

the REACTer

FALL/WINTER 2014





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Merry Christmas
from the REACTer

2014

year in review





HOLIDAY WISHES

It's hard to believe 2014 is almost over. From the looks and sounds of things, it's been a great year for REACT teams across the regions! Thank you so much for all of the time you have spent volunteering within your communities. You have helped make the world a better place.

I would like to personally send the warmest thanks to everyone who has taken the time to contribute some absolutely outstanding articles and photographs to *the REACTer* this year. It has been a pleasure to read your stories and receive your input—frankly, we couldn't have done it without you!

The evolution of *the REACTer* is ongoing and we will continue on our quest to provide you with relevant, insightful, and enjoyable content.

A major goal for 2015 will be to promote social media as an effective way to take the pulse of our members on various topics and issues. Look for a different #hashtag in each issue to help get the conversation started!

It is my belief that sharing knowledge between teams globally is an extremely powerful and important tool that helps us adapt and evolve as an organization. With this in mind, *the REACTer* provides a unique opportunity to share our stories and ideas across borders.

I encourage you to take advantage of this tool to maximize its potential, and together we will maximize our own potential and continue to get even better at what we do best!

Finally, I would like to wish you and yours a Very Merry Christmas, a Wonderful Holiday Season, and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Brad Walker
Editor

members corner



▲ Final design may vary

will be punched to allow use of a clip or to be hung from a lanyard. New cards will be reissued each year to renewing members.

President Capodanno emphasized the need to furnish RI with updated and correct team unit numbers, information about disaster training, GMRS and Amateur call signs, etc., as this information will all be reflected on the reverse side of the ID card.

ID cards for annual members will have orange trim and will prominently display the year 2015. REACT International Life Member cards will feature gold trim and will display LIFE instead of the year. Cards will be furnished to unaffiliated Life Members.

For 2016, RI will be able to furnish team-designed ID cards for a small fee, said President Capodanno. If teams wish to design their own cards for 2016, he said, proposed designs should be submitted early in the year to allow time for processing.

Teams should furnish a photograph for each renewing team member with the 2015 renewal. New or replacement photographs may be submitted at any time by emailing digital photos to photos@reactintl.org or mailing regular paper photographs to:

REACT International, Inc., P.O. Box 21064,
Glendale, California 91 221-5164.

*While the initial issue ID card is included at no charge with annual REACT renewal, replacement cards (including adding a photograph or changing information) will be \$5.00 each, including postage and handling.

ID, PLEASE.

REACT International is pleased to announce that, for use in 2015, International will supply an all-new plastic identification card to each renewing member.*

The ID cards will be printed in color on both sides, and will include a photograph if one is furnished by the team or individual. According to RI President John Capodanno, the cards will be produced on a newly-acquired machine from MagicCard and will contain the same information as the paper ID cards issued in recent years. He emphasized that furnishing a photograph is a one-time requirement, as submitted photographs will be stored in the RI database and reused each year. Photos may be any size, digital or paper, color or black-and-white.

The cards will be the same size as a credit card, said President Capodanno, capable of being carried in a wallet. The front will be oriented in "portrait" style and

REACT ID#	GMRS Callsign	Amateur Callsign/Grade	Team Unit#	NULL
FEMA NIMS TRAINING		OTHER TRAINING		
100 A	200 A	700 A	800 B	Emcomm CERT SKYWARN
N	N	N	N	N N N
Should a REACT member misplace this ID, please report the loss immediately to any REACT team official. If this has been found by someone, please deposit in any U.S. Mail Box POSTAGE IS GUARANTEED BY:				
REACT International, Inc. PO Box 21064 Glendale, CA 91221-5164				

Trinidad and Tobago's 50th Anniversary

PLANNING & EXECUTION

Ravindranath Goswami *Region 9 Director*

August 14th, 2014 marked fifty years of REACT presence in Trinidad and Tobago. A special Radio Network was held that evening featuring historic information and included greetings from President of REACT International, John Capodanno.

There are currently nine teams in the twin island Republic: 2496, 4928, 4994, 6005, 6006, 6007, 6008, 6009 and 6045. All teams fall under the umbrella of the REACT Trinidad and Tobago Council and, together, a grand celebration was planned and executed during the month of October. This article briefly outlines the process of planning the celebrations, what worked and what didn't, and will hopefully be of use to any team wishing to undertake a similar recognition. In addition, key activities embarked upon as well as other achievements are included.

Time was short as the planning activities swung into gear in February 2014. However, it was not until May that things really got going. There were many reasons for the delay, including illness of key players. Originally carded for August, it was decided to push back the month of activities to October.

The first step was establishing a steering committee, which comprised of members of the Council. Simultaneously, a request was sent out to all teams for feedback on what they wanted to include in the celebrations. An organizational structure was developed along with a project plan. A "Terms of Reference" document was prepared, stating the goals and objectives of the project along with the key responsibilities of the sub-committee chairpersons.



The sub-committees, one for each activity, would be the engine room with members being co-opted to assist. A contact list of all committee members was prepared and circulated. Proposals from the sub-committees were submitted for approval to the steering committee. Budgets were prepared and submitted for funding to the treasurer. Donations were solicited in order to offset some of the costs and to make the events cost free to the membership. Meetings were held regularly with minutes kept and summary updates circulated via email. The weekly radio network was the main medium to disseminate the latest information to the membership.

The approved activities were:

- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- Sports and Family Day
- REACT Village, Radio Networks & Motorcade
- Electronic and Print Media Articles/Apearances
- Awards and Dinner Function

Article continued on page 7, see "Hummingbird Medal"

“Hummingbird Medal” cont'd from page 6

All events were successfully hosted, with the exception of the REACT Village and Motorcade, which will still take place later in the year. It should be noted that at the start, there was a grandiose plan to host a mini convention, but this had to be postponed due to time pressures and other constraints. Funding proved to be one of the main challenges for the project along with illness of several members.

REACT received major and significant exposure, with television appearances as well as articles in the press. As a result, there have been inquiries by members of the public regarding joining the organization.

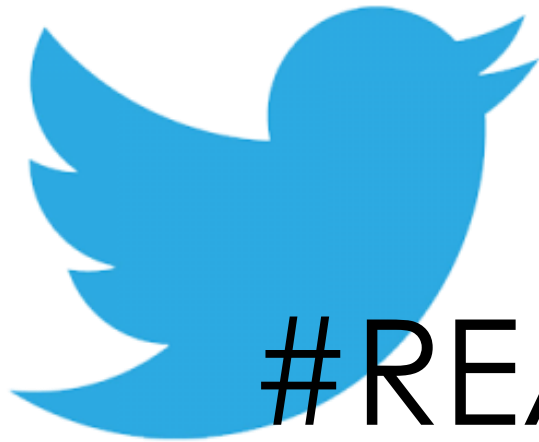
The culmination of it all was the gala awards and dinner function, with over eighty long service and meritorious award plaques presented. In attendance were several dignitaries including ministers of government, religious leaders and representatives of key organizations, including the CEO of the Organization of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM), and the President of the Trinidad and Tobago Amateur Radio Society (TTARS). Included were special awards, pioneer awards and founder member awards. We were fortunate to have present a member who has been with REACT from inception, Mr. Trevor Brathwaite, a living legend, who also served as MC for the evening and received his 50 year award.

REACT in Trinidad and Tobago has been recognized over the years for its service to the nation. Most recently and as a timely tribute, a National Award was received in 2014 at the country's Independence Day Awards where the **Hummingbird Medal – Silver**, was conferred upon the organization. This followed on the heels of just two years ago when member Deonanan “Kenny” Jagdeosingh also received the Hummingbird Medal – Silver for his public service in the name of REACT.



President of REACT Team 6005, Mr. Rohan Rampersad (REACT 511), with the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Hon. Kamla Persad Bissessar SC, at the 2014 National Awards, in which REACT was the proud recipient of the Hummingbird Medal - Silver.

Notwithstanding the challenges associated with volunteerism in today's world, the REACT flag continues to be flown with pride and determination. We must therefore say a hearty thank you to all the committed volunteers who have given in the past and continue to give of their time in furtherance of the REACT motto, *“Public Service Through Communications.”* ■



#REACTlove

We recently tossed a question out into the “twitter-verse” asking you, the members, to tell us what you love about being a member of REACT. As you can see, we received an overwhelming response... Well, maybe not so much—but hey, we’re no Jimmy Fallon. Luckily, our good friend @SaidRiley came to the rescue and enthusiastically showed REACT some love with this great tweet:



► Keep the tweets coming! Using hashtag #REACTlove, tell us why you love being a REACT member!

Follow RI on twitter:

 @REACTINTL

snapshot



“Having experienced Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda (in the Philippines) in 2013, REACT undoubtedly plays a critical role in emergency management and disaster response in the region.” (For full story, see [R:9 update](#) on pg. 10.)

regional news



Team 6118, REACT Negor's Headquarters

R:9 UPDATE

Ravindranath Goswami *Region 9 Director*

A major growth potential for REACT.

Region 9, also sometimes referred to as “International Teams”, comprises of all territories outside of the United States. This is indeed a wide geographic area and presents an opportunity to expand the REACT brand.

In 2014, we welcomed back as a chartered team REACT Negor, team 6118. In addition, the President of the team, Bon Mark Gomez Uy was appointed as an assistant regional director for the Philippines area. Having experienced Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda in 2013, REACT undoubtedly plays a critical role in emergency management and disaster response in the region. This rather recent natural disaster is living proof that, notwithstanding the modernization and commoditization of communications with mobile technology, including cellular telephone and the Internet, that REACT is still needed when all else fails and seconds count. It is hoped that additional teams will be on board in the not too distant future.

In addition, within region 9, we have Kirk Walker located in Canada, and Deonanan Kenny Jagdeoingh out of Trinidad and Tobago as the other assistant regional directors. I wish to express deep gratitude to all three gentlemen for their kind assistance and good work at managing their respective territories. Administering the region would not be possible without them. I am honored to have been elected to serve as your region 9 director for the period 2014 – 2017 and need your continued support.

Also, in 2014, we welcomed a new team in another new area. Thailand REACT, Team 6215 is based in Bangkok, Thailand. The President, Tanachai Yingniyom and his team are already quite active, conducting training exercises for the membership and general public.

In the future, we are hopeful that the work, plans and strategies of the various teams in the region can be highlighted in *the REACTer* in order that we can hear about what works and what has been attempted, as a way to learn from each other.

I would like to make an appeal to all REACT members and any other readers, to assist in identifying any potential interests around the world for the formation of REACT teams. You may have friends, family, business contacts in different territories, social media and radio contacts, even acquaintances encountered during holiday travel. Remember, it only takes three people to start a REACT team that can make a difference by providing “Public Service Through Communications.”

Please feel free to forward my contact info or send their information to r.goswami@reactintl.org or call 1-868-682-2212. All leads are appreciated.

Thank you to the long serving teams and their members, as well as to the recently added teams, for the commitment and dedication they show to the ideals of REACT International, Inc.



ECHOLINK & REACT NET

EchoLink is a free internet-based Windows software application that allows licensed Amateur Radio (HAM) radio operators to connect to each other. This connection may take the following forms, or a combination thereof:

- Computer-to-Computer
- Computer-to-Repeater
- Repeater-to-Repeater

The software is relatively easy to set up and use of the interface is quite intuitive.

The linking, made possible using the Internet, extends the range of mobile and portable stations to distant systems across the globe.

For instance, it is possible for someone with a hand-held radio to connect to a local repeater in Miami to speak with a mobile operator located in Los Angeles.

It is possible for someone without a radio to connect to a distant repeater and carry out a QSO (conversation) by using their computer microphone and speaker.

REACT International, recognizing the possibility to conduct a “wide area” global network, started the Worldwide REACT Information Net in 2010.

The net takes place via EchoLink REACT conference server node 109779 every Saturday night at 9 P.M. EST and averages about 30 minutes in duration. It is a great opportunity to exchange information on REACT activities and to hear from different teams around the world. The net is not limited to REACT members and is opened to all amateurs.

The net control is Jay Flora (WA4JAY) from Cleveland County REACT, assisted by Joe Zych (KD4YSH) of Star Mountain REACT.

Spread the word and we hope to see you on the next edition of the net!

*For more info
on downloading,
verifying your license
and installing the
software, visit:*

www.echolink.org



holiday humor



Whether you're at a holiday party or one of those slightly awkward family gatherings (you know the ones we're talking about), we thought we'd help you out with some holiday humor to help break the ice. While these are pretty corny, and possibly even quite punny, you're likely to at least get some sympathy laughs. Hope you enjoy this early Christmas gift.* (*Quality not guaranteed)

What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party?

Freeze a jolly good fellow!

Why does Santa have three gardens?

So he can 'ho ho ho'!

What does Miley Cyrus eat at Christmas?

Twerky!

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?

Because he had a low "elf" esteem!

What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar?

He got 25 days!

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?

A Holly Davidson!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?

A Christmas Quacker!

Who is Santa's favorite singer?

Elf-is Presley!

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?

The elf-abet!

What do reindeer hang on their Christmas trees?

Horn-aments!

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?

They always drop their needles!

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

A mince spy!

What do you call a cat in the desert?

Sandy Claws!

What carol is heard in the desert?

O camel ye faithful!

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinsilitis!

Taken from "50 best Christmas cracker jokes ever"

www.telegraph.co.uk

special mention

On December 12th, Jay Flora, member of Cleveland County REACT in Shelby, North Carolina, was presented with an award for his continued dedication and service to the Shelby Police Department. The award was presented to him by the chief of police.

Congratulations to Jay on receiving this special award. Keep up the great work!



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the **REACTer**

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