



The *REACT*er

The Official Publication of *REACT* International, Inc.

February 2018

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Amateur Radio



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A Word from the Editor

Will Stanley, Editor, The *REACTer*

February is a busy little month, it's the shortest month in the year. (Yeah, right now you're thinking, 'Really? He had to tell us that? Thank You, Captain Obvious!') But it contains a fairly high number of holidays and recognitions; Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, Martin Luther King Day and President's Day. There are probably more but those are the ones I can think of right off.

But what does February mean to you, as a *REACTer*? Well, in a lot of the country, the snowy season is just getting a good foothold and that means crashes and other traffic problems. Do you carry your radio, whatever kind you use, with you when you go somewhere so if you encounter a crash or other problem, you can call it in?

In some areas of the country, it is getting on to flooding season and I ask the same question. In other parts of the country, the fire danger is over and hopefully the fires are out but there are still things there that you may come upon that needs official attention. That's where you come in!

Being a *REACTer* means that you are a **communicator**. That is not just for emergencies and disasters. As our President pointed out last month, we don't self-deploy for most of what we do, but if we are out and about, it is incumbent upon us to report to the proper authorities when we encounter problems. Carry your radio, always!

Agree? Disagree? Talk to me! My door is always open!

REACTIVELY,

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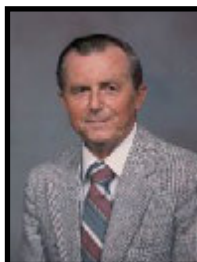


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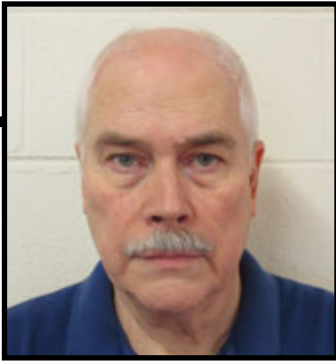
ATTENTION
ALL REACT MEMBERS
AND
ALL HAM OPERATORS



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.





Training for the Future

Walter Green, Lt. Col., USAF, Retired

The following members qualified during the 1st International and Regional Zello Jamboree:

Stan Latta (6247)– 15 words per minute

Angela Henry-Small (6006)– 15 words per minute



If you would like to participate in either the *REACT* Traffic System voice net or in a message qualifying run, please contact:

Training@reactintl.org for details.

RESOURCE TYPING UPDATE: For 2018 the Training Committee is working on Type IV Teams: deployable Communications Teams, Base Station Teams in the traditional monitoring role, and Message Teams to operate the *REACT* Traffic System. Each team has a team Boss and one Operator.

Operationally these are single resources; in a disaster, no one should be dispatched on a task alone. Boss is the appropriate ICS title for the person in charge of a single resource. Each month we will highlight the training for one position – this month Communications Team Operator (12 hours of FEMA training, 15 hours of *REACT* courses):

FEMA Independent Study Courses – IS 100, IS 200, IS 700, IS 800

REACT Courses:

Protecting Personal and Sensitive Information – online now

Introduction to Net Operations – online now

Messages - The Radiogram – online now

Basics of Drills and Exercises – online now

Disaster Basics – online now

Messages - The ICS Form 213 – in final draft

Deployment Awareness – in initial work

Either licensed as an Amateur Radio

Technician or complete one of the following:

- General Mobile Radio Service in initial work
- Family Radio Service in initial work
- Multi-User Radio Service in initial work
- Citizens Band Radio Service in initial work
- Business Radio Service in initial work

We expect to have the full range of courses available by May.

TRAINING FOR SUCCESS



NEWS

FROM THE

FRONT LINES

San Angelo REACT

(Texas)

Submitted by King Walker

“Do you smell something?” That was the question that started the evening’s adventure for San Angelo REACT Team 3387 in San Angelo, Texas.

Around 4:30 p.m. on January 4th 2018, the team received the call for assistance from the City’s Police and Fire Dispatch Service. At least four San Angelo Police units were tied up working a major gas leak, on East Rio Concho Drive.



Member Donnie Hall assists with traffic while a gas leak is repaired in January

The time was fast approaching -- the magic hours of rush hour traffic - that special time when people tend to bump into strangers and suggest body shops to each other.

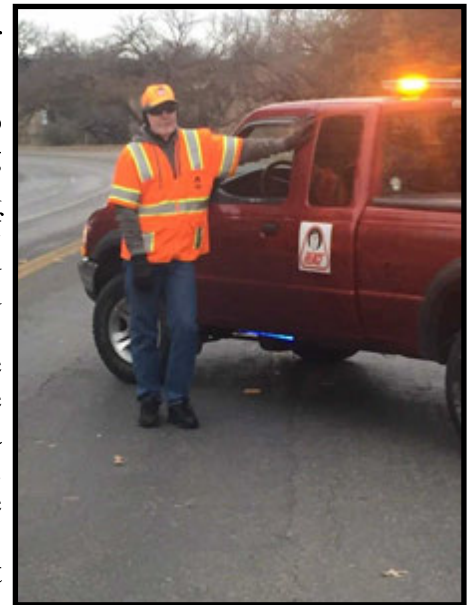
One of the major efforts in REACT Team 3387’s role in San Angelo, is to free up city services to help meet the demand of the population with as little cost

as possible. The street in question that day handles traffic for a nursing home, two hotels, and an assisted living center.

It was going to take a while. First, the emergency utility locator service must find the utility lines surrounding the suspected gas leak area. The repair section from the gas company, in this case Atmos Gas, will not put a shovel into the ground until they know where the other utility lines are.

The next step is to find the leak, dig it up, and patch the leak. All of these involved vehicles and equipment blocking the street. To provide the workers with a degree of safety, San Angelo Police Department closed the street to traffic. San Angelo REACT was called out to replace the police and get the police units back into service answering calls.

Seven members of the team were called on to replace those police units and we were there for three hours. The weather wasn’t too bad even for winter. After all, the Team President was wearing shorts!



Member Terry Hoffpauir assists with traffic during a gas leak repair job in January.

Valley Wide REACT

(Idaho)

Submitted by Darrow Ankrum

“The Wilson Creek Frozen 50k offers a unique, winter running experience on the stunning Wilson Creek trail system in January. Runners will traverse the Reynolds Creek gorge and summit Wilson Peak while braving the elements and enjoying the scenery and wildlife viewing opportunities. These trails showcase southwest Idaho at its finest during a time of year when most people are watching the weather from the warmth of their homes.

The 10 M loop contains ~2200' of elevation gain and the 20 M loop contains ~4900' of elevation gain for a total ~7100' of elevation gain for the 50k. The 50k is a combination of the two loops.”

Quoted from:

<http://emilyberrichoa.com/Frozen50k>

Race maps and other race information can also be found here.

What makes this race unique from others is that the climate in Idaho at this time of year is very unpredictable. In 2017, the race was canceled due to too much snow. In 2016, it was canceled due to a fire. In 2015, it was rain prior to the race and freezing temperatures on race day and 2013 the temperature at the start of the race was -3 degrees.



Wilson Creek Aid Station #1

Year 2018 looked like it was going to be another muddy year but as you can see in some of the pictures, we had beautiful sunny 50 degree weather.

REACT Team 4956 was responsible for tracking the runners for all three races (10 mile, 20 mile and 50k). As runners passed through each of the 4 aid stations, REACT Team members relayed runner

information back to net control. Net Control then logged the runners to track when they arrived at each station and identified outliers to ensure runner safety.

There were 215 runners for the three races and 4 aid stations. To support this event, the Team deployed a mobile Yaesu DR-1XFR repeater which allowed all



Runners on the trail



Sunset at Net Control

team members to use their HT's on low power.

We had 2 operators at each aid station and 3 at Net Control. One of our operators also ran sweep for the last 10 miles of the 50K carrying his HT with him and staying in touch with Net Control.

A Word from the race coordinator:

“Hello all Wilson Creek HAMs -

Let me echo Herb's thanks and commendation. You all did an extremely thorough and professional job, giving us a lot of confidence that we could track our runners safely. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for using your hobby to help others enjoy the Great Outdoors.

Hope to have you all back next year; January 19, 2019 (always MLK Day weekend).



Life Membership Column

This monthly column will be reserved for whoever wins the election.

The Life Membership Committee is accepting nominations for Chairman.

Send your nomination for Chairman of the Life Membership Committee to ri.hq@reactintl.org

Nominations must be received on or before March 15, 2018

You **MUST** be a **LIFE MEMBER** to nominate or vote in this election. You must also be a Life Member to hold this office.

A Few Teasers from

ABM 2018

*(REACT International, Inc.
Annual Board Meeting)*

Items discussed at the meeting included:

1. Training Chairman Walter Green gave a review of training status;
2. Joe Zych (Reg 3 Director) and Robby Goswami (Reg 9 Director) each gave updates for their regions;
3. John Mahon did a Licensing MOU review;
4. Will Richards gave a presentation on the upcoming Online Membership System;
5. John Capodanno went over a needed by-law change to allow electronic voting in elections, specifically for overseas Teams;
6. Jerry Jones discussed various R.I. policies and potential changes to update or improve accuracy.

Watch in the March *REACTer* for the minutes of the meeting which will contain details of the discussions.



Letters to the Editor

Send email to editor@thereacter.com

Will,

Will, we are delighted to be on the *REACT*er mailing list. My daughter and I, plus our two grandchildren enjoy reading them.

Happy New Year!

Irene Kreer
(Widow of *REACT*'s Founder)

Hello Mrs. Kreer!

I am so happy that you and your family enjoy the magazine. I have tried to make a magazine that is both informative and true to the great organization that your husband created.

I hope you have a great year, also!

Will

Dear Editor,

Had I been responsible for the cover of Will's excellent Jan. issue of The *REACT*er, I would have chosen to use the 'white' *REACT* logo. Why? Simply because the dark shades of the cover photo provide excellent contrast to emphasize the 'white' logo. I think that is quite obvious, and it is the only consideration an editor uses in choosing the logo 'version'. The orange 'version' would not have done the job there well at all, as you can picture.

SEARS, IBM and a host of other huge corporations use two 'versions' of their logos for exactly this reason. They 'reverse' the colours to gain the greatest impact from their logos, based on the contrast it provides with the background colours. Many of you

*REACT*ers will have noticed the two forms of those logos on various companies' products and packaging, even their buildings. Watch for it as you deal with them.

In my PR work for *REACT*, I copied these major corporations' smart strategy and used whichever logo 'version' suited the background colours involved. We gained for free what their PR staffs had spent thousands of dollars to develop.

Ron McCracken
Ron.McCr@hotmail.com

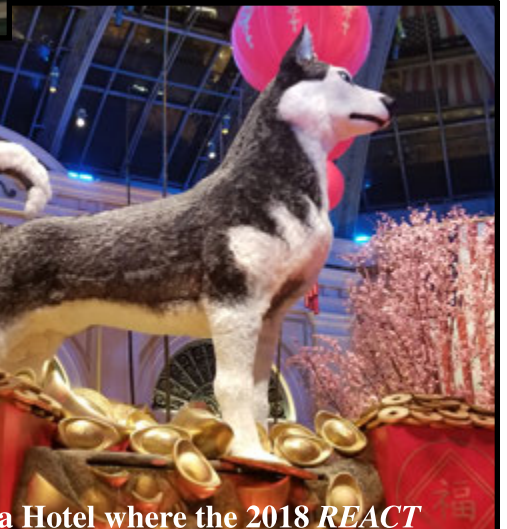
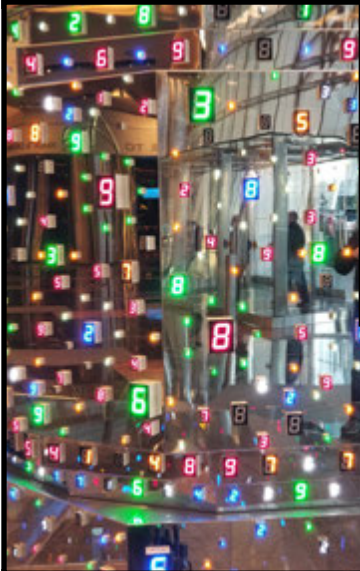
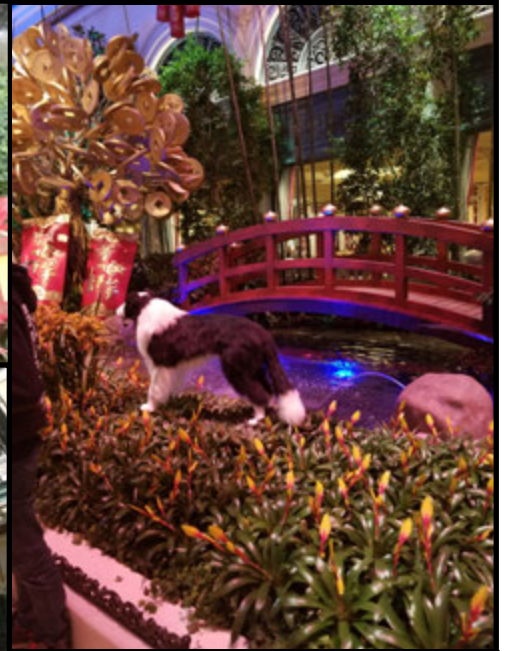
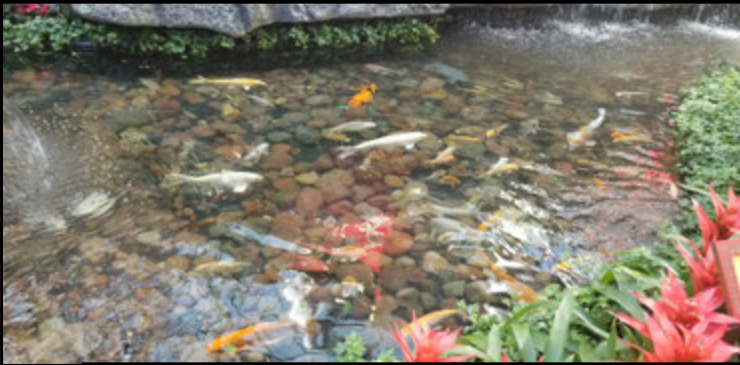
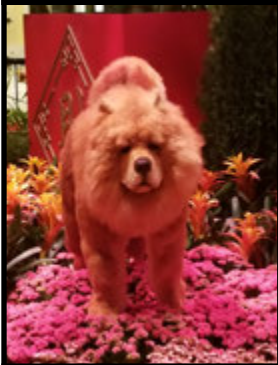
Hi Ron!

In composing the cover for January's issue, I first tried a full picture like I have been doing recently, with the banner in a contrasting color but there is so much going on in that photo that it was almost impossible to do it that way, so I opted for a *REACT* orange background above the picture and placing the banner there.

The first combination I tried was, indeed, the white lettering with a black shadow but that, taken as a whole, seemed to blend into the orange background. It made it look flat. So I reversed the colors and used black letters with a white shadow which gave me something closer to what I was looking for.

I do appreciate your input and your kind words! I don't do this job to get praise, but because I enjoy doing this kind of thing. It is, however, always appreciated when someone says something nice about my work!

REACT International 2018 Annual Board Meeting



Pictures taken at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas across from the Aria Hotel where the 2018 REACT International ABM was held. Not pictured in the top photo - Directors for Regions 1,2,3,4 and 6

Your Board of Directors at Work

Below are some photos taken during the 2018 ABM. They show the Directors at work as well as a few pictures of what it takes to broadcast the meeting on Facebook.





R.I. Announces New Team Renewal System

Will Richards, Programmer

Greetings *REACT*ers!

I am pleased to announce the first details on the new membership program I am currently developing to help speed up renewals as well as add in some other nice features. The program will be software you need to download, not a web-based program. I choose this route for 2 reasons. Having this be an actual program and not web-based, I am able to make the back end (server) and the client programs faster by multi-threading the program, which basically means multiple things are happening at a time.

The second part of it is the screens you see are all saved in the program and sitting on your computer, unlike a web page that every time you visit it, must download the pictures and layout over the Internet which then slows everything down, having to load each time. The way you will download the program is by going to a website we have set up, (see a screen shot below).

On this website (which may slightly change by the release), you will enter a few pieces of information. The software will then take this information and reference it into the database to confirm your current membership and then will automatically send you an email with a link to download the software. The reason for doing it this way is so that I can confirm that we have your email correct on file, so we have a way to contact you that we know is functional.

In the email you will also be given your user name to log into the program when it downloads; this will not be using your *REACT* ID number for the following reason. I am a ham radio operator in Los Angeles California as well as a trainee with the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department for their Search and Rescue

team. One thing I have seen over and over in different agencies is the lack of communication between them. My long-term goal with this program is much more than just a membership renewal for *REACT*.

The name of the software I am writing I have called **REDENES**, which common pronunciation for would be 'Readiness', and the definition for that word is "The state of being fully prepared for something". My long-term goal is to have a program that *REACT* can utilize, as well as local CERT groups throughout the country and other radio groups like Radio Relay International (RRI) that Walter Green is currently working with on communications for disasters. You may be wondering what the point is of everyone having this program and how it will help?

The program will end up having a second part to it, where, for example, if we have a big earthquake in California here, I want to be able to create a "call" or start an "incident" where anyone using my program can log on and see the incident we have created and we will be able to log what the status of our personal areas are, what our needs are, report injuries or other dangers that are present.

As we know, as members of *REACT* and being Ham Radio operators the biggest thing in disasters is to be able to get the information about the disaster out of the disaster effected area. My program is currently set to only run over the internet (for the server) to be able to communicate back and forth. I have some slight testing so far being able to run the data back over Packet Radio with the correct infrastructure in place so that in the time of a disaster we can send the information out without relying on the internet.

Now that you have a little understanding on my long-term plan for the program and hopefully see a need/use for this, I'll go into a more detail on the current part being done for *REACT*. So, as you saw, because I want this program to be able to be used by multiple agencies and radio groups this is the reason for the log in name not being your *REACT* ID. For example, if you were a member of *REACT* and RRI you would be able to use a universal username and then log in and choose which organization you wanted to go into to update your info in, or maybe use the messenger feature and message other team members about something.

The program will allow every member to see all their information that we have on file, from their name, email, address, phone numbers, and all training the members have. You will be able to see the picture we have on file for you for your ID card and if there is no picture on file or you would like to update the picture there will be a spot to upload and you will have the ability to update or add a new photo.

In similar fashion to that we will be asking everyone to upload copies of all there ICS certifications, call sign documents, and any other training you have. This is all to make sure we have members that are certified as they have told us they are so hopefully as we work to make this organization bigger and better we will be able to have members deployed into areas and be used like we should be.

So, as I mentioned above, each member will have access to all their own personal info, then the next step above that would be the team officers for your local team. They will have access to update all the team's information. The goal behind this is, for example, if a team goes out to get SKYWARN certified, at the next team meeting one of the officers can log into the program during the meeting and get everyone updated who was there so the members do not have to do everything at their house.

It would be great to see at every meeting if one officer logged in and just asked if anyone has any updated information, has anyone moved, changed emails, new phone numbers? The more up to date everything is year-round the

better off we all are in the event something happens.

The next step above the team would be your Regional Director. The director for the region will be able to see all teams in his or her region. This step is there if a team is having issues or maybe does not have access to computers to be able to update their information. If every team worked with their local director to get their information updated it would save the office a ton of time with everything.

Finally, the main office will have access to see every team and all the information. In doing all of this when a team renews, the office will be notified and we will be able to click one button to print ID cards and the other files needed, throw everything into an envelope and out it goes to the team.

Currently we need to mail out packets to every team, they fill them out, mail them back to the office where we manually enter everyone's information into the system. From there we run a program I wrote to convert the information from program 1 to program 2 where the ID cards are printed from, then open program 2, search for the person's name and print the card.

Now repeat that for everyone on the team, then we can send out the cards. It is a very long time-consuming set up, which is why teams get frustrated not getting there cards sooner, but this new program will be able to solve all these problems.

Finally, I am hoping to have a program up by the end of the month March for testing with the directors and then released to the teams in April/May time frame. I have included only one screen shot due to work I am doing in the code currently to get the encryption set up, so all data passed over the internet is secure, and I am not able to get further into the program to get more shots of it yet.

I will try to get another article into the March *REACT*er next month with some more pictures as well as some updates.

Thanks for all the dedication to *REACT* everyone puts in and hopefully we can build *REACT* into a household name again!

Zello Mall Jamboree – A Global Outreach Project

Submitted by Ravindranath “Robby” Goswami, 9Z4RG/AK4NB, Region 9 Director

Zello is a free app that simulates Walkie-Talkie or two-way radio functionality using any smartphone or PC. It works on Android, iPhone IOS, Blackberry, Windows Phone and Windows PC operating systems. No license is required and the app can be used by any member of the public. Think of it as Skype with a two-way radio look/interface. It is an implementation of Voice over IP technology and requires Internet access to work including WiFi, 3G, 4G LTE etc. Channels can be created, and password protected, or existing channels can be joined. Zello channels can also be linked to radio systems and repeaters via an interface. Communities can create their own channels for purposes such as neighbourhood watch etc. Zello can be a way to interest young people into the radio hobby. Being infrastructure dependent, one might not think of its use and application in emergencies and disasters. However recent events in 2017 with Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, which severely affected the US and Caribbean island states, Zello proved to be useful in reaching persons who needed assistance and allowed communities to keep in touch. Many lives were saved via Zello, and this was highlighted in USA Today and on CNN. REACT uses any and every means necessary to communicate so that Zello can supplement the use of CB Radio, FRS, GMRS, LMR, Amateur Radio etc.

REACT Teams have been using Zello for over 5 years. The **Worldwide REACT International Zello Net** takes place every Saturday night at 9 p.m. AST (or 8 p.m. EST and 9 p.m. EST during daylight savings) on the **REACT MEMBERS** channel. This channel is also quite active outside of net times with communicators around the world in most time zones regularly giving situation reports on traffic, weather and even calling in emergencies. There is a **Monday Night TechNet** at 9 p.m. AST. Zello is one more tool in the communications toolbox, and it has the ability to take and share photographs. It certainly does not replace traditional radio equipment and other RF and ICT devices used by REACT. Zello brings into play ubiquitous devices which are common place, allowing the reaching and meeting of people where they are, as many persons today walk around with a smartphone or similar device. The push-to-talk, one-to-many, broadcast-type, channelized operation, similar to trunked radio operation, makes Zello a useful app for early warning and crowd-sourced situation reports – an asset for emergency management and disaster response.



Zello Mall Jamboree event at Gulf City Lowlands Mall Tobago hosted by REACT Team 6045

On Saturday, December 16 2017, between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. AST, a **Zello Mall Jamboree** event was hosted globally. It was the brainchild of coordinator Allan Stewart, REACT Unit 400 of Tobago REACT 6045 along with Jeff Chandler of the Trinidad and Tobago Amateur Radio Society. Plans were hatched in the twin-island Republic by the National Organizing Committee and promoted on a global scale. A website, zellojamboree.com was set up, sponsored by the DSL group headed by Shalon Padmore, and provided a web-based platform for information dissemination, registration of participants and mapping of venues and registrants. Tri-fold brochures for distribution at the event, a mall setup guide, a QR code sheet for easy download and channel additions and an agenda script were all prepared and posted to the website as resources to be used by the Local Organizing Committees. A detailed download and setup instructions for Zello is also available on the site.



Zello Mall Jamboree event at Trincity Mall hosted by REACT Team 6008

Kenny Jagdeoosingh, *REACT* Unit 103 of Trinidad and Tobago *REACT* was responsible for coordinating the *REACT* efforts in Trinidad, encouraging participation and contributing resources to the event. Several members of Teams under the *REACT* Trinidad and Tobago Council responded to the call and hosted outreach and advocacy activities in various malls. There was partnering with other organizations such as ODPM, Team and Red Cross, which emphasized that the Zello app can be used in many ways to communicate not only within organizations but across organizations, with a local, regional and International reach. Tokens were also given to members of the public that downloaded the ODPM app.

Victor Bernard of *REACT* St. Andrew/St. David 6008 and Anwar Mondol of *REACT* Morvant/Santa Cruz/San Juan coordinated efforts for the Trincity Mall and Valpark Shopping Plaza respectively. A great job was done, and there were impressive displays mounted, which were commendable given the short time frame within which they had to plan and execute. Zello, being Internet-dependent, required Internet Service Providers, which was arranged through the local providers TSTT bMobile and Digicel. The *REACT* membership responded to the call and came out in the busy Christmas period to volunteer their time towards this noble cause. They promoted the Zello app, encouraging members of the public to download and install.



Zello Mall Jamboree event at Valpark Shopping Plaza hosted by REACT Team 6007

The event also provided an opportunity to recruit prospective members for the organization. Net control stations were operational on the channels that were used for the event, coordinated by Net Manager Jason Mungal *REACT* Unit 937 of *REACT* Nariva Mayaro 6009. Included in the line up of talented net controllers were Lisa Henzell *REACT* Unit 115 of Trinidad and Tobago *REACT* 2496, Angela Henry-Small *REACT* Unit 612 of *REACT* Victoria/St. Patrick, Jeremy Goodin United Rescue 23 and prospective member Alex Antoine, Call Sign Lexus 01. The nets were professionally run, and feedback from the participants was positive. Opening addresses were given on the channel, including from the Officer In Charge, Capt. Neville Wint (Ret'd.) of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management.



Zello Mall Jamboree event at Long Circular Mall hosted by Red Cross Team

REACT International, Inc. was fully behind the project as the Board of Directors agreed to give their seal of approval for *REACT* to be associated with the event. President John Capodanno provided encouragement and unwavering support. Advisories to Teams were sent out via e-mail from HQ via the Training Committee, and the event was advertised in the December issue of *The REACTer* magazine. Editor Will Stanley, at short notice, made sure it was included. A special feature of Radiogram messages from the Training Committee headed by Walter Green made the event extra-special. It was the first time many were exposed to the professional message handling traffic feature. Persons submitting 100% copy of the messages will receive recognition in *The REACTer* and also receive a QSL Certificate. The training available from *REACT* International was recognized as participants inquired about how one may learn about message handling. To hear a sample of one of the Radiogram messages click on <http://tinyurl.com/zelloradiogram>

REACT		Recd From:	How:	Date-Time:		
		Sent To:				
Number	Precedence	Origin Station	Check	Origin Place	Time Filed	Date
To (person/position):		Organization:	Address:		Phone:	
					E-Mail:	
1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10		
11	12	13	14	15		
16	17	18	19	20		
21	22	23	24	25		
Signed		Organization	Date/Time			

REACT Radiogram Format

Everyone involved must be commended for their efforts toward making the event a successful one. There are plans to repeat the event, and given the lessons learnt, promises to be even bigger and better.

So, if you haven't yet downloaded Zello, get on board. Try it...you will like it.

Thank you and **Hello Zello !**





From The Corner of the Room

Joe Zych, *REACT* WW Net Coordinator
Region 3 Director

Greetings all!

Well, we are into 2018; still getting used to writing that 18 instead of 17 but I will get used to it by December!

We as *REACT* members need to invite people to our meetings and promote *REACT*. Your team might be able to place free ads in the newspaper to recruit new members. It is very easy to double your team membership; it just takes a little work and to be visible in your community.

Magnetic *REACT* signs are available, React 3 foot by 4 foot flags are available, and *REACT* Banners are also available. You need these to use during your events and in parades. Exposure creates interest and interest generates membership, it works all the time.

I have *REACT* magnetic signs on my vehicles and every time I go to the store or shopping center I always engage in conversation about *REACT* or the antennas on my car. Talking to people makes it

happen, check with your local grocery store ask if you can set up a table outside the exit and have your *REACT* banner and have info on emergency communications for people to look at.

Tell people what *REACT* does and share with them the events you do during the year, also tell them about all the many discounts that you can get during the year by being a member. I will be more than happy to share with you about meeting ideas, fund raisers and many community services you can do in your local area. Just drop me an email; I am here to help. Email me at zoo89@yahoo.com.

In closing talking again about being visible you can get reflective vests at Walmart to be safe and seen during your events they have bright orange and bright lime green colored vests, until next time have a good year, start out on the right foot and increase your team membership!

Have a *REACTABLE* month.....73's

***REACT* in the Rose Bowl?**

The Tournament of Roses parade... that staple of New Year's Day entertainment.

During a phone call with President John Capodanno a few weeks ago, I broached the idea of *REACT* International having a float in the Tournament of Roses parade for our 60th birthday. Now THAT would be some promotion! At least he didn't dismiss my idea as outright lunacy!

How would we go about doing this? Well, that's the question. Unless there are members who would be willing to travel to California to help put the float together, it would undoubtedly be the responsibility of the California Teams. But then, they would also get the honors of riding on the float in the parade!

I don't know but maybe there are companies that do floats like that as a business?

What do YOU think? We have 4 years to bring the idea to life.

Let me know: editor@thereacter.com

Providing Decision Support During Irma

by Whitney Smith, Meteorologist

To evacuate or not to evacuate? That was just one of countless questions that decision makers in South Carolina were faced with as Hurricane Irma threatened the Southeastern US in early September. Meteorologists from the National Weather Service in Columbia were on site at the South Carolina Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to provide the latest forecast information to support decision makers as they tackled those tough questions.

The deployment of three NWS Columbia meteorologists to the SEOC began on Wednesday, September 6th and continued through the duration of the event. Tasked with collecting the latest forecast data from the National Hurricane Center and each of the four NWS forecast offices that cover South Carolina and combining it into one concise forecast for the entire state, forecasters worked fast paced 8-12 hour shifts. Their forecasts were presented during daily conference calls with county emergency managers, executive calls with the governor and agency heads, press briefings with the governor and local media, and briefings for the National Guard and others working on site at the SEOC.



Waning Coordination Meteorologist, John Quagliariello providing forecast information during the SC Governor's press briefing

One of the most challenging aspects of Hurricane Irma decision support came as many of the forecast models began taking the storm on a track further west than previous model runs had. Even though the eye of the storm was no longer expected to track directly through South Carolina, significant impacts could still be expected across the state. Clearly communicating those impacts to decision makers and the public was crucial to decisions and preparations that had to be made days in advance.



NWS Columbia meteorologist, Rachel Cobb briefing the State Emergency Operations Center at shift change

Meteorologists from NWS Columbia had trained for that task through the winter and spring, striving to improve how they communicate complicated high impact weather forecasts without using technical jargon. This training came into play sooner than they had hoped with Hurricane Irma looming near the region. Providing decision support is a key aspect of the NWS's Weather Ready Nation initiative and ultimately our mission to protect lives and property.

(This article reprinted with permission of National Weather

Service,

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Press the Push-to-Talk button to transmit.

VOLUNTEER to be a NET OPERATOR!

REACT International Event Calendar

FEBRUARY 2018

1.....REACTer Published
3.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (8 p.m. ET)
6REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
10.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (8 p.m. ET)
13REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
14VALENTINE'S DAY
15.....Deadline for March REACTer
17ZELLO Worldwide Net (8 p.m. ET)
20REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
24ZELLO Worldwide Net (8 p.m.ET)
27REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)

MARCH 2018

1.....REACTer Published
3.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (8 p.m. ET)
6REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
10.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (8 p.m. ET)
11.....Daylight Savings Time Begins
13REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
15.....Deadline for April REACTer
17ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
17ST. PATRICK'S DAY
20REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
24ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m.ET)
27REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
31ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m.ET)

APRIL 2018

1.....REACTer Published
3.....REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
7ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
10.....REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
14ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
15.....Deadline for May REACTer
17REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
21ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
24REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m.ET)
28ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)

MAY 2018

1.....REACTer Published
1REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
5.....CINCO DE MAYO

5ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
8REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
12ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
14.....MOTHER'S DAY
15.....Deadline for June REACTer
15REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
19.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
22REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m.ET)
26ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
28.....MEMORIAL DAY
29.....REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m.ET)

JUNE 2018

1.....REACTer Published
2.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
5.....REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
9.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
12.....REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
14.....FLAG DAY
15.....Deadline for July REACTer
16.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
18.....FATHER'S DAY
19.....REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
20.....SUMMER SOLSTICE (Longest
Day of the Year)
23.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
26.....REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
30.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)

JULY 2018

1.....REACTer Published
3.....REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
4.....INDEPENDENCE DAY
7.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
10.....REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
14.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
15.....Deadline for August REACTer
17.....REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
21.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
24.....REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
28.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
31.....REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)

Most National Holidays are now in the calendar.
They are in CAPITAL PRINT

To add items to this calendar, contact:

*REACT International: 301-316-2900 or Editor direct - 336-897-0641 (office/home) - 480-758-7722 (cell)
email: 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

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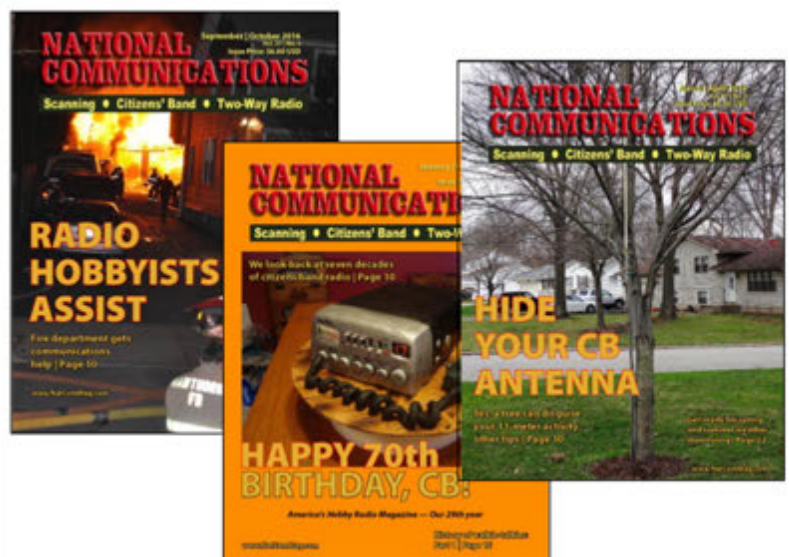
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