( REQUIRES PERSONAL GMRS LICENSE)
- I would like to participate / contribute in becoming an active member of the team.

**PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

- Event Participation Providing Volunteer Communications with other team members.
- Traffic Watch Monitoring Program
- General Monitoring Program  Frequent Mobile Reporting
- Amateur Radio Operations  Support Activities
- Committees: \_\_\_ Awards & Recognition \_\_\_ Repeater \_\_\_ Purchasing \_\_\_ Disaster Preparedness

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN CREST COMMUNICATIONS - REACT Team #4252.

Please mail this application ( don't forget your payment!! ) to: **Crest REACT, P.O. Box 395, Corona, CA 92878**

**Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams**

***"Committed to Public Service Through Voluntary Two-Way Radio Communications"***

# CREST REACT

## Crest Communications

P.O. Box 395, Corona, CA 91718

Tel: 800-99-REACT

Fax: 714-994-6565

Info: [membership@crestcom.org](mailto:membership@crestcom.org)  
or <http://www.crestcom.org>



GMRS — AMATEUR — FRS — BASE / MOBILE

## Here It Is!! Open Now!

Team "REACTivities"  
Newsletter Inside

---

---

---

---

### REACT - Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams

REACT has been on the scene for 30+ years. We provide 2-way communications as a public service in emergencies and as a public service to our communities. Want more info — REACT International web site at <http://www.reactintl.org>

***"Public Service Through 2-Way Radio Communications"***

### Crest Communications / Crest REACT Team #4252, Corona, California

#### Come Join Us:

Team meetings are held the 1st Thursday of each month at the Corona Senior Center, corner of 10th & Belle in the city of Corona. We start promptly at 7:00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

#### Monday Night Net:

REACT teams from all across southern California check in on the Monday Night Net at 8:00 p.m. on 462.675MHz. No Radio? Use a scanner — and listen to the most current news available.

#### Want More Information?

We make it easy AND convenient!! FREE information is an e-mail away from your fingertips!! Crest REACT team members share a common interest in radio communications and public service.

> Internet: <http://www.crestcom.org>

> Information: [membership@crestcom.org](mailto:membership@crestcom.org)

### 2-Way GMRS Communications in SoCal

Southern California has one of the most extensive GMRS repeater networks in the United States. Crest REACT members rely heavily

on the capability of GMRS base & mobile operators to make reports, stay in touch with each other and their loved ones.

Over the years, Crest REACT has focused on building and maintaining a GMRS repeater network that provides reliable, extensive communications range capability.

Today, that network is a reality.

As a REACT member, or if you are an individual with a valid GMRS license, our repeater network is available to you.

We realize people obtain their GMRS license for many reasons.

Through our REACT membership, we use our radios to report traffic accidents, assist during emergencies, and stay in contact with each other.

If you have your GMRS license, please listen in to the Monday Night Net. When we ask if there are any GMRS license holders wanting to "check in" ... We'd like to hear from you.