

The **REACT**_{er}

The Official Publication of REACT International, Inc.

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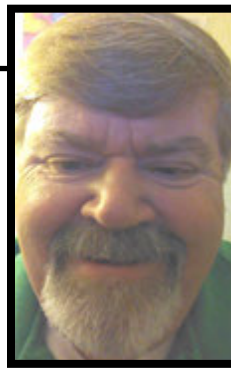
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The *REACT*er magazine is available and open to all interested persons at: www.thereacter.com

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A Word from the Editor

Will Stanley

Deadlines...

Lots of thoughts on deadlines for the next issue.

We want to bring the publication date for the magazine to the 1st of the month, so the material that is in it can be used by the Teams for the whole month rather than only half a month.

I bounced back and forth between a double issue and a short deadline for November and we have settled on a short issue for November, coming out on November 1st. Next deadline is November 15th for a December 1st publishing date.

I appreciate all the work of everyone who contributes to this publication; the ones who write monthly columns, Chuck, who helps edit it and keeps me on quality and most of all - the Teams! You are all the reason for the success of this magazine.



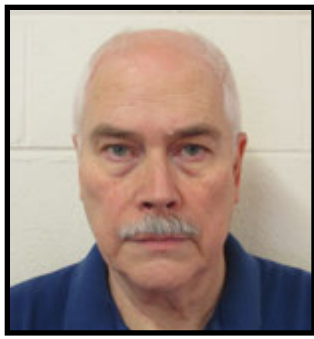
On a different topic, October brings Halloween and Halloween brings out the spooks and the mischief makers.

For those Teams out there who say, "There's nothing for us to do here!", why not approach your local law enforcement about doing a Halloween Night Safety Patrol. In this type of project, the *REACT* Team, other local volunteers (Hams, Volunteer Firemen, Police Citizens patrols) all get together and drive around the city or town, watching for trouble-makers or problems and then report those to the central control, be that the police/sheriff dispatch or an EOC or maybe just the *REACT* base.

Think about it! And send in stories about what you do, with pictures! My door is always open...

*REACT*ively,

Will



NEWS FROM TRAINING

*that you need
to know*

Walter Green
Lt. Col., USAF, ret.

MESSAGE TRAINING: What started out as a basic training resource has demonstrated the ability to function in a disaster. The first stage of our training system for formal message handling, got a baptism of water and wind in Hurricanes Irma and Jose, successfully forwarding 2 situation reports and 17 warning messages to 33 teams from Florida to Massachusetts. This was an experiment, but the system clearly demonstrated the ability to get the word out in a timely way. We need members wherever we have *REACT* Teams who would be willing to take the training and assist in making sure that teams receive the information that they need in major emergencies. Interested? Contact training@REACTIntl.org.

ALERTING EXERCISE: Building on lessons learned from Hurricanes Irma and Jose, Training is planning to conduct a US wide disaster alerting exercise for a national level emergency on 18 November. The participation by Teams is simple, just reply to acknowledge an e-mail alerting message anytime during the day on the 18th. If your Team would like to participate, request a copy of the exercise material from training@REACTIntl.org.

FEMA INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSES: This month I am highlighting the Emergency Management Institute's Independent Study course IS-100.b, Introduction to the Incident Command System. The key stuff: (1) available online at:

<http://tinyurl.com/nduxxgs>

(2) cost is free, (3) it takes approximately 3 hours to complete, and (4) if you took the previous IS-100, taking the updated 100.b is not required.

So what is this about? The Incident Command System (ICS) originated in the late 1970s from experience in southern California fighting wildfires, and has been adopted as the national standard organization for managing responses to major emergencies and disasters. Not everyone uses ICS, and not everyone who uses ICS does it well.

However, it is the national standard.

That means that any state level and most county and city responses will employ ICS, including a standard organization, standard forms, standard radio procedures, etc. If you are going to work with governmental agencies you need to have a basic familiarity with the Incident Command System. On one level you need to know where to find the communications function (in the Communications Unit in the Services Branch of the Logistics Section of the General Staff). When you speak on a radio, you need to understand why no one is using Q signals or ten codes (because ICS mandates plain language). And the list goes on.

Anyone who does disaster response needs to have completed this course; it is a basic professional qualification recognized and required by most agencies. There is another reason – *REACT*'s resource typing system

(see <http://pub.reactintl.org/Training/Nims/REACT-Communications-v2.pdf>)

requires completion of IS-100 for identification as a Type V resource or higher.





CB Radio: Yay or Nay?

**Will Stanley
Editor**

Ok, let's talk about CB radio.

I know, I am beginning to sound like a broken record and there are people in this organization that think CB radio is old, ancient and out of touch. They say we need to move forward.

Well, that may, indeed, be true, but – with Hurricanes Harvey and Irma fresh in our minds, we have discovered that Zello does not work without a cellphone signal. Cellphones do not work with a cellphone signal! GMRS repeaters and Ham repeaters do not work without electrical power!

So, all of the communications devices that this organization has started to embrace and believe are better than CB radio, are useless in an emergency, such as what was presented by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma!

CB radios, on the other hand, do not require repeaters. Now, the newly revised Part 95 rules that were just recently approved are going to allow the use of repeaters for CB radio, along with higher power levels, which may be a good thing, since it might bring CB radio back into the public consciousness. But using the two hurricanes recently as examples, if you needed help and your cellphone was not working, your ham radio if

you have one is not working because of no power, and you have a CB radio in your vehicle, you have communications!

Let's say there was an organization that dedicates some of its time to monitoring CB channel 19 and/or 9 to listen for people who need help... even if your CB radio in the house was out of power because it is running on a power pack and there is no power in the house, you could move your CB to the car or perhaps you already have one there, in order to communicate with your base... you have communications!!

You could talk to people – *you could get help if you needed it!*

REACT, in 1962, was started by Henry "Pete" Kreer to monitor CB radio for transmissions from people needing help. That was and continues to be our entire point of existence - helping our fellow citizens. Yes, we have evolved. We do other things; we talk on other types of devices. We do civic functions, we get out and we help, sometimes physically. This is all stuff that Pete never considered. He thought about having people listening to the CB radio, and sending help or getting help when necessary.

REACT needs to re-invigorate its use of CB radio; to refresh, if you will, our focus on CB. And we need to start talking – nationally – about CB Radio again. CB Radio use has declined. *REACT* membership has declined. Coincidence? Maybe, but I think not. I think if *REACT*, a nationally recognized group of citizen volunteers, were to pick up the CB Radio banner and start running with it again, not only would we see more members and more teams, but we would also see more people in the general populace start to use

CB radio again.

We have to enforce the idea that Citizens' Band radio is not a toy! It is a tool. It is only one tool on our belt, but it is a tool and possibly in situations like Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, maybe a life-saving tool.


We need to think about this. Citizens Band radio is something that REACT needs to start promoting again - nationally.

We do not want to become just another "ham club."

We also need to remember the reason we have a IRC Sec. 501(c)(3) tax exempt status is because of the public service we perform by monitoring CB radio!

We DON'T want to lose that!

This editorial is the opinion of the Editor and does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of REACT International or any of its Officers or Directors



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What Does A *REACT* Council do?

Here is the relevant page from REACT By-Laws and Policies

REACT International, Inc. Policy Statement

Policy 3-05

SUBJECT: REACT Team Councils

PURPOSE: Establish Status of REACT Councils; Provide Policies

SCOPE: All Councils and Member Teams

GENERAL:

A REACT Council may be established in order to enhance the relationships between Teams in a State, province, or country (or part of a State or in several States (as used in this Policy, "State" may be interpreted also to mean "Commonwealth," "Province," "country," or whatever else the political entity may be called)). Although formed on the initiative of Teams in the Council area, a Council is a subsidiary of REACT International, Inc., and may not be formed or exist without the consent of REACT International, Inc.

NUMBER OF TEAMS REQUIRED TO FORM A COUNCIL:

Two Teams are required to create and maintain a REACT Team Council.

REACT INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION:

In order to receive and retain recognition by REACT International, Inc., the following conditions must be met:

1. The Council must operate under the Bylaws promulgated by REACT International, Inc., (or under Bylaws approved by REACT International as exceptions to this policy),
2. The Council must meet at least once annually, and
3. The Council must furnish REACT International, Inc., with a list of the council officers, copies of all Council meeting minutes, and annual financial reports.



Back in the Day will be a semi-regular column written by people who have been in REACT for a lot of years, talking about what it was like... Back in the Day. This issue is by Ronald McCracken, LM 52 of Lake Simcoe REACT in Canada.

What prompts a person to join REACT?

In my case, it was a missing student. One fall day in 1978, a Grade 8 student at the school where I taught failed to arrive home. Before long, teachers, parents, friends and neighbours were out combing the area for him.

As the search progressed, I quickly recognized that some searchers whose vehicles were equipped with CB radios were able to do the task much more efficiently. They could check in with reports right from their vehicles. Those without radios had to return regularly to the school for updates, wasting considerable search time in the process. I was among that group.

Late that night, we learned that a poor test result was the culprit. He had run away from our small community to nearby Toronto. Police found him there at Union Station. I expect he later received the 'warm' welcome home he had tried to avoid. Meanwhile, I determined to secure a CB radio for the benefits I had seen during that search.

I had read somewhere of *REACT* and the emergency communications local Teams could provide as part of it. With the search fresh in our minds, it wasn't hard to interest a group of residents in forming a *REACT* Team for our area.

REACT Lake Simcoe quickly earned a solid reputation for its handling of emergency calls from motorists, boaters and others in our cottage community. We had quickly received an unexpected boost. Only a few weeks after our Team formed, Ontario Provincial Police announced that they would also monitor CB 9 effective Jan. 1, 1979. That night, OPP and *REACT* monitors began their service simultaneously.



OPP erected large highway signs detailing their new service. The CB mic logo they chose was the same one *REACT* road signs later used. The vast majority of emergency calls the signs generated became *REACT* calls. OPP in our area were really much too busy to handle the CB calls so *REACT*ers would take them and relay the details to OPP by telephone. Very rarely, an OPP voice would interrupt, if the call was particularly serious, and take over. I believe it only happened twice.

Over the years, our *REACT*ers have handled a large and varied number of calls on CB 9. From a disabled snowmobile operator trapped on the lake inside his fish-hut in a blizzard to an overturned septic tank truck whose driver was pinned in the cab, the calls have come. From boats with sick or injured passengers to a child struck fatally on his bike, *REACT*ers helped emergency services dispatch aid as quickly as possible.

The septic tank truck driver later became a *REACT*er as a result of his experience. Others who received help through our Team likewise joined subsequently. We considered those gains a real tribute to the value of *REACT* in any community.

One of my earliest *REACT* calls came from Texas, some 2500 miles away, via 'skip'. Though we could

not talk, hearing the caller's detailed emergency message enabled me to notify Texas authorities of the incident. I later received a nice note of thanks from the CBer for my help.

Years later, I like to believe I helped save a trucker's life, again via 'skip'. I was awakened at 2 a.m. by calls for help on my CB. I went to the radio and answered, but to no avail. Then, a lady somewhere also answered. I could hear him responding to her questions, so I made notes.

Snowbound in his 18-wheeler, north of his base in Minneapolis, Kansas, in a fierce blizzard, he was debating leaving his rig to walk, he told her. With the details the lady had gotten from him, and the help of a kind Bell operator, I was able to notify his dispatcher of his plight. Oddly, to that point, the lady had not called. I hope she called after to confirm my report.

Initially, the dispatcher was not happy with me at all. He was in the midst of an office party and thought my call was a prank. He quickly realized the gravity of the situation, however, and was very grateful. I have never been able to learn the outcome of that call. It surely did reinforce more than ever for me the tremendous value of CB.

The CB I purchased for *REACT* purposes has proven a blessing as I have travelled, too. Monitoring it on highway trips has saved my family from collisions, helped us avoid lengthy tie-ups, and brought us valuable safety tips from *REACT*ers, truckers and other CBers alike.

Over the years, our *REACT* Team has worked closely with local amateurs to stretch our radio resources. Both groups have benefitted from the co-operation, as have EMO and the public we all serve. I now have my amateur ticket and highly recommend that other *REACT*ers get it. You will enrich your Team by doing so as it will greatly increase your Team's capabilities.

How grateful I am to that young runaway who inadvertently introduced me to *REACT*. He has not the slightest idea, I'm sure, of all the good that has resulted from his foolish act forty years ago. And I didn't even touch on all the fine *REACT*ers I have

enjoyed meeting over those four decades.

If you have joined *REACT* recently, I wish you as long and delightful an association as I have enjoyed. May you also be rewarded with even more opportunities to bless total strangers than I have enjoyed.

Back in the Day will be published any time one of our fine, older members decides to send us an article. Have YOU been a member for many years? Send us YOUR story! As always, even if you "can't write", send us the details and we will write it for you. And make sure to send us your good, clear, head and shoulders picture, if you haven't already!

REACT International, Inc., has Memorandum of Understanding agreements with the following agencies:





NEWS

FROM THE

FRONT LINES

Flagler County Assist *REACT*

(Florida)

Submitted by Bob Pickering

As the 2nd week of September rolled on it became apparent that Flagler County would feel some sort of impact from Hurricane Irma. How much and for how long were yet to be known, but the Team swung into action. The first thing done was the cancellation of the scheduled meeting on September 10th as the Team activated its Emergency Plan on LEVEL 1 (the lowest level)



As the week went on, *REACT* members started assisting in the Flagler County Emergency Center as extra hands for documenting and entering persons into Emergency Management's Persons with Special Needs

program. Flagler County Emergency Management has a "Persons with Special Needs" program (PSN). Persons who need special help during an emergency are documented so Emergency Services can check up and if needed get them to safety during an emergency.

With Irma looming, it's human nature for many to wait to the last minute and this overwhelmed the Special Needs Desk. However, *REACT* volunteers were there among others from the Health Department who came to the rescue to help sort through all of the last minute applications.

Meanwhile in cyberspace, the Team's Social Media unit was activated. They started to



monitor the County's Facebook page to alert officials of questions posed by citizens.

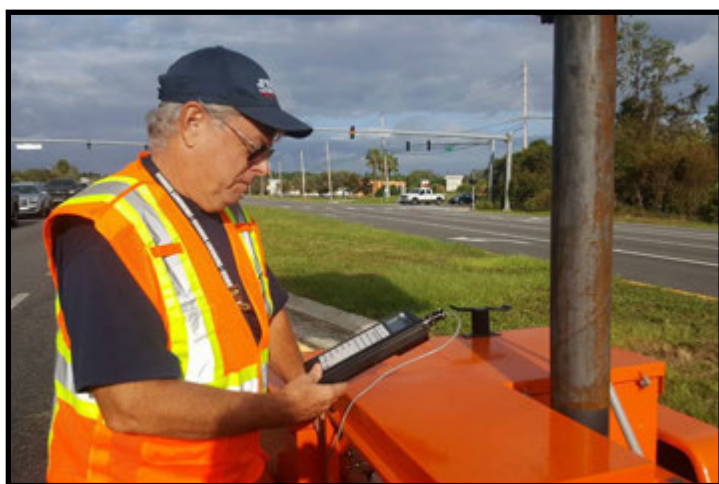
The Social Media unit was created in 2015 to utilize the newest form of communication, Social Media. The Unit became the extra eyes for Emergency Management and helped keep EOC staff up to date on needs of the social media page.

At the same time the *REACT* Skywarn Schedule



was adjusted with members covering other's shifts to allow key members to respond to requests.

By the end of the week it became quite clear



that Flagler County would feel impacts from Hurricane Irma and those would be somewhat significant, but nothing to the extent that south Florida would see.

Storm preps began as nor'easter conditions and

gales overspread the county on Saturday, September 9th. Our Emergency Plan had been activated to LEVEL 3 as members continued to help in the EOC with various tasks; everything from helping with the PSN registrations to other members assisting with photo documentation.

Meanwhile in the field, a request comes in ... a Special Needs Shelter needs traffic help and this function was supposed to be supported by a CERT Team, but they did not turn up. So, *REACT*'s traffic team jumps into action and helps coordinate the traffic pattern at the Persons



Flagler Assist Traffic Team

with Special Needs Shelter located at the Rymfire School. Members arrived at 0700 hrs Saturday Morning and worked into the afternoon when the flow eased off.

Sunday the *REACT* Storm Team was activated. This unit of Flagler County Assist *REACT* activates to the Emergency Operations Center to do nothing but document and track storm reports from spotters in the field and is made up of dual ARES/*REACT* members.

The Storm Crew settled in about 1600 hrs for a long night as winds and rain rolled across the county. Already the first tornado warnings had been raised and two more would come in the evening.

By 1800 hours, all *REACT* members had settled in for the storm, some at the EOC, some in the field. *REACT* and ARES Members at the coast

began to relay wind information to the EOC through the night via radio and social media with key reports coming from members along the coast and canals. This information not only kept the National Weather Service appraised but also helped First Responders determine when it would be safe or not safe to respond to emergencies.

After midnight the strongest squall hit with winds gusting over 70 mph with one gust



recorded at 83 mph in Flagler Beach by an ARES member at 0310 hrs. Reports were taken over 2 meters, GMRS, and our Social Media messenger chat with one member each assigned to each form of communication.

Winds roared across the county while torrential rains pummeled the area. But through the tempest Flagler County Assist *REACT* continued to track spotter reports, relay information to officials and the National Weather Service as well as help keep the public informed on the progress of the storm via social media. First responders made decisions based on these reports with everything funneling into the weather desk and then onto officials and the NWS.

The next day, the rains ended but the winds kept up but slowly wound down through the day. Team members were released slowly from assignments as conditions improve.

The follow days *REACT* members assisted with post storm surveys by documenting and reporting damages, assisting with the location of possible tornado strikes, and also documenting the start of the recovery effort. Photos of the operation assisted Emergency Management in securing grants and recovery dollars from FEMA and are vital to document the event.



At this writing this is still an ongoing event ... Persons can stay up to date on our efforts by watching [facebook.com/FlaglerCountyAssist](https://www.facebook.com/FlaglerCountyAssist) We have members still out documenting the recovery efforts and on standby for other requests.

All photos credit to Bob Pickering and Ed Siarkowicz

Star Mountain *REACT*

(Tennessee)

Submitted by Joe Zych

Star Mountain *REACT* has been busy!

We were in the best location for the eclipse and there were over 100,000 people that visited our area for the event and the radio was buzzing. It was said our local cell towers would not handle all the calls and they would shut down so we established communication posts and command centers just in case to handle traffic.

Our mini EOC clubhouse had direct communication with the local police, fire, and

hospitals in case the infrastructure failed but all went well.

The most important thing I wanted to witness first hand is what my rooster and hen would do and just as I thought, they all went to the roost as it got dark but you can't fool that rooster he only crowed one time not 12 or more as normal! The total darkness lasted about three minutes and so to prove a point the rooster did have some conception of time, he knew it got dark but he could differentiate three minutes from eight hours. I must admit he did look confused and later that evening he went back to normal mode.

I did test the 10 meter band to see the difference in the band from day to night and found some activity before the eclipse, then the band went flat when it got dark. It was interesting. The cicadas came to life and they were loud, but no lightning bugs.

Some flowers that close at night started to close but did not have the needed darkness to fully close. The event was very interesting. The slow, normal sunrise differed from totality because the sun came back fully like you flipped a light switch. You did not have the gradually intensifying light as you would have in a sunrise.

The temperature dropped 12 to 15 degrees and the solar panels did go to zero output and then came back to normal. What an event to witness! I was on the phone with John in California; he sent pics on the cell phone when it started there, moving at 2000 miles per hour across the United States and then slowed down to around 1,400 mph when it reached Tennessee. It was so awesome! I'm sure glad I got to see this event. It consumed the whole day on both radio and TV.

Southwestern REACT

(California)

Submitted by John Wright

The 2017 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention took place September 15-17, 2017, at HAMCON 2017.

The event was held at the Torrance Marriott Redondo Beach Hotel in Torrance, Calif.

I attended the event in my capacity as Section Public Information Coordinator for San Diego. Elected officials present at the convention were Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA; Vice Director Ned Stearns, AA7A; San Diego Section



USS Iowa Radio Room

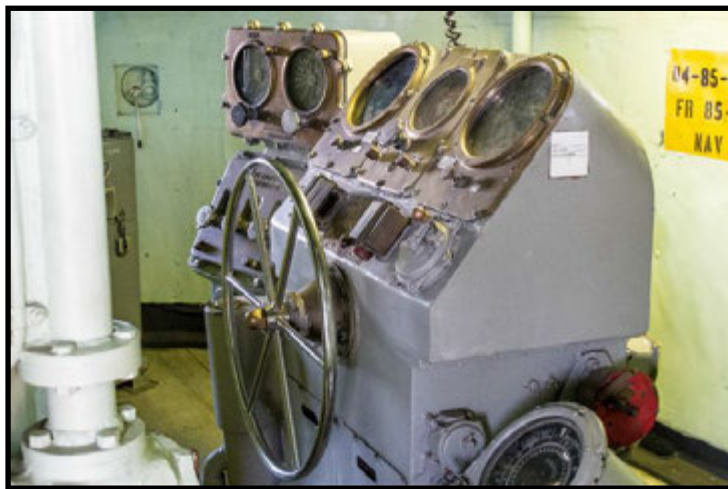
manager Dave Kaltenborn, N8KBC; Arizona Section manager Rick Paquette, W7RAP; Santa Barbara Section Manager Jim Fortney, K6IYK, and Los Angeles Section manager Diane Feinberg, AI6DF, who was also the convention chairperson. Numerous appointed ARRL officials were present as well.



One of the USS Iowa's ham radio stations

The first event of the convention took place on

Friday. It featured a tour of the battleship Iowa, now a museum at the Port of Los Angeles. Convention attendees were allowed to do the self-guided walking tour and then were escorted, in small groups, to the ship's radio room. The radio room is not a part of the normal public



USS Iowa's steering control

tour.

In the radio room, attendees were allowed to operate the ship's amateur radio station, using the call NI6BB. At the end of the tours, a catered dinner was provided in the ship's officer's wardroom. If one has never toured an Iowa Class battleship, it is heartily recommended. These ships are very unique.

HAMCON also featured two days of technical talks, covering topics from soldering to ham radio's role during the Vietnam War. ARRL Assistant Lab Manager Bob Allison, WB1GCM, conducted HT testing for compliance with §97.307(e) of the amateur radio regulations regarding suppression of spurious emissions. A large number of the inexpensive Chinese-manufactured HTs were non-compliant with the FCC regulation.

There were three banquet meals available (at an extra cost) during the convention. Each had its own speaker with some very interesting topics. Saturday's luncheon speaker was Ned Stearns, AA7A, speaking on a recent DXpedition to the sub-Antarctic South Georgia/South sandwich

Islands. Sunday's breakfast event featured Bob Allison, WB1GCM, speaking on the future of ham radio equipment.

Perhaps the most fascinating talk came from Dr. Tamitha Skov at the Saturday evening banquet. Dr. Skov holds degrees in physics, physical chemistry, geophysics, and space plasma physics. She is a Research Scientist at Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo and is a recognized authority on space weather. Her presentation gave an insight on how the sun really effects radio wave propagation. Dr. Skov has a large internet presence and can be found by searching for "Space Weather Woman" on the web.

For those with unlimited funds, there was a well-stocked vendor show featuring companies such as Yaesu, Flex Radio, Alinco, Ham Radio Outlet, Comet Antennas, and many others. Unfortunately, the Sunday morning swap meet had only four sellers.

It was an enjoyable convention at a nice hotel with excellent facilities and services.

Photos by John Wright

IS YOUR INFO CORRECT???

Like any organization that has members or subscribers or any type of relationship where the people expect to get something from the organization - correct information from the people is ESSENTIAL!

If your info at *REACT* International is not correct, then you won't get *The REACTer*, you won't get notifications of things like elections, policy changes, board meetings, and so on.

WE ARE A COMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION, FOLKS! If we can't communicate amongst ourselves, how can we help our communities???

You might say, "My info is correct. What else can I do?"

Do you know a *REACT* Team near you? Contact them! Ask them a simple question - Do You get the *REACTer*? If the answer is NO, then their info is out of date and

Recognition of a Job Well Done!

Bob Pickering of Flagler County Assist *REACT* was recently recognized by The Palm Coast Observer, a newspaper in Palm Coast, FL for his service to the area through his *REACT* connections.

We love it when one of our people is recognized for doing a good job. *REACT* members do not do what they do for the recognition but it's nice to see it when it is given.

Congratulations, Bob Pickering, for being a *REACT*er and doing what you do so well!

(This article is reprinted here with permission of Palm Coast Observer, Palm Coast Florida, Copyright 2017)

Have YOU or your Team been recognized by local media? Send The REACTer the information and a clip of the article, if possible. We'd love to put it in The REACTer!

Meet 'BP,' the Flagler County Emergency Operations Center's most interesting man

Bob Pickering has many interests: He loves trains. He used to be a dolphin trainer and diver at Marineland of Florida. And most notably, he loves the weather.

RAY BOONE
STAFF WRITER

As a young kid growing up in Boston, Bob Pickering was always mesmerized by the weather.

Whenever he felt the urge to imitate his favorite meteorologists, Pickering would dig a crayon out of his pocket and find the nearest wall.

With a sense of pride and calmness, the toddler gave that day's weather report, pointing to spots on the wall like TV weathermen point to maps on screen.

"My mom would catch me, of course," Pickering said. "She wasn't all too happy about that."

Pickering, now 50 years old and a longtime Flagler County resident, is a man of many interests.

He loves trains. Pickering said one of the best places to find him is on the side of a railroad track taking snapshots of passing locomotives.

He also used to work at Marineland of Florida, where he served as a dolphin trainer, diver and

announcer.

His most recent job, however, brought him right back to his first love: weather.

For the last 23 years, Pickering has served as the emergency management technician at the Flagler County Emergency Operations Center, where he is responsible for monitoring weather conditions and emergency planning.

Pickering, known as "B.P." by his peers and fans, also announces the Flagler County Weather Updates online. He became something of a local celebrity with his video updates prior to the arrival of Hurricane Irma.

"It's not the only job I do here, but I love what I do," he said. "Weather is probably about 30% of my job. ... But when I get to work with it, I'm really happy to do so."

Pickering, who was called "Weatherman Bob" by his classmates at Flagler Palm Coast High School, is not a meteorologist. He has no formal training on the subject. Most of what he's learned



Photo by Ray Boone

Bob "BP" Pickering in his office at the Flagler County Emergency Operations Center.

has been through self-teaching or attending the occasional class.

But his passion for the subject is evident.

In his small, crowded office in the EOC, a thick textbook — "Florida's Hurricane History" by Jay Barnes — sits on his overflowing desk. Several plaques, letters and awards decorate the beige walls of the office. In the middle of it all, B.P. sits with his eyes glued to his computer screen, scanning the projected path of Hurricane Maria.

"You've got to really use your brain on this job," Pickering said. "Especially in dealing with an active event because it'll throw all these curveballs at you, all these problems that you'll have to solve."

But even with the intensity of his work, Pickering still finds time to enjoy himself.

"Even though there's a few bits of my body that don't work as well as I would like for them to work, I can hit the dance floor and keep up with the 20-year-olds," he said. "I work hard and play hard."

Who's the most interesting person you know? Email Ray Boone at ray@palmcoastobserver.com.



From The Corner of the Room

Joe Zych
Region 3 Director

REACT World Wide Net
Administrator

Well, it's October! Time goes by fast. Before winter hits, check your outside antenna systems; be sure coax is secure and weatherproof.

There is a product called "Liquid Tape", you can find it at Lowe's or The Home Depot in the electrical section. If you use regular electrical tape outside it expands and contracts with temperature, and can hold water and can cause you more harm than good. The liquid tape dries like a plastic coating and will seal any cracks in your coax.

When you buy your coax, spend a little more and get LMR 400. It's better insulated and has a much lower line loss per foot. LMR 400 also has a UV coating to hold up for many more years in the hot sun than the cheap stuff. Remember you get what you pay for!

To get the max wattage output from your radio to your antenna, use LMR 400. When you key your mic, you can get 98% of your signal delivered to your antenna with LMR 400 coax. We are talking about microwave quality coax and it is about \$1.00 a foot, but well worth the extra cost. When using the \$30.00 for 100 foot cheap, grey coax, in 100 feet, you lose about 1/2 your output watts by the time the signal reaches the antenna.

Another important thing to remember always, but always, order your coax with the ends factory installed to insure proper tight fitting connections, and last make sure you order the proper ends, usually PL-259 ends.

Last but not least use a good quality antenna! For your base operation you can't beat a good copper J-pole. You can build it yourself for about \$15.00. Once again, all parts from Lowe's or The Home Depot.

The clubhouse we have has 4 copper J-pole antennas on the tower for VHF and UHF, all of our club members have a copper J-Pole at their house and even hooked to a little Baofeng radio we have tested with, we get 40 miles with 4 watts. Good materials, good construction equals good performance and quality communications.

Google copper J-Pole antenna, very easy to build, the length of the antenna dictates the frequency area you want to operate on. Copper J-Pole antennas can be built also for CB radio they will be in the area of about 17 feet or so but will do a great job.

Ok, almost last but one more important thing we must all do.....make sure your team president has your current email address and contact telephone number. In emergency conditions (and we have had a few lately), REACT needs to be able to contact you during weather events to communicate.

As always be safe and invite a friend to your next meeting and sign them up to be part of your REACT team.....Get your 2018 team renewals in early!

Have a Reacting October.

Joe

From the 'when REACTers were known for being able to do anything, anytime' file....

Did you hear the one about....

... the REACTers who were involved in a car crash and all died? Somehow, they ended up in Hades! After a week there, the Devil called upstairs and demanded that they "get these REACTers out of here!"

When God asked why, Satan replied, "Because they have already gotten bottled water brought in and they're working on air conditioning!"



REACT International, Inc.

Minutes of the Special Board of Directors Meeting, March 1, 2017

MINUTES
REACT International Special Board Meeting
March 01, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 p.m. Eastern Time via teleconference, by Chairman Capodanno.

Roll call was taken by Chairman Capodanno, Minutes Taken Via Recording Secretary Misetich:

Directors:

R1 – Warren Deitz - Present
R2 – Thomas Currie – Present
R3 – Joe Zych - Present
R4 – Vacant
R5 – Larry Fry - Present
R6 – Vacant
R7 – Jerry Jones - Present
R8 – John Capodanno - Present
R9 – Ravindranath Goswami – Present

Officers:

President – John Capodanno - Present
Executive Vice President – Jerry Jones - Present
Secretary – Matthew Misetich - Absent
Treasurer – Vacant

Guests Present:

William Stanley, Charles Thompson, Matthew Vizzuso,
Dan Davidson.

It was confirmed that a Quorum has been established.

Agenda (Item 1)

Director Fry moved to accept the agenda, second by Director Zych.
R1-Y R2-Y R3-Y R5-Y R7-Y R8-Y R9-Y Motion Passed.

Meeting minutes (Item 2)

Director Jones moved to approve the minutes from February 15, 2017, second by Director Zych.
R1-Y R2-Y R3-Y R5-A R7-Y R8-Y R9-Y Motion Passed.

Director and Officer Status (Item 3)

Director Zych raised a point of order concerning the Valley Wide REACT Team. President Capodanno confirmed that the Team had not renewed, and that as a result, the positions of Region 6 Director Jenkins and Treasurer Dunn had been vacated by operation of the Bylaws.

Office / Region Reports (Item 4)

65.0% of the Regions and 72.7% of the Members with a combined of 64.7% have renewed.
Director Goswami submitted report.

2016 Financial Review (Item 5)

Director Zych moved to accept the 2016 Annual Financial Review, Seconded by Director Currie.
R1-Y R2-Y R3-Y R5-Y R7-Y R8-Y R9-Y Motion Passed.

Next Special Meeting (Item 6)

July 06, 2017. 9:00 p.m. EST. via teleconference.

Adjournment (Item 7)

Director Currie moved to adjourn at 9:19 p.m., second by Director Zych.
R1-Y R2-Y R3-Y R5-Y R7-Y R8-Y R9-Y Motion Passed.

Minutes submitted by:
Matthew Misetich
Secretary



CB in Emergencies

Something we all need to get back to

Jay Flora, Chief
Cleveland County (NC) REACT

I think it's time that *REACT* Teams get back to using Citizen's Band radio.

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma showed the need for CB radio. Amateur radio and GMRS are all well and good, but you need a license (ed note: and power) but not for CB! In times of emergencies like this, if *REACT* is not using CB radio to help the citizens, what good are we doing?

People say CB is dead in their area, but in times like this, CB radio will get busy and if you monitor it, you may save a life 2000 miles away!

REACT stands for Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams. If *REACT* is not going to use CB radio to help the public when the need arises, we need to change our name from Radio Emergency Associated Communications Team to radio emergency **amateur** communications team.

I hear CB radio was in use when Harvey hit Texas. Thanks to that *REACT* Team that did! I can't remember the Team name, but they were called on to use CB radio. They drove from their town down to Houston Texas, to provide CB radio services to the mix of responders.

To remind you all, here are *REACT* objectives:

(a) To develop the use of the personal radio services as an additional source of communications for emergencies, disasters and as an emergency aid to individuals;

(b) To establish 24-hour volunteer monitoring of emergency calls, particularly over officially designated emergency frequencies, from personal radio service operators, and reporting such calls to appropriate emergency authorities;

(c) to promote transportation safety by developing programs that provide information and communications assistance to motorists;

(d) to coordinate efforts with and provide communication help to other groups, e.g., Red Cross, emergency management, and local, state, and federal authorities, during emergencies and disasters;

(e) to develop, administer, and promote public information projects demonstrating and publicizing the potential benefits and the proper use of the personal radio service to individuals, organizations, industry, and government;

(f) and to participate in citizens crime prevention programs where established by appropriate law enforcement agencies.

This is what *REACT* is all about, not just amateur radio.

If amateur radio is all *REACT* is going to use, then we are radio emergency amateur communications teams, not Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams.

This editorial is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of REACT International or any of its Officers or Directors.



Letters to the Editor

Send your correspondence to
editor@thereacter.com



FCC Cracks Down on Abuse of Emergency Channel 121.500 MHz

The Federal Communications Commission issued an enforcement advisory in August reminding pilots and others that 121.500 MHz is reserved for emergency use only. In

coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau says it has been investigating reports of misuse and harmful interference to 121.500, which is set aside exclusively for emergency and distress communications.

The FCC regulates aviation communications in cooperation with the FAA, which continuously monitors distress frequencies to protect life and property in emergency situations.

The FAA has reported to the FCC that the agency has found it difficult to monitor 121.500 MHz for actual emergency calls because of an increased use of the frequency for non-emergency communications. "The Enforcement Bureau will aggressively enforce the rules related to aviation radio operations," the bureau said in an announcement. "Ensuring the integrity of safety and distress frequencies is vital to safeguarding lives and property."

Aircraft operating within the confines of the United States are authorized to use VHF aviation radios, radar and emergency locator transmitters (ELTs) without obtaining licenses from the FCC. However, aircraft operating internationally must hold an FCC license. In both situations, pilots and other allied air operations persons must follow Part 87 of the FCC's rules regulating aviation radio and equipment.

The FAA says that it continuously monitors 121.500 MHz for emergency and distress purposes and treats any distress call received as an emergency and is investigated immediately. In addition, the FCC notes that 121.500 MHz also is used for maritime distress and search and rescue communications, as well as for direction-finding with respect to emergency radiobeacons at sea and on land.

Prohibited communications on 121.500 MHz include: false distress or emergency messages; superfluous communications; messages containing obscene, indecent or profane words or meanings; general calls (calls not addressed to a particular station); routine messages; radio tests; and transmission of recorded audio (such as music or spoken text).

Misuse of 121.500 MHz can distract FAA personnel monitoring the channel from hearing transmissions

Hi Will,

Nice to see the kudos to you in this issue. Well deserved. Nice to see so many photos from Teams, too. They really add eye appeal.

Hopefully, the *REACT* World Wide Net folk can give you a story on how they were able to help in Irma and Jose with ham radio. That will help sell Teams on its value and necessity in *REACT* work today.

I will try to send you an article on that topic, too. Glad Walt Green has been attracted as well.

Great to see the *REACT* logos throughout the magazine for valuable PR. RI never did utilize the logo nearly enough in the past. The 'old' logo on the black field (as in the Worldwide *REACT* Net notice) is the most effective in my view. That black field gives the contrast that makes the logo really jump out at readers. If you can enlarge the black field a bit so the entire logo appears, it will be even better. I don't know how it got "clipped." I'd also make sure the logo appears on each issue's front cover in a good size to burn it onto readers' eyeballs.

Do you have a *REACT*er page on FB? If not, I'd begin one for wider readership. You could also "share" it on the *REACT* Members FB page. Members could then pick it up from either location and share it on personal FB pages for the widest possible "circulation."

Enough "wisdom" from me. Congrats on the new life you have brought to our rag. Keep it up. Blessings

Ron McCracken
LM 52
Canada

Hello Ron!

Great to hear from you! Thank you for the kind words. I try my best to turn out an issue each month that is both worth reading and worthy of our readers. Thanks for the suggestions. I do not know if there is a Facebook page for the *REACT*er but I wager by the time this issue hits, I will have found out and if not, perhaps I will create one. Gotta go where the people are, right!

Every other issue or so, I try to run a logo page with all the currently acceptable logos so members can 'cut and paste', as it were, and use them in their own publications and PR material.

I appreciate all your support!

Will

related to actual emergencies and, as a result, poses a threat to life and property. Interference to an aviation distress and safety frequency, especially 121.500 MHz, is a critical violation with the potential to obscure genuine distress transmissions. The FCC's Enforcement Bureau says it intends to aggressively enforce violations of the FCC's aviation radio communications rules. Violators, including those who might use the frequency for chit-chat, may be subject to the penalties authorized by the Communications Act, including, but not limited to, substantial monetary fines – up to \$19,246 per single violation and up to \$144,344 for an ongoing violation) –

as well as action to seize the offending radio equipment and criminal sanctions.

The FCC reminds aviation radio users that 122.750 MHz is available for air-to-air communications. For additional information regarding enforcement of the aviation radio rules, proper use of aviation radio frequencies, and licensing of aircraft radio stations, visit the FCC website at: <https://www.fcc.gov/aircraftstations>

(Article reprinted with permission from National Communications Magazine, Sep-Oct 2017 issue)

WORLDWIDE REACT INTERNATIONAL ZELLO NET

PLEASE JOIN US

EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT AT

9PM EST (DURING DAYLIGHT SAVINGS)

ON THE

REACT MEMBERS

ZELLO CHANNEL

ALL COMMUNICATORS ARE WELCOME

NO LICENSE IS REQUIRED.

USE YOUR INTERNET-CONNECTED COMPUTER OR SMARTPHONE.

Zello is available from <http://zello.com>



**Volunteer as a
Net Control!**



Download the Zello Walkie Talkie app for your platform. Create an account with a username (e.g. call sign) and password, then, add the **REACT MEMBERS** channel. Press the Push-to-Talk button to transmit.

*From the Department of
"What is Wrong With This Guy?"*

Iowan Cited for Rail Radio Threats

An Iowa man has been accused by police with threatening violence against Union Pacific Railroad employees as well as making racial slurs and causing interference to their VHF radio frequencies in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Randy W. Thompson, 55, was charged in U.S. District Court in August with radio interference and disrupting UP dispatchers or other people while involved with the railroad's operations. In March, UP reported to authorities that it was receiving unauthorized radio transmissions over the railroad's frequencies used in Cedar Rapids as employees were directing trains onto the proper tracks coming in and out of the eastern Iowa city. UP police told U.S. Homeland Security investigators that the suspect was transmitting dial tones and making odd noises over UP's radio frequencies and the railroad was concerned that the interference could cause a collision between trains.



Thompson

UP employees also reported hearing unauthorized transmissions that included comments related to stealing a train and racial slurs and threats toward UP employees. The railroad kept track of the transmissions, which added up to more than 75 over its radio frequencies in Cedar Rapids from December 2016 through March of this year.

UP radio engineers used surveillance equipment and were able to track down the transmissions made on its frequencies to an apartment building in the northwest part of Cedar Rapids. Court documents indicate Thompson, who lives in the apartment

building, had a prior arrest for similar offenses in Oklahoma involving the use of a two-way radio.

Two separate searches of Thompson's apartment were conducted by authorities, who seized radio communications equipment and other electronic devices. Police said Thompson told investigators during the first search that he was having a medical issue and an ambulance was called to take him to a nearby hospital. During the second search, investigators said Thompson was wearing a bicycle helmet and told them he was infected with MRSA.

One day after the second search, a railroad employee in a company vehicle reported he was parked near tracks at a rail yard when Thompson walked up wearing a protective helmet and pointed an aluminum baseball bat at him, saying: "Come and get it if you guys hate me so much. You know who I am; I'm the radio man."

After that incident, the railroad began to experience unauthorized transmissions once again in the form of jamming of its frequencies by long periods of transmissions over top official railroad communications. At last check, Thompson was awaiting a detention hearing while being lodged at the Linn County Jail in Iowa.

(Article is reprinted with permission from National Communications Magazine, Sep-Oct 2017 issue)





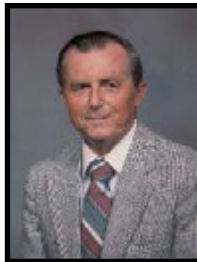
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Will Richards
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ATTENTION
ALL REACT MEMBERS
AND
ALL HAM OPERATORS



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US
ON THE
REACT INTERNATIONAL
WORLD WIDE NET
EVERY TUESDAY AT 9 PM ET

Contact nets@reactintl.org
for details on how to
get on the net.



REACT International Event Calendar

OCTOBER

3REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
7ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
8Deadline for October REACTer
10REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
14ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
15REACTer Published
17REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
21ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
24REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
28ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
31.....REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
31Halloween

NOVEMBER

4ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
7REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
8Deadline for November REACTer
11ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
14REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
15REACTer Published
18ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
21REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
23Thanksgiving Day (US)
25ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
28REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)

DECEMBER

2ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
5REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
8Deadline for December REACTer
9ZELLO Worldwide Net (p.m. ET)
12REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
15REACTer Published

16ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
19REACT World Wide Net 9 p.m. ET)
23ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
26REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
30ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
31New Year's Eve

JANUARY 2018

2REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
6ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
9REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
13ZELLO Worldwide Net (p.m. ET)
16REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
20ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
22REACT Int'l ABM(Las Vegas)
23REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
27ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
30REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET).

FEBRUARY 2018

1.....REACTer Published
3.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
6REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
10.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
13REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
17ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
20REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
24ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m.ET)
27REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)

To add items to this calendar, contact REACT International: 301-316-2900 or

Editor direct - 336-897-0641 (office/home) - 480-758-7722 (cell)

editor@thereacter.com

Items on the calendar are as accurate as we can make them but are subject to change.

Any questions ... contact the person in charge of the event

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Here is a selection of currently approved REACT logos that you are authorized to copy and paste and use in your publications, brochures and paperwork.

Your membership is your permission, no further approvals are required.



Come to Fabulous Las Vegas

January 22, 2018



**For *REACT* International's
Annual Board Meeting**

January 22, 2018

All *REACT* members are invited to attend the meeting, see how your Board works, visit Fabulous Las Vegas, and see the sights!

(Who knows, maybe you'll even win some money at the tables or the slot machines!)

RSVP to REACT International if you plan to attend. Call or email.