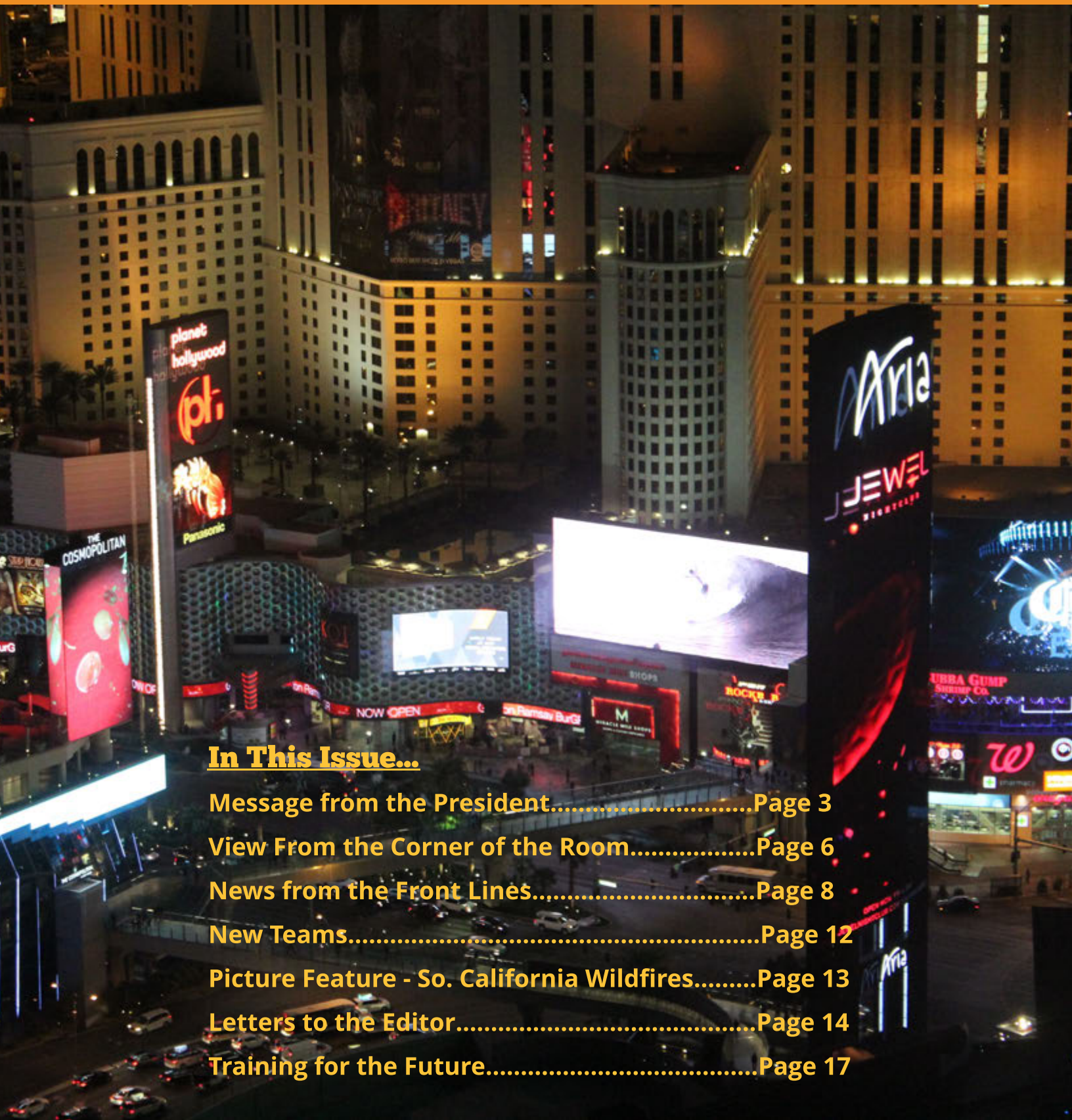


The *REACT*er

The Official Publication of *REACT* International, Inc.

January 2018



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A Message from the President

John Capodanno

Over the years as *REACT* has shrunk in size and, as the demand for assisting motorists has effectively shrunk to zero, *REACT* teams and members have been searching for what to do. In that process we collectively lost our focus and our understanding of the mission. It is time to refocus, to state what we do as an International organization, and to work to be up to the modern standard of performance in our field. First and foremost we exist to do emergency communications. That is why we were founded. That there is no longer a demand for the original CB monitoring mission does not change the big picture. **We are emergency communicators.**

That does not mean we drop everything and run to the scene when we hear a scanner call. When you see red or blue lights and hear sirens, it is the turf of the public safety officials: police, fire, and emergency medical services. As an organization we do not have the training to do these jobs. We do not have the legal authority to do these jobs. And we do not have the insurance coverage to do these jobs. You may be a firefighter who also works with your local emergency medical services agency or serves as a reserve deputy with your local sheriff's office. But when you act as a member of *REACT* you are none of those things - you are a volunteer emergency communicator.

And what we do as volunteer emergency communicators is support the organizations and agencies that we serve in major emergencies and disasters. We do that when we are asked to do it - not when we want to, but when they want us to - we don't self-dispatch or self-deploy.

That means we have to have communications capabilities that are state of the art. The state of that art is now high speed digital message communications. That means we have to have training and credentialing that meets Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Homeland Security disaster support standards. That means we have to have effective systems for alerting and mobilizing resources and the ability to move resources across state and globally. That means we have to have typed resources that can be ordered when needed. And that means that your Team has to be seen as being a responsible partner to your supported organizations.

If we are to survive and thrive in the future, we have to start working toward these objectives, not next year, not next month, not next week, but today. There is more than enough work to be done - so let's focus on what we have to do and get it done.

John Capodanno

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Contact nets@reactintl.org
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From The Corner of the Room

Joe Zych
REACT WW Net
Coordinator
Region 3 Director

Happy New Year Everyone!

As you read this, the presents have been opened and the wrapping paper long gone, but the excitement still lingers, the tree still stands and the lights still twinkle! Wow, that was good!

I am a Tech guy, so I had to get an Echo Dot and sit there and try and stump Alexa. For \$29.00, I just had to have one! You can ask Alexa about anything and she will give you the answer in seconds, the time the temperature, she can order pizza, even make you a list. I try to confuse her but I think it really increases her memory content.

Off to 2018 and we need to concentrate on our *REACT* Teams. Let's all make it a goal to double our team this year; it is easier than you think. I have said it before; the local newspaper is your best friend. You can put in pictures and articles, talk about your *REACT* TEAM to recruit membership and it's free! Let your community and the surrounding communities know what you are doing to help out with emergency communications in your area.

If your team members all wear the same color shirts and have your *REACT* ID badge displayed it will get attention, it always does! The Star Mountain team wears bright orange shirts bought at Walmart for 3.50 we iron on our decals and " R " numbers and all the time people ask what is it with the orange shirts? Who are you people? What do you do?

Be visible in your community, do a road side or park clean up, have the magnetic *REACT* signs on your vehicles. The antennas on my trucks and the *REACT* signs are seen, and 9 out of 10 times in a shopping center parking lot they

generate attention. People ask questions and I always hear, "I remember *REACT* back in the 70's and 80's, I did not know they were still around!"

Parades are a great source of visibility, be in a parade with your team or work the parades, provide communication for the event. In the past few months my team had the Veterans Parade, 4th of July and the Christmas Parade. Get involved - be visible.

If you need information on Team meeting ideas, or fund-raising, communications, signage, or contacting your local community leaders, drop me an email - I am here to help! I am in Region 3, the Southeast USA area but I help to sign up teams worldwide, to build *REACT*.

Having fun and being part of a team, and helping out in your community is a good feeling and making the world we live in safer. In closing, here's wishing you a happy and healthy 2018. I am going to sit back and ask Alexa just how much she knows about *REACT*!

Be safe and God Bless, 73.



Mea Culpa!

Mea Culpa... I believe that is Latin and loosely translates to "My Fault".

With every intention of having a Christmas issue that carried the wishes for good cheer, peace and harmony to at least the two major



religions (Christianity and Hebrew), I somehow managed to leave off Hanukkah.

Don't ask me how... end of the deadline rush, too many things to do and not enough time to get them all done... whatever the reason.

This oversight was brought to my attention by a member, Joseph Namer, and I am grateful for his 'nudge'!

I certainly did not mean to ignore our Jewish friends and neighbors but somehow I did and I apologize for that omission. I will do better next year!

And so, in closing, let me say that I hope each and every one of you had a Hanukkah Sameach!

International Board Meeting is this month!

It's not too late!

The *REACT* International Annual Board Meeting is January 22, in Las Vegas.



You can still attend. I mean, come on! Have you ever wanted to see Vegas? What better reason than to come to the meeting and then do some tourist stuff afterward and pretty much your entire vacation is tax deductible (with the exception of the gambling, if you do any of that)?

So come to Vegas! See how your Board works! Have some fun and remember - what happens in Vegas... stays in Vegas!



NEWS FROM THE FRONT LINES

Lake Royale *REACT*

(North Carolina)

Submitted by Ken Pierrehumbert

On December 9th, Lake Royale *REACT* Team 6239 celebrated the end of its first year as a new team with a holiday party on the shores of Lake Royale. Amid food, fun and door prizes, team members and their spouses gathered to congratulate each other on working together to bring new services to our



community through radio communication.

In addition to the camaraderie, team members had a small history lesson with a tour of the “Radio History Mini Museum,” where old restored radios along with period magazines were on display.

Lake Royale, is a private lake community located in a rural area North East of Raleigh NC. It is a unique community, because we are self-contained with our own police yet are not actually a city.

Given the rural location, Lake Royale residents depend heavily on volunteers of all types and live our lives through a neighbor-helping -neighbor network. Our *REACT* team fills an important gap for emergency communication where power can be out for days and cell phones are marginal.

Starting a new *REACT* team is work, but very rewarding. The key is to engage people that have a deep desire to give back to their community while having a little fun between emergency situations. Communications is essential and recruiting new members needs to be a constant goal even if your team is fairly large.

Though 2017 was a year of organization, Lake Royale *REACT* has several accomplishments to be proud of:

- Established a close alliance with local CERT team where *REACT* provides communication expertise to improve the already established group. Lake Royale *REACT* holds its monthly meetings directly after the CERT monthly meetings so that we can keep the groups tightly connected.
- Assisted in safety and traffic control at major events including the Lake Royale July 4th parade and fireworks and the winter holiday fair.
- Established connections with police and municipal leaders of the nearby towns of Bunn and Spring Hope NC.
- Launched our website: lakeroyalereact.org with useful links for the community and *REACT* international
- Established “Fast 9” program to increase CB channel 9 monitoring. In this program, our team

provides loaner CB base stations to those paid *REACT* members that do not yet have a base radio. We have started a pool of refurbished base stations that also can be loaned to a member whose rig should fail.

· Successfully negotiated an arrangement to link the 9:00PM Tuesday Echolink net into the Carolina 440 UHF Link repeater system, <http://www.carolina440.net/> . The Carolina 440 UHF Link is a group of linked UHF amateur radio repeaters covering Eastern NC and parts of VA and SC. The 440 Link is also connected to Echolink and AllStar nodes as well as a listen-only link on Broadcastify for non-hams. All in all it has been a good first year and Lake Royale *REACT* Team 6239 is looking forward to more activity and more members in 2018.

Cleveland County *REACT*

(North Carolina)
Submitted by Jay Flora

Members of Cleveland County *REACT* were invited to attend the Shelby Police Department's Annual Employee Award Banquet on December 12, 2017. Chief Jay Flora of Cleveland County *REACT* in Shelby, NC attended and represented the Team. The event was held at the Bethel Baptist Church in Shelby.

The Shelby City Manager Rick Howell Presented Chief Jay Flora with a Merit Award for His Service to the Shelby Police Department and to the Citizens of Shelby, NC.

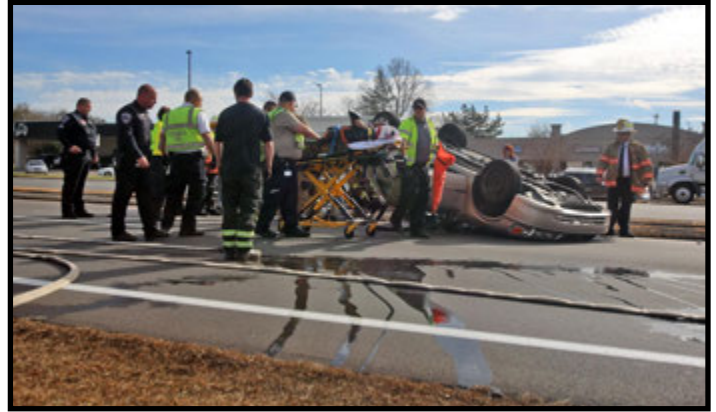
The Shelby Police are glad that Cleveland County



REACT is around to be there to help in times of emergency and to help their Officers when needed. They know they can call in *REACT* any time day or night and the Team will be there.

In mid December, the Team assisted the Police

Department with blocking traffic for a serious 2 car crash in which one car overturned.



*Emergency responders work an accident scene in Shelby, NC.
(Photo Reprinted with permission of the Shelby Star, Shelby, NC.
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The *REACT*er spoke with Chief Jeff Ledford of the Shelby police who told us that Jay Flora and his *REACT* Team are a valuable asset for us. "We can always count on Jay", Ledford said, "whenever he is available to help, that's one less position we have to cover." Ledford also said that with volunteers becoming more and more scarce these days, people like Jay and his Team are very important, especially since Shelby has grown so much in recent years.

Overlook Heights *REACT*

(Ohio)
Captured from the Team's Facebook page

November 23, 2017 - Overlook Heights *REACT* gave a helping hand to our neighboring team Alert *REACT* Response Team, for their annual Turkey Trot 5K run always a pleasure to help out



a neighboring team. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families.

December 4, 2017 - Overlook Heights *REACT* along with Alert *REACT* Response Team, provided crowd control and parking duties for the OHSAA State Football Championships at the Stark County Fairgrounds very busy weekend but got it done.

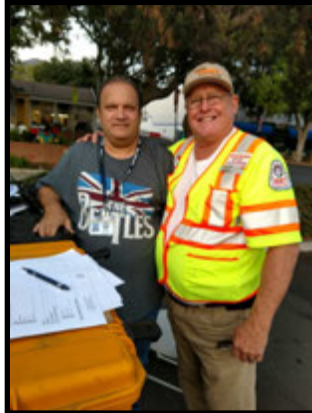
Los Angeles County *REACT*

(California)

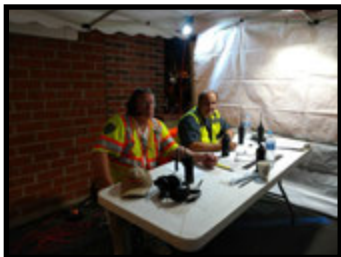
Submitted by John Capodanno

Laco *REACT* assisted with the Montrose Christmas Parade in December. The Parade started at 6 p.m., with volunteers who were working the even beginning to show up between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The parade consisted of 130 entries. There were 57 volunteers working the parade, which included 10 members from Los Angeles County *REACT*.



Santa Claus is Comin' to Town!



John Capodanno of Laco REACT and Tom Jenkins of Valley Wide REACT (Idaho) working the radio control booth.

The parade finished at 7:45 p. m. with the arrival of Santa Claus, who arrived in town in style on board a Glendale Fire Department Ladder truck.

From the parade's website: "This year's event was held on Sat., December 2, 2017, at 6 PM. The Montrose

Christmas Parade Assoc. works all year long to plan this much loved community event.

We are very thankful for the support of our amazing sponsors and volunteers. We could not put this event on without the donation of time, treasure and talent."

Alert *REACT* Response Team

(Ohio)

Submitted by Daniel Davidson

As the we close the year we've finished over 36 details. These are all scheduled community events 90 percent of them to benefit other charities. These include over a half dozen we do to assist other teams in the state.



We also handle numerous parades, festivals and such. In between we find time to do holiday courtesy/safety patrols with various agencies. We get our storm damage, fires, occasional accidents.



We share the county with another team Overlook Heights *REACT*.

We often share events and patrols. We handle this with a team of only about a dozen dedicated members. many are disabled, retired and retrained.

We have covered this county since back in the 60's being one of the oldest teams left.

We've split, merged, regrouped, buried our dead, but never surrendered, never defeated.

We've not grown as we would like but we have grown. In an ever changing sometimes, hostile world, we have survived. We are presently working on the rebirth of our junior program.

Howard County *REACT*

(Maryland)

Submitted by David Perry

Howard County *REACT* recently provided traffic control and course monitoring for the Girls on the Run 5K, an annual event established to raise funds for programs that benefit and empower young women.

As traffic controllers, our team directed race participants into designated parking areas as they arrived. Given the large scale of the venue, which took place in the business park of Columbia Gateway Drive, our members were widely spread out to direct traffic from numerous directions while simultaneously assisting Howard County Police

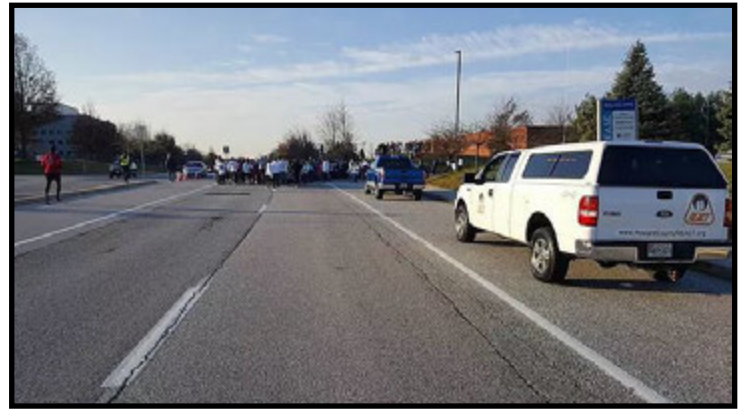


Howard County REACT member Mark Thornton (Unit 685) stands with an event volunteer at the intersection of the finish line to direct traffic into and out of the parking lots used for the event.

keep the runner course clear of vehicle traffic. Anyone familiar with Columbia Gateway Drive will tell you everything is spread out and can be quite confusing to the uninitiated.

Adding to the traffic control challenges, our team quickly recognized that pedestrian traffic would be an even bigger challenge as a large number of participants were crossing Columbia Gateway Drive at the same intersections where we were directing traffic. Despite this, we adapted quickly and issues

were quickly stamped out. HCR members Mark Thornton (Unit 685) and Pardeep Bhatti (Unit 621) were instrumental in recognizing these issues and putting a game plan together to address them.



Howard County REACT member Pardeep Bhatti (Unit 621) directs event traffic into one of several parking lots available as participants line up at the start line.

Fortunately, the race itself went much smoother. HCR member David Perry (Unit 687) acted as a roving net control while HCR member Josh Tievy (Unit 694) assisted as a second rover. The only hiccups involved 2 minor diabetic episodes that were quickly recognized and resolved by Josh, who also happens to be trained in medical emergencies.

As the race wound down, the same crowd and traffic control issues started to crop up. However, using the lessons we learned just prior to the event allowed us to identify and address the trouble areas before they became a problem.

Despite occasional challenges, our team members rose to the challenge and adapted to fill in where needed. Given our great success, our team has already been asked by event organizers to assist with several more events being planned for the spring.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY REACT!!



**FIFTY SIX YEARS OLD
this month!**

WELCOME NEW TEAMS !!

Our *REACT* Family grew by another
Eleven Teams in 2017.

6238 - *REACT* 74 - Cherokee, NC

6239 - Lake Royale *REACT* - Lake Royale, NC

6240 - Southwest MA *REACT* - Brockton, MA

6241 - Caldwell County *REACT* - Lenoir, NC

6242 - Volusia County *REACT* - Edgewater, FL

6243 - SE Louisiana *REACT* - LaPlace, LA

6244 - Tier 1 ERT *REACT* - Charlottesville, VA

6245 - Greensboro *REACT* - Greensboro, NC

6246 - Tri-County *REACT* - Aurora, NE

6247 - *REACT* Warning Team - Glen Allen, VA

6248 - County *REACT* - Kings Mountain, NC

Lets give all of our new Teams and family members a
great big ***REACT* WELCOME!**



A Word from the Editor

Will Stanley

Yes, I know this column usually appears at the front of the magazine, but this month, we have a rare pleasure! President John Capodanno has submitted a letter to the organization. That's why you see that there this month, rather my usual ramblings.

More than a few of you have made 'New Year's Resolutions'. Will you keep them this year?

Here's a good New Years Resolution: Resolve to be a better *REACT*er this year...a better *REACT* Team. Resolve to get more members, do more events, do more training - in short, resolve to be better than you are.

You really do not need to be better than the next guy. You simply need to be better tomorrow than you are today.

Sure, the international office in California takes care of maintaining our insurance and our 501(c)3 status and lots of other legalities but the Teams are where it's at.

I read through some older stuff a little while ago. Minutes of meetings where Henry Kreer was involved and reports on those and other functions. It was, back then, and continues to be the Teams that are *REACT*. If you are thinking that you have no authority because International has it all - you are mistaken. YOU are the reason this organization exists.

Never forget that.

What do you have to say? Tell it to me! My door is ALWAYS open! Write to me (anything - really!) at editor@thereacter.com. I may not have all the answers, but I know how to listen and I know who to go to where the answers might be!

REACTIVELY,

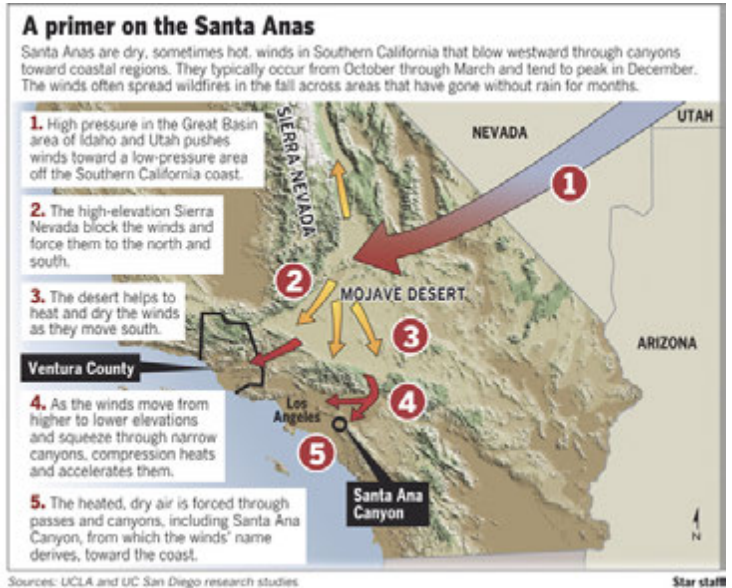
Will

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES !



The Santa Ana winds, a yearly occurrence in and around the Southern California region, are hot, dry, fast moving winds that can fan small fires into large ones and can start fires in dry timber and grassland areas by themselves. They leave behind millions in damages, lost property and homeless people.

The graphic at the bottom of this page explains how they work.





Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The letter to the editor from Dennis Beitry about the October *REACTer* and Will's reply (both published in the December *REACTer*) forced me to pull up my copy of the October issue to check the details that Dennis corrected. After reading the original brief mention of the revised Part 95 rules, and Dennis's correction, it was clear that a more detailed explanation was needed.

It took me a while to even find the article in the October *REACTer* that "shocked" Dennis, but eventually I did find the sentence that Dennis was talking about. Yes, the entire multi-page correction discussion in the December issue was about one sentence, and not even the entire sentence. I have to agree that Will did manage to pack an awful lot of incorrect information into that one partial sentence, saying: "...the newly revised Part 95 rules that were just recently approved rules are going to allow the use of repeaters for CB radio, along with higher power levels...." As Dennis points out the newly revised Part 95 does neither of those. It does allow significantly more power, but only for FRS, not CB. And, no, it does not allow repeater use for CB, MURS, or FRS; just GMRS as it always has.

In his discussion of the advantages of GMRS and amateur VHF/UHF FM, Dennis correctly mentions that they can each operate simplex without needing repeaters. Dennis acknowledges that simplex operation provides considerably less range than working through a repeater. One point that he omits is that while most GMRS operators are familiar with simplex operation and have a full set of simplex channels programmed in their GMRS radios, the same is not true of most Technician class amateur radio operators - especially those licensed in the last several years. Despite the long outdated reputation for technical expertise, the simple fact is that most current ham radio operators have no simplex channels programmed in their radios and many would be unable to recall how to reprogram the existing repeater memory channels

for simplex use. This is not the opinion of an outsider attacking amateur radio, the unfamiliarity with simplex operation and the inability to reprogram their own radios is a frequent observation from the After Action reviews of major exercises conducted by organized amateur radio groups. This is a recognized issue that amateur radio emergency communications groups have been working on for several years, but it continues to be a problem for most newly-licensed operators.

As Will pointed out in his correction in the December *REACTer*, his original comment was based on an incorrect summary he had received. I didn't see that summary, but I would guess that it was a second- or perhaps third-hand summary of a summary of the original summary published by the FCC. That original official FCC summary highlights the changes in the revised Part 95:

GMRS/FRS Reform. General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) and Family Radio Service (FRS) devices are both used for personal communications over several miles. The public may be most familiar with FRS walkie-talkies. While GMRS and FRS share spectrum, GMRS provides for greater communications range and requires an FCC license, while FRS does not require a license. The rules will increase the number of communications channels for both GMRS and FRS, expand digital capabilities to GMRS (currently allowed for FRS), and increase the power/range for certain FRS channels to meet consumer demands for longer range communications (while maintaining higher power capabilities for licensed GMRS).

CB Reform. Rule changes to the decades-old Citizens Band (CB) rules will remove outdated requirements that are no longer needed, including labeling requirements and a limit on use of channels when conditions allow long range communications. The rules also clarify how handsfree devices can be used with CB radios.

Overall rule reform. This action achieves a thorough review of Part 95 rules and creates a new rule structure where common administrative rules are consolidated to reduce duplication and individual subparts are structured with a common numbering scheme. It removes outdated and unnecessary rules while clarifying others.

The changes in the CB rules are more editorial

than substantial, and are mostly not in the sections that directly effect operators. The most obvious change was the elimination of the so-called Plain Language "question and answer" format that had been used in the previous revision of the rules. All the rules are now written in normal regulatory format. Some people may find them a little more difficult to read, but the format is now consistent throughout all the FCC Rules and Regulations and the regulatory format lends itself to more precisely stated rules rather than making the rules try to sound like part of a primary school book.

The largest changes for legal operators are in the FRS rules. Basically the revised rules bring the existing 'blister pack' "FRS/GMRS" radios into FRS where individual licenses are not required. While these are the largest changes for legal operators, they represent no change at all for the vast majority of FRS users, almost all of whom have been operating illegally for years. Regardless of how the FCC tries to put lipstick on a pig, the truth is that they had simply lost control of these so-called combination FRS/GMRS radios because no one was bothering to get a GMRS license to use simplex handheld radios they could buy in the checkout line at Wally World. Even among our own members, how many people really realized that these radios were only legal for FRS on channels 8-14, while channels 1-7 and 15-22 required a GMRS license. The FCC basically changed the rules to match the situation that they had allowed to happen. Under the new rules, there will be no combination "FRS/GMRS" radios; each radio will either conform to the new FRS rules, or it will conform to the new GMRS rules and require a GMRS license. Nearly all existing "FRS/GMRS" radios already conform to the new FRS rules.

For GMRS operators, the new rules give them low power access to interstitial channels spaced between the 467MHz repeater input channels -- the same frequencies that FRS users have always had as FRS channels 8-14.

Tom Currie
N4AOF, WQWI985

Thanks for writing in to clarify this issue for us, Tom. As anyone who has been involved with government rules can attest, the 'governmentese' can get rather thick at times. It's a good thing that we have people who can sort it out for us!

Will

Dear Editor,

I was sitting in my car, had just had lunch, when two truckers pulled into the parking lot to eat. The two drivers saw me and said, "There used to be a group called *REACT* back in the 70s, 80s and 90s."

I told them I was "that *REACT*" and we are still around and on Jan 23rd, will be 56 years old. They told me they drive all over the USA and have never heard a *REACT* Team on the CB Radio or seen any Teams in 30 Years. They asked me if we were the only *REACT* Team around. I told them that most *REACT* Teams got away from CB Radio over the years and had gotten into Ham Radio and other types. I told them *REACT* is world-wide and that our *REACT* Team uses CB Radio, monitoring CB-9 on base stations and on mobiles. We Monitor CB-19, also. I told them to look up the webpage and the *REACT*er Magazine.

It is bad when people don't know about *REACT* and think your Team is the only one around.

REACT needs some big-time PR on TV, radio and CB Radio to let people know we are still around. It is time for *REACT* Teams to get on CB Radio Ch-19 and ID as *REACT* and monitor to help truckers and all people. We could give out traffic info and help truckers get to where they are going. That would be good PR for *REACT*.

Jay Flora WA4JAY
KBUO-6508 (CB) WQSJ-975 GMRS
Cleveland County *REACT*
Shelby, NC

Hi Jay!

Thanks for writing in. Yes, *REACT* needs to start promoting itself again, both locally and nationally. We need to let people know we are still around.

But, unfortunately, the law that required radio stations, TV stations and newspapers to provide PSAs in the media at no cost to 501(c)3 groups like ours has expired. Perhaps that is something that *REACT* could lobby to get renewed?

As for using CBs, that will have to be a local Team decision as many areas no longer have a big need for CBs. We know that most if not all OTR Truckers still use it. But it's an idea!

Will



SUBMITTING
TEAM NEWS

Is EASY!

Just follow this
guideline...

NAME of Person Reporting—
TEAM NUMBER— TEAM LOCATION

DESCRIPTION of **ACTIVITIES**

(Who, What, Where, When, Why,
and How)

Provide this info for each event in
your report

INCLUDE PICTURES

attach them to your email

don't send .PDFs

(Caption: **WHO, WHAT** and **WHERE**
each picture shows)

NAME of Photographer

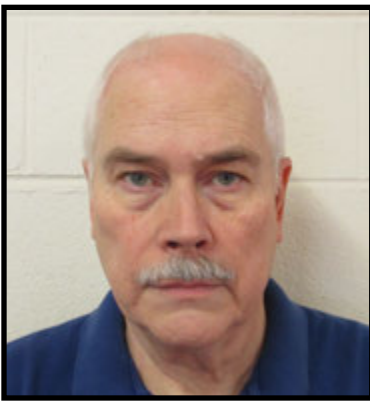
SEND the entire report

(with pictures attached) to:

EDITOR@THEREACTER.COM

SEE HOW EASY

THAT WAS?



Training for the Future

Walter Green
Lt. Col, USAF, ret

TRAINING COMPLETIONS: Congratulations to the following members for completing *REACT* Training:

Stan Latta (6247) – Introduction to Net Operations

John Capodanno (6192) - Introduction to Land Search and Rescue

John Capodanno (6192) - Using the Traffic System Message Bulletin Board

John Capodanno (6192) - Protecting Personal and Sensitive Information

NEW *REACT* COURSES: Two new *REACT* courses are available on the website:

Basics of Drills and Exercises - developed based on lessons from ALERTEX 2017 to give members who have never participated in a disaster exercise a grounding in how these events work. You should be able to complete the course in 1 to 3 hours.

Messages - detailed coverage of formal message formats you can expect to see in a disaster, the radiogram and the ICS 213 Message form. The course text includes practical exercises to help you improve your message writing and receiving skills. You should be able to complete this course in 2 to 4 hours.

RESOURCE TYPING UPDATE: *REACT* established standards for resource typing in 2012. A typed resource is a known quantity of people, equipment, and capability. If you show up, unrequested, at a disaster with no credentials and unknown capability, you create problems – managers have to figure out how to use you, or

even if they have a use for you. In contrast, a typed Team is in a database, can be specifically ordered, and represents a known package of people and gear with credentials. We are updating the standards to ensure we can perform to at least the level of other communications organizations, and in 2018 will be building a national database of available Type 4 teams. Expect updated information on deployable communications teams, fixed base radio stations, and *REACT* Traffic System operators soon.

FEMA TRAINING: This month we highlight the last of the FEMA Independent Study series of courses required for *REACT* resource typing, IS-800 National Response Framework, An Introduction. The National Response Framework establishes guiding principles that enable all response partners to prepare for and provide a unified national response to disasters and emergencies, from the smallest to the largest. To take IS-800.b go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/y8839s96>

ALERTEX 2018-A: The Training Committee will conduct ALERTEX 2018-A, the first of 2018's sequence of Internet based disaster response exercises, on 22-23 February. The exercise scenario is a tune-up for tornado season, with a major tornado outbreak. This will be a slightly more difficult exercise than ALERTEX 2017. To prepare, we suggest completing the *REACT* Basics of Drills and Exercises and Messages.

A training package specifically for the exercise will be out by e-mail to all teams for which we have a valid e-mail by 1 January. If your Team does not receive a copy, or if you want a personal copy, contact training@REACTIntl.org.

HOW ARE YOUR MESSAGE COPYING SKILLS? The *REACT* Warning Team is hosting a monthly message run with a formal message transmitted on the Zello channel *REACT/Traffic* System. Copy the message with a 100% good copy, and you will receive a QSL card certificate verifying your skill.

For details go to <http://reactwarning.org/runs>.

NOAA's Newest Weather Satellite Will Improve Weather Forecasting

Courtesy of NOAA.gov

GOES-R, the first of NOAA's highly advanced geostationary weather satellites, lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, at 6:42 p.m. EST November 19, 2016. The satellite will boost the nation's weather observation network and NOAA's prediction capabilities, leading to more accurate and timely forecasts, watches and warnings.

Once GOES-R was situated in orbit 22,300 miles above Earth on November 29th, it became known as GOES-16. Sometime in November, 2017, after undergoing a checkout and validation of its six instruments, the new satellite will become operational.

"The next generation of weather satellites is finally here. GOES-R is one of the most sophisticated Earth observing platforms ever devised," said NOAA Administrator Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D. "GOES-R's instruments will be capable of scanning the planet five times faster and with four times more resolution than any other satellite in our fleet. With these new instruments and powerful new capabilities, GOES-R will strengthen NOAA's ability to issue lifesaving forecasts and warnings and make the United States an even stronger, more resilient

Weather-Ready Nation." GOES-16 will scan the skies five times faster than today's GOES spacecraft, with four times greater image resolution and three times the spectral channels. It will provide high-resolution, rapid-refresh satellite imagery as often as every 30 seconds, allowing for a more detailed look at a storm to determine whether it is growing or decaying.

GOES-R data will help improve hurricane tracking and intensity forecasts, the prediction and warnings of severe weather, including tornadoes and thunderstorms.

Additionally, GOES-16's improved rainfall estimates will lead to more timely and accurate flood warnings.

"We are ready to receive and process GOES-R (16) data into our forecasts as soon as it is available," said NOAA National Weather Service Director Louis W.

Uccellini, Ph.D.

"Forecasters will not only have sharper, more detailed views of evolving weather systems, they will have more data – better data – ingested into our weather models to help us predict the weather tomorrow, this weekend



GOES-16 lifts off from Cape Canaveral, Florida on November 19, 2016

and next week. This is a major advancement for weather forecasting.” For the aviation sector, GOES-16 will deliver clearer views of clouds at different atmospheric levels, generating better estimates of wind speed and direction and improved detection of fog, ice and lightning. This will improve aviation forecasts and flight route planning to avoid hazardous conditions such as turbulence.

“GOES-R (16) will significantly improve the ability of emergency managers across America to prepare for, and respond to, weather-related disasters. Better situational awareness will result in better outcomes -- from where to best position resources ahead



of a storm to delivering more targeted information to local officials to decide if an evacuation is necessary,” said Craig Fugate, FEMA administrator.

GOES-16 is flying six new instruments, including the first operational lightning mapper in geostationary orbit. This new technology will enable scientists to observe lightning, an important indicator of where and when a storm is likely to intensify. Forecasters will use the mapper to hone in on storms that represent the biggest threat. Improved space weather sensors on GOES-16 will monitor the sun and relay crucial information to forecasters so they can issue space weather alerts and warnings.

Data from GOES-16 will result in 34 new, or improved, meteorological, solar and space weather products. “We’ve crossed an historic performance threshold with GOES-R (16),”

said Stephen Volz, Ph.D., director, NOAA’s Satellite and Information Service. “NOAA is now operating the most sophisticated technology ever flown in space to help forecast weather on Earth.” There are four satellites in the new GOES series: starting with GOES-R (16), followed by GOES-S, -T and -U, which will extend NOAA’s geostationary coverage through 2036.

“NOAA and NASA have partnered for decades on successful environmental satellite missions,” said Sandra Smalley, director of NASA’s Joint Agency Satellite Division, which worked with NOAA to manage the development and launch of GOES-R (16). “Today’s launch continues that partnership and provides the basis for future collaboration in developing advanced weather satellites.”

Beyond weather forecasting, GOES-16 will be part of SARSAT, an international satellite-based search and rescue network. The satellite is carrying a special transponder that can detect distress signals from emergency beacons. NOAA manages the GOES-R Series Program through an integrated NOAA-NASA office.

NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center oversees the acquisition of the GOES-R series spacecraft and instruments. Lockheed Martin is responsible for the design, creation and testing of the satellites and for spacecraft processing along with developing the Geostationary Lightning Mapper and Solar Ultraviolet Imager instruments. Harris Corp. provided GOES-16’s main instrument payload, the Advanced Baseline Imager, the antenna system for data receipt and the ground segment.

The Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics provided the Extreme Ultraviolet and XRay Irradiance Sensor, and Assurance Technology Corporation provided the Space Environment In-Situ Suite. Additional GOES-16 satellite information is available

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.

REACT International Event Calendar

JANUARY 2018

1REACTer Published
1.....New Year's Day
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)
15.....Deadline for February REACTer
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)
14Valentine's Day
15.....Deadline for March REACTer
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)

MARCH 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)
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)
5ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
8REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
12ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
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)
28Memorial Day
29.....REACT 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)
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



Amateur Radio



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