



THE
REACT
ER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF REACT INTERNATIONAL, INC.

November 2018
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for the
REACT International

Annual Board Meeting - February 4, 2019

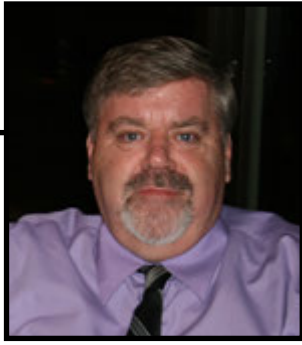
To be held at the Beautiful *Aria* Resort and Casino
on the fabulous Las Vegas Strip



Put together a little vacation time:
* See how Your Board works
* See a show
* Eat a Fine Meal
* Do a little gaming (if that's your thing)
It's all available in Fabulous Las Vegas!

BOOK Your Flights and Rooms Soon!

RSVP to RI.HQ@REACTIntl.org



A Word from the Editor

Will Stanley, Editor, The *REACTer*

Ah yes! November! As I have said here before Fall is my favorite season. The weather is cool but not cold, the trees are turning and providing us with a wonderful color show and of course, Thanksgiving.

And so here we are, two months away from the end of 2018. Where does the time go? It seems it wasn't that long ago that we were all up in arms about the Y2K deal. That problem, of course, turned out to be a non-starter, but now here we are 18 years later.

Think about that! Eighteen years. That's a bunch of time in anyone's book. Look at all that's happened since the turn of the century - we now have cars that drive themselves, a whole new slate of bad actors in the world, we've had 2 past Presidents of the USA and are currently working with #3. Jay Leno retired, so did David Letterman and ever since Johnny Carson left late night in 1992, it just hasn't been the same. We've had two new Judges appointed to the Supreme Court. On and on it goes.

The question here, at least for those Teams who have been around for 20 years or so is "What have you done in regards to your Team growth in those eighteen years?" Some teams are new, some have been around for a long while. My original Team in Nebraska is now over 40 years old, my new Team here in North Carolina is brand new and just getting started.

It's a cycle - old and new - that requires your attention. You must continue to grow and expand. Find new things to do and keep doing the old stuff you've been doing. *REACT* is 57 years old in January of 2019 and continues to grow and expand. We are seeing an increasing number of new members. Are you?

As I always say, my door here is always open. Got something to say? Tell me!



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William Stanley
Editor

DEADLINE: 15th of the Month prior to publication (i.e: July 15th for August issue, etc)

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Your article and photo submissions are vital to our success! Articles, high resolution photos and inquiries about advertising in The REACTer can be emailed to: editor@theREACTer.com

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

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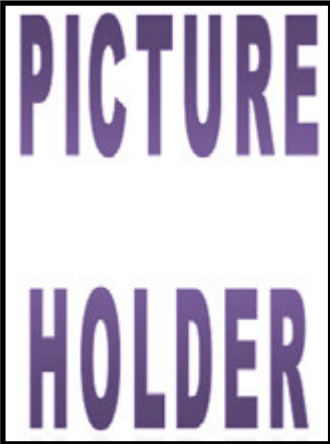
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ATTENTION:
ALL REACT MEMBERS
and
ALL HAM OPERATORS



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US
ON THE
REACT INTERNATIONAL
WORLDWIDE NET
EVERY TUESDAY AT 9 P.M. EST

Contact nets@REACTIntl.org
for information on how
to get on the net





A Message from the President

John Capodanno
President, *REACT* International

We have been receiving inquiries from Teams and members about the new AT&T based FirstNet and the discount cellphone service that AT&T is offering First Responders.

REACT Members and Teams are NOT First Responders and therefore are not eligible for this discount.

However, in regards to the FirstNet service, here is some basic information.

AT&T has been selected by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) to build and manage the first broadband network dedicated to America's police, firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS). The FirstNet network will cover all 50 states, 5 U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, including rural communities and tribal lands in those states and territories.

This is a much needed investment in America's communications infrastructure to support millions of first responders and public safety personnel nationwide who protect and serve more than 320 million people across the U.S. This significant public-private infrastructure investment is expected to create 10,000 U.S. jobs over the next two years from AT&T's work for FirstNet. The network build-out will begin later this year.

Randall Stephenson, AT&T chairman and CEO, said, "We are honored to work with FirstNet to build a network for America's police, firefighters and EMS that is second to none. This is an unprecedented public-private investment in infrastructure that makes America a leader and public safety a national priority."

"Today is a landmark day for public safety

across the Nation and shows the incredible progress we can make through public-private partnerships," said U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. "FirstNet is a critical infrastructure project that will give our first responders the communications tools they need to keep America safe and secure. This public-private partnership will also spur innovation and create over ten thousand new jobs in this cutting-edge sector."

Today, first responders use commercial networks – the same ones used by consumers and businesses – for mobile data and applications. That can be an issue when a significant public safety crisis happens and commercial networks quickly become congested. It makes it difficult for first responders to communicate, coordinate and do their jobs.

Plus, first responders use more than 10,000 networks for voice communications. These networks often do not interoperate, which severely limits their ability to communicate with each other when responding to a situation.

FirstNet's mission is to fix this. Through this new public-private partnership with FirstNet, AT&T will deliver a dedicated, interoperable network and ecosystem that will give first responders the technology they need to better communicate and collaborate across agencies and jurisdictions – local, state and national.

"There's no connection more important than one that can save a life," said Kay Kapoor, president, AT&T Global Public Sector. "FirstNet is unprecedented in its vision, scope and importance to our nation and the future of public safety communications. We're honored to be selected for this historic and critical initiative."

“This partnership brings together FirstNet as the voice of public safety and a global technology team with a proven track record and commitment to public safety,” said FirstNet CEO Mike Poth. “Together, FirstNet and AT&T will move with precision and urgency to deliver this much-needed infrastructure to those who need it the most: the first responders we rely on in disasters and emergencies.”

In addition to creating a nationwide seamless, IP-based, high-speed mobile communications network that will give first responders priority access, the network will help:

- * Improve rescue and recovery operations to help keep first responders out of harm’s way;
- * Better connect first responders to the critical information they need in an emergency;
- * Further the development of public safety focused IoT and Smart City solutions such as providing near real-time information on traffic conditions to determine the fastest route to an emergency;
- * Enable advanced capabilities, like wearable sensors and cameras for police and firefighters, and camera-equipped drones and robots that can deliver near real-time images of events, such as fires, floods or crimes.

FirstNet and AT&T will innovate and evolve the network to keep the public safety community at the forefront of technology advances. For example, as 5G network capabilities develop in the coming years, FirstNet and AT&T will work together to provide the exponential increases in the speed with which video and data travel across the FirstNet network.

To help FirstNet achieve its public safety mission, AT&T has assembled a team that includes Motorola Solutions, General Dynamics, Sapient Consulting and Inmarsat Government.

The strong participation of states in the FirstNet network will help make this significant investment in America’s communications infrastructure a reality. As states join FirstNet, investment in infrastructure and job creation will follow.

AT&T is honored to work with FirstNet to build, deploy and maintain the first-ever nationwide public safety broadband network for America’s first responders. This opportunity aligns with our nearly 140-year history of serving the U.S. federal government and the public safety community. We’re committed to helping deliver the next generation of highly secure, reliable, and innovative mobile broadband communications to first responders through the FirstNet network.

Why FirstNet?

FirstNet’s public safety mission is to create a nationwide broadband network for America’s public safety community. The FirstNet network will strengthen and modernize public safety’s communications capabilities, enabling them to coordinate and respond more quickly and effectively in accidents, disasters, and emergencies. It will provide first responders like law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical personnel with access to new technologies and increased capacity and reliability for their mobile communications and data needs.

The purpose of the FirstNet network is to help unify and improve communications across the U.S. public safety community – including all 50 states, 5 U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia, as well as rural communities and tribal lands in those states and territories – to help keep America and the first responders who protect our country safe.





NEWS FROM THE FRONT LINES

Trinidad/Tobago REACT 6009

(Trinidad and Tobago)

Retrieved from Facebook

Today Saturday 27th October 2018, members of REACT Team 6009 coordinated the distribution of relief items to some residents of Mafeking Village Mayaro who were affected by flooding just a week ago.



Recognition must be given to the following groups who donated relief items:



1. Ridge Road Crescent Sports Club
2. Princes Town RBC
3. W. Connection Football Club.

Members of REACT Team 6009 were proud to be a part of this humanitarian exercise and we thank those groups who requested our assistance.

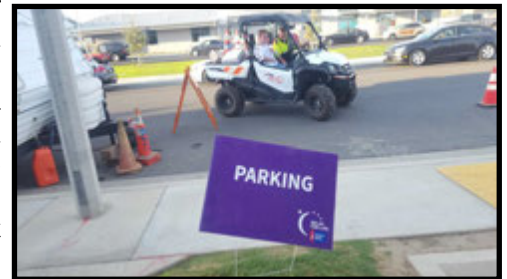


Porterville REACT

(California)

Submitted by Anthony Robison

PORTERVILLE REACT TEAM 2517 helped with the 2018 relay for life fund-raiser in Porterville CA. This event is a fundraiser which raises money to fight cancer. It is held at Summit Charter School.



This event is a 24 hour event!

Porterville REACT was asked to park cars and patrol parking lots, post people at all entry gates and provide

a safe environment for kids, staff and the hundreds of spectators that attended this event.

It brought in over \$71,000.



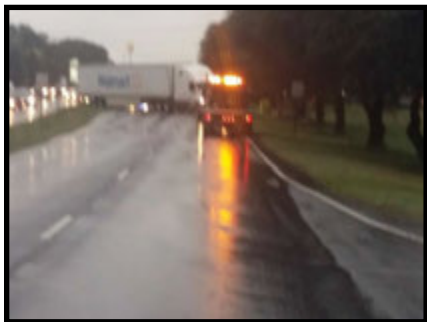
Cleveland County *REACT*

(North Carolina)

Submitted by Jay Flora

On October 10, 2018 Cleveland County *REACT* was dispatched by Shelby Police at 7:47 a.m. and was out from 8:02 a.m to 9:27 a.m helping Shelby Police close down Highway 74 West bound in Shelby due to a multi-vehicle accident.

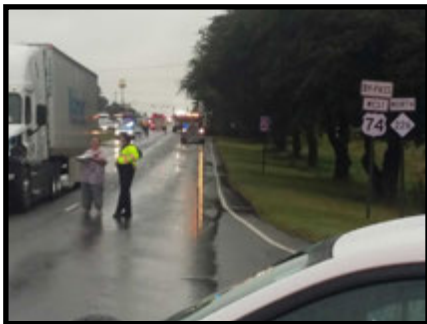
A Walmart 18 wheeler going east on Hwy. 74 swerved to miss a pick-up going eastbound and lost control. The 18



wheeler went across the medium into the westbound lane and hit a box truck and other vehicles. The highway remained closed until around 9:30 a.m. In a nice gesture, the Shelby PD Sgt. went to Jack in the Box and got us all some Egg Sausage & cheese

sandwiches. That was nice of him!

On October 31, I helped Shelby Police with their Halloween event for Trunk or Treat at Zoar Baptist Church. I worked the crosswalk, and helped the little ghosts and goblins cross the street to get to the Church for the candy and I wore my Star Trek Uniform!



Trinidad/Tobago *REACT* 6007 and 2496

(Trinidad and Tobago)

submitted by Kenny Jagdeosingh

Members of *REACT* Teams 2496 and 6007 provided radio communications for organizers and committee members of the annual *Maracas Open Water Classic 2018*, held at Trinidad's world famous Maracas Bay (enjoyed by Chuck Thompson, Lee Besing and other members of the overseas contingent of that memorable *CONVENTION 2001* held in Trinidad).

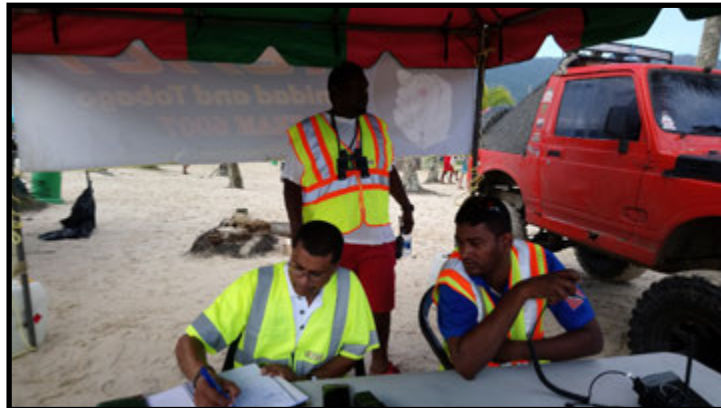


The Classic took place on Sunday 16th September 2018 and was coordinated by R701

Anwar Mondol, Team 6007 President, supported by Rs

127, 129 and 130 of Team 2496 and Rs 704, 708, 709, 710, 711 and 714 of Team 6007.

There were eight different swimming events, 100m, 200m, 500m, 1000m, males and females. *REACT* members were placed on boats out at sea, at six different



points throughout the beach, keeping a close eye on the swimmers, ensuring their safety while in the water.

REACT members also had to battle the cold, rainy weather while at sea.

There were two minor incidents, but with the quick reaction by our *REACTers*, the medical team present was able to get to these swimmers assistance by the shortest possible time. Anwar Mondol praised all the members for their dedication, commitment and hard work in making this event another successful one. Members on the boats, were R708 Faizul, R710 Hugh, Ryan, R129 Wesley, R130 Mac, and R127 Faustin. A job well done guys.



The organizers complimented members of *REACT* for their assistance, noting that they could not have done it successfully without *REACT's* involvement.

REACT INTERNATIONAL WORLDWIDE ZELLO NET

Please join us every Saturday night at 9 pm EST
(8 pm during Daylight Savings Time) on the
REACT MEMBERS
Zello Channel

All Communicators Are Welcome!

NO LICENSE REQUIRED

use your Internet connected computer or smart phone.

The Zello app is available for download from <http://www.zello.com>



**Download the Zello Walkie-Talkie app for your platform.
Create an account with a username (i.e: a call sign) and
password, then add the *REACT MEMBERS* channel.**

Press the Push-to-Talk button to transmit.

**VOLUNTEER TO BE A
NET OPERATOR!**



View From Region One

John Mahon
Director, Region One

The *REACT* International Board of Directors voted at the August, 2018 meeting to start authorizing teams to utilize the Corporate Interoperability Channels, National Itinerant radio frequencies, granted and assigned to the Corporation, *REACT* International Inc., by the FCC under 47 USC Chapter 90 ONLY by signing an agreement with *REACT* International.

The use of this license agreement is limited to teams under the Federal Communications Commission jurisdiction and is limited simplex or line of sight operations only. Neither Councils, local teams nor members will be allowed to set up or use repeaters on any frequencies licensed to *REACT* International at any time.

I know, geez, why not? Based upon FCC definition, these frequencies are intended for temporary, short term use. There are many frequencies to use as “direct”, “simplex” or line of sight during public-community service events, venue environment activities or to coordinate with other charity events that need auxiliary communication to coordinate their event activities.

Our license utilizes what are called National Itinerant radio frequencies. As such, this allows nationwide operations because they were designed by the FCC for temporary use, so we cannot use them for every day, day-to-day operations. Teams that want a set of frequencies or even a repeater for every day, day-to-day operations will need to apply for a set of frequencies that are coordinated to make sure there will not be interference with existing users. There is usually a fee associated with a coordinator, who is the one to find a set of frequencies for every day, day-to-day operations.

The temporary, short term use of National Itinerant radio frequencies are not coordinated so as a nationwide area of operation, is subject to different rules regarding interference from and/or with other users on the National Itinerant radio frequencies. If we were to use these National Itinerant radio frequencies for our every day, day-to-day operations, we would have to hire a coordinator. This would mean we would have to change to coordinated frequencies that would be limited to a specific geographical area, not nationwide.

Why do we need nationwide use? Normally when different Agencies or teams come together for an

incident, this includes their day-to-day equipment, including various two-way radio systems. Communication between VHF-low, VHF-Hi, UHF low, UHF T Band or 800 MHz runs into a problem since these are not directly compatible with one another. There are many ways this has been solved in the public safety sector.

Expensive equipment and software can link all these different systems together, which ties up multiple channels every time an end user is transmitting a message. Since neither *REACT* International nor the teams have the funding for this expensive linking equipment and software, a common frequency plan used by all teams is the next best option for teams active in their communities.

Let me be perfectly clear, use of the *REACT* International frequencies or system is not required, as some may be suggesting. *REACT* International is not forcing this on any team. There are many teams operating on many two-way radio systems from CB radio to digital repeater systems that continues to serve each individual team and their needs. What the *REACT* International frequencies or system is, is a common plan that can be used nationwide without the expense of coordination, equipment or software.

As more teams sign agreements for use of these frequencies, the more resources we have on this system to affect inter-team assistance with one another, mutual aid to neighboring counties or States with large charity events, emergencies or even disasters. Shipping a cache of hand-held radios nationwide, all on this system, will ensure they can all communicate with one another.

Having multiple frequencies will allow multiple functions during use. From general operations, to splitting up parking, traffic, and security each on a separate channel, that are all monitored by a command post, will avoid confusion. Parking, traffic, and security can operate as they need to, and use the command post to pass messages to and from the other operations without interruption.

Many teams are working with their local public safety agencies, which can be challenging to communicate with. One solution was to issue an agency radio as a liaison between both systems for each event or incident.

The Department of Homeland Security developed an assignment interoperability frequencies as an alternative to the expensive equipment and software or radio loaners. If you are licensed under Part 90 of the FCC rules, you may program frequencies (other than maritime or aviation) that you are not licensed to use IF “the communications involved relate directly to the imminent safety-of-life or property” or “with U.S. Government stations ... in connection with mutual activities”

The National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) is a listing of land mobile radio (LMR) frequencies that are often used in disasters or other incidents where radio interoperability is required, and other information useful to emergency communicators, can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/y6w86pgu>.

Teams, in good standing, who operate under the Part 90 *REACT* International frequencies or system are authorized to use the NIFOG frequencies for those times when “the communications involved relate directly to the imminent safety-of-life or property” or “with U.S. Government stations ... in connection with mutual activities” if you are working with your local Public Safety Agencies; however, a signed *REACT* International Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) required unless your Team has its own Part 90 license.

So while active teams develop their own use of this system, we can look towards developing plans for those teams with MOU’s to assist in emergencies and disasters based on the parameters established by the Training & Development committee, certainly with the input of the Operations Committee and all with a genuine interest in developing the *REACT* International interoperability frequencies forward.

And now for something different....

**The Eve of Thanksgiving
(an original poem by a non-poet)**

T’was the eve of Thanksgiving and food was afoot,
not a red-suited man, all covered in soot!

The turkey was thawing, the yams were all boiled,
the dressing was ready and the cooker was oiled.

The night was so quiet, the football all done,
T’was a night for contemplating butter and bun!

Some houses on the street were strung and lit,
Christmas on their minds, no doubt, every bit!

Thanksgiving is a time to value family and friends,
but thinking of Christmas is mostly trends.

Christmas is a time for Peace and Good Cheer,
but why is Thanksgiving not valued here?

The Pilgrims knew what they were thankful for, and it
wasn't a shopping list that could hold just one more!

So this Thanksgiving, share your food and your stuff,
for St. Nicholas will be here right soon enough!

-Will Stanley (2013)



wishes you and yours the best
during this
Thanksgiving Holiday

Turkey clipart and turkey clipart images
from ClipartALL.com, clipart free library



From The Corner of the Room

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

It's November... cool, nice air and changing leaves. It's nice to have a change, but it is also time to build your team numbers. It is time to add membership to your local *REACT* team and it is very easy to do.

Contact your local newspaper and put in a public service announcement for your community and this is usually free, do a nice write up and tell them what *REACT* does, include the main website.

In your article include a contact telephone number and even your team website and/or email address. Contact your local Chamber of Commerce and tell them you need more members, contact the EOC in your area. All of this is very easy to do. Also, you can post flyers in your town on all the bulletin boards.

It is very possible, if you try, you can easily double your team membership. Even if each team just adds one new member, it

will greatly increase the numbers of your *REACT* members.

If you have more team members, it makes all the work you do a lot easier! Let's try to do what we can to increase our numbers I am open to a contest with some prizes for the team that signs up the most new members!

Let's do this!

In closing, do not forget to get your dues into International and please update telephone numbers and email addresses!! Also check your teams' website and make sure your contact info is good! I see many old disconnected telephone numbers.

Until next month...(is he about to say December?) ...get that radio gift list ready for family members to stock you up on new radios...be safe. 73

Remember....

**There only 54
Shopping Days
...Hey!
What...?**





Flooding in Trinidad and Tobago

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

While writing and submitting theoretical articles to our editor on emergency management and disaster communications for *The REACTer* it is a strategic intent of the author, it seems that as either fate or nature has it, actual occurrences provide more than the desired experience from which to draw real examples. Last month, we explored a bit about earthquakes, and this month we will look at the topic of flooding... with first-hand experience!

On or about Friday 19th October 2018 significant rainfall began affecting the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, leading to street, flash and riverine flooding in various areas. It is estimated that 1 months' worth of rainfall fell over a period of three days. For this incident, the main feature was the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), an area of low pressure where the northeast and southeast trade winds meet, resulting in instability and heavy rainfall over a broad area. The radar image above shows rainfall rate over the islands of Trinidad and Tobago resulting from the presence of the ITCZ.

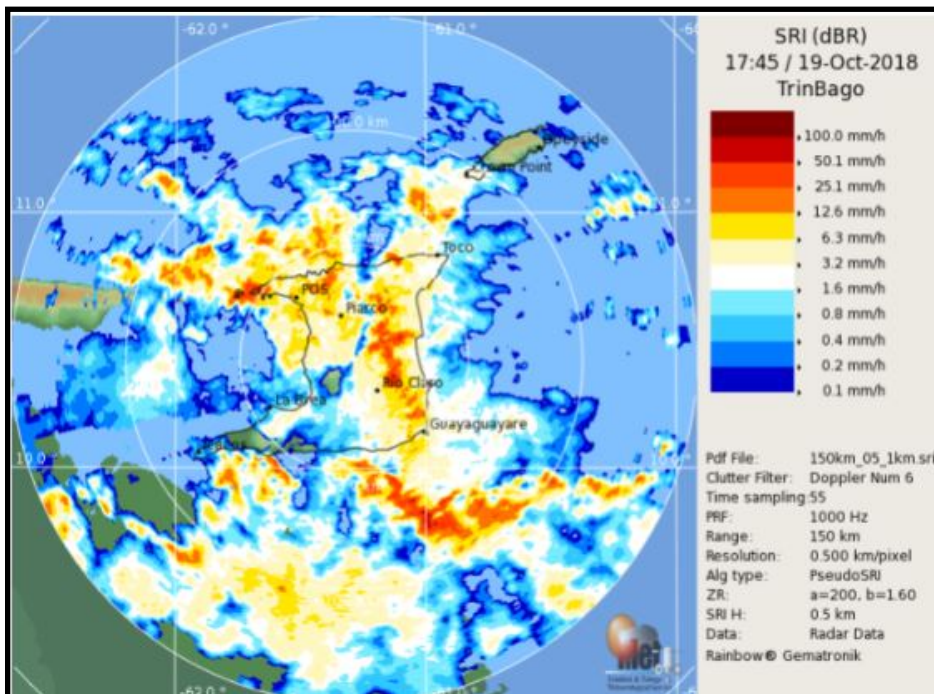
The image is produced from a Doppler weather radar, used to locate where there is rainfall (or any form of precipitation such as snow etc.), its motion and intensity. The radar is a very useful in-

strument to get an idea of how widespread a weather system, what impact is likely, and where it is going. There are many sources of radar data available online for your area, and there are also Apps for both the Android and iPhone platforms, just search "radar" or "weather radar". The data obtained can be used along with the official weather products issued by the local forecasting and alerting of-

fice. A flood can be defined as an overflow or deluge of water that causes or threatens loss of life and property and damages the environment. It is perhaps the most common natural disaster and can affect almost any area, with low-lying areas especially prone. The severity and

frequency of flooding is affected by the degree of rainfall, temperatures, soil moisture content and other factors such as topographical features, tidal flows, property development, mitigation controls, blockages and breaches.

A flash flood is a rapid flooding of low-lying areas that occurs in less than 6-hours and is caused by intense rainfall. Flash floods can also occur due to the collapse of a structure containing water such as a dam. The US-based NOAA National Weather Service has coined the phrase "Turn



Around Don't Drown" as an advisory to avoid driving a vehicle into flood waters on roadways. It is easy to underestimate the floatation and moving forces from flood waters. Apart from the danger of drowning from flood waters, there are other risks such as water-borne diseases, exposure to chemicals and electrocution.

REACT members responded quickly by getting on the air to give and take sitreps and observations. The primary means of communications was via the VHF repeaters. Cell phones worked and allowed the various agencies to communicate with each other. Zello, given its open nature, was utilized as a means of communicating with stakeholders. Special interactions were undertaken with the 4x4 off-road community, facilitated through liaison with REACT Unit 937 – Jason Mungal. The specialized vehicles driven by the trained and experienced volunteers were able to reach difficult areas to deliver items such as meals and water from the relief agencies and the general public.

Members from several teams deployed to the Emergency Operations Centre of the affected Regional Corporations as well as to the key points. These include affected areas, shelters and central distribution stations. REACTers, apart from pro-

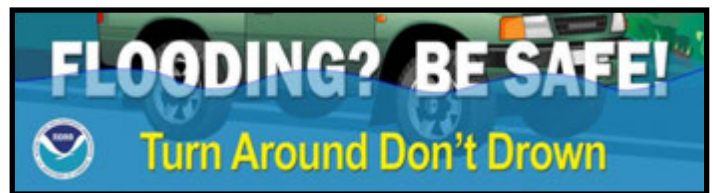


REACT Unit 109 of Team 2496, Kerry Boneo (right), discussing relief efforts at one of the shelters.

viding radio communications, were also able to assist with some logistics in getting relief items to those in need. Passing information to the EOCs on the headcount at the shelters, assisting with damage assessments and other related activities are undertaken by members. Long hours were in-

involved, and all REACTers must be commended for their commitment and dedication.

REACT International also responded by being on standby to render assistance and coordination, should it have become necessary. Both President John Capodanno and REACT Training's Walter Green were in contact from the time the incident started. It should be noted that, unlike earthquakes, flooding can be forecast to some extent, based on meteorological and hydrological conditions. Heeding warnings issued by the local weather forecasting service can make the difference in saving lives and perhaps mitigating some of the effects of flooding.



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

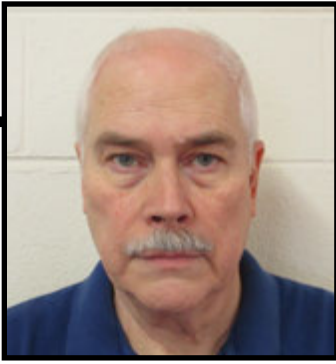
SEND the entire report

(with pictures attached) to:

EDITOR@THEREACTER.COM

SEE HOW EASY

THAT WAS?



Training for the Future

Walter Green, Lt. Col., USAF, Retired
Chairman, *REACT* Training Committee

TRAINING COMPLETIONS: Since August 2017, 22 *REACT* members from 14 Teams have completed 99 training courses totaling 214 training hours. Completions in October include:

Robert Anderson (6252) – 116 Introduction to Net Control

Donald Darcy (6247) – 105 Introduction to Net Operations

Donald Darcy (6247) – 116 Introduction to Net Control

Donald Darcy (6247) – 120 Traffic System Operator Familiarization

Albert Frank Gordon (6241) – 102 Introduction to Land Search and Rescue

Albert Frank Gordon (6241) – 113 Disaster Basics

Albert Frank Gordon (6241) – 114 Alerting

Walter Green (6247) – 116 Introduction to Net Control

Stan Latta (6247) – 115 The Emergency Operations Plan

Stan Latta (6247) – 116 Introduction to Net Control

Training is key to being an effective emergency communicator. Being able to key the microphone and talk is not emergency communications. Emergency communications is all about knowing what to say, when to say it, and how to transmit the message to get the needed information to the right person under challenging conditions. That requires training. We have a growing list of courses in our training catalog – ask for one by emailing Training@REACT Intl.org. Get to be smarter and better at what you do.

NEW MEMBER TRAINING: We strongly recommend that new *REACT* members start their training by completing the courses required for Type IV credentialing. This is approximately 29 hours of Federal Emergency Management Agency and *REACT* self-study courses that they can be completed at your own speed. Start your new members out with our basic certification as emergency communicators. Details are in the Training Catalog.

RAC CEC: The Radio Amateurs of Canada make their Certified emergency Coordinator training program available to amateur radio operators in countries other than just Canada. It is an extensive program requiring a significant amount of study time and a thorough examination. Congratulations are due to our new member, Donald Darcy, of *REACT* Warning Team 6247 for becoming a Canadian Certified Emergency Coordinator. He is now one of three US Amateur Radio operators certified as a RAC CEC (and now two of those three are *REACT* members).

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: The website VolunteerReady.org has a set of five short courses (10 to 30 minutes in length) that deal with the roles of volunteers in disasters, the code of conduct for volunteers, safety, etc. This is baseline knowledge that anyone who does disaster response work needs to know. The courses are free, they are easy to take, and you will learn something, even if you already do know it all.

NEW NET CONTROL SPECIALTY COURSE PACKAGE: The Net Control Station qualification is designed to train operators to serve as the Net Control Station for the *REACT* Traffic System nets. Requirements are:

* *REACT* Course: 120 - *REACT* Traffic System Operator Basic Familiarization

* *REACT* Course: 105 - Introduction to Net Operations

* *REACT* Course: 116 - Introduction to Net Control

* Experience: Participate as Net Control Station for part or all of five traffic nets. Submit correctly completed Net Logs and Net Reports for at least three Traffic Nets.

MESSAGE RUN AND TRAFFIC DRILL: The monthly Message Run will be transmitted on the *REACT*/Traffic System channel on Zello after the *REACT* Traffic Net, at approximately 2130 EDT on the first Wednesday of November. This month's message is a slow speed 10 word per minute message. If you wish to participate in the monthly Traffic Drill contact Training@REACTintl.org for the scenario and listen to the Traffic Net (starting at 2115 EDT) for the STARTEX message.

ALERTEX 2018-D: The last ALERTEX of the year is coming on Saturday, November 10. This will be a single day exercise without a buildup phase, and will involve electronic reporting and voice net procedures. Your Team will have received the exercise materials by the time you read this column. Reply to the questionnaire by the start of the exercise. And then we need a minimum of 30 Teams to participate – you can track the exercise and which Teams participate at the prototype *REACT* Virtual Emergency Operations Center at <http://reactwarning.org/virtual-eoc>.

TRAFFIC SYSTEM OPERATORS NEEDED: The Training Committee operates the *REACT* Traffic System to train our members in handling the types of formal written message traffic that is critical to disaster response and large scale telecommunications outage situations. In October this “training” system passed over 420 messages for Hurricane Michael and the Trinidad and Tobago flooding disaster. If you want to be engaged in emergency communications for disasters, we need your help as a Traffic System Station. The vast majority of the work is done on Zello and by email. To make a difference, contact Training@REACTIntl.org

OPERATIONS NOTES – November 2018

Over the past two hurricane seasons we have learned a lot about how to get disaster information out to our Teams. The product that has got-

ten the most use is our hurricane alert/warning message. This e-mail should be very familiar to Atlantic and Gulf Coast *REACT* Teams. Inland Teams may see it if a hurricane has a significant forecast inland track.

Typically the process starts when the National Hurricane Center or the Central Pacific Hurricane Center identifies a tropical disturbances with a significant probability of developing into a tropical cyclone likely to threaten coastal areas where *REACT* has Teams. The significant probability threshold is usually 40%, but we will start work if a lesser percentage is increasing between forecasts.

As the storm develops we produce a daily warning message that compiles forecasts and other data from a wide range of sources including:

- NWS National Hurricane Center
- NWS Central Pacific Hurricane Center
- NWS Storm Prediction Center
- NWS Weather Prediction Center
- NWS Advanced Hydrological Predictions Service
- Individual National Weather Service Forecast Offices
- Other nation's meteorological services (including Trinidad and Tobago and Canada)
- US Navy Fleet Weather Centers Norfolk and San Diego
- South Florida Water Management District

Typically, hurricane messages cover current watches and warnings for storm surge, tropical storm and hurricane conditions, high winds, river and flash flooding, heavy rain, and tornadoes. We provide details of the threat and when to expect it. And we also provide recommendations for appropriate activation levels for Teams and information on how to submit spot and situation reports.

So why do we spend our volunteer time doing this? If *REACT* is to be an effective emergency communications organization, our Teams and members need accurate information to assess the physical threat to the Team early enough to be useful. You need to know if conditions are likely to be bad enough that you are likely to be called by one of the organizations with which you have local memoranda of understanding. And you need to understand the conditions you will encounter.

Can't you get this from your local TV station, from

one of the sources we use, or from snapshots of forecast maps on social media? Some of it, and if you consult enough sources, all of it. Be prepared to spend two to three hours doing so. Remember that each source tailors its material to its mission. For example, the National Hurricane Center says that there is a possibility of tornadoes associated with hurricane landfall – the Storm Prediction Center actually issues watches and warnings that define how probable and immediate the threat is and the threat area. Single posts from individuals on social media, no matter how well intentioned, may be out of date or may focus on information that is misleading when not accompanied by the whole story. Because of the way social media works, it is fairly common to see a three day old National Hurricane Center map as the first social media post on a site.

Does this mean that you don't need to follow the local forecasts issued by your National Weather Forecast Office? Absolutely not. Our warnings have to cover multiple regions and are most effective if they trigger you to go to the Forecast Office products. Your local Forecast Office is the source for detailed information on your operational area. Have its site on your easy to access favorites list, and check it regularly.

Every Team in the threat area for which we have a working e-mail address receives warning messages. On average, over 60% do not open the e-mail. We can't help you do your volunteer job if you don't open your e-mail. Team officers should be disseminating the information in the messages

to Team members. If your Team does not receive these messages, please contact

w.green@reactintl.org

Because of the volume of message traffic involved (for Hurricane Michael over 360 messages), we only distribute warning to Regional Directors, Council Presidents where known, and Teams. However, there is a way for the average member to directly get the warning information. During disasters we activate a prototype *REACT* Virtual Emergency Operations Center

<http://reactwarning.org/virtual-eoc>

The log for actual events (and for exercises) on the first page includes all outgoing warning messages.

Are you looking for a way to volunteer to help *REACT*'s disaster response emergency communications mission? The Operations Committee is looking for members willing to work to improve *REACT*'s capabilities for disaster response. Over the past 20 years many new organizations have emerged to do disaster volunteer work, making *REACT* less and less relevant as a resource for communities and states. We are committed to reversing that trend. And if you want to work on disasters, we need volunteers to serve on a virtual incident management team to help run our alerting, warning, and response coordination efforts. Contact w.green@reactintl.org and be part of the solution.



The *REACT*er is distributed every month becoming available on the 1st of the month.

The *REACT*er is YOUR magazine! It is a part of your international dues. If you don't contribute to it, read it, use it... you are missing out on one of the great benefits of international membership.

Be sure to catch each issue of The *REACT*er with Team news (News from the Front Lines), Training for the Future, From the Corner of the Room and more!

EVERY MONTH in The *REACT*er!



Silent Mics



It is with great sadness that we notify the **REACT** family of the passing of this member.

Walter (Uncle Walt) Young Sr. 1934 - 2018



Walter Gregg Young, Sr., son of the late Walter Chaney Young and Juanita Jean Powell Young, was born January 12, 1934 in Jefferson County, Kentucky. He died at 7:30 P.M., Tuesday, May 1, 2018 in Elizabethtown. He was 84.

Walter served his country honorably in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War and proudly retired after twenty-four years.

He was a member of Space Coast *REACT* Team #4577 and was Life Member #501 of *REACT* International. He was responsible for heading up the two *REACT* International Conventions that were held in Florida in 1994 and 2000.

He is survived by one son and one daughter: Walter Gregg Young, II and wife, Brenda of Palm Bay, Florida and Juanita Ann Young of Campbellsville; two grandchildren: Abby Young and Hunter Young of Florida and many other relatives and friends.

He was also preceded in death by a daughter, Michelle Rae Young August 23, 2017.

Submitting Silent Mics to the *REACT*er



Here at The *REACT*er, we believe that every *REACT*er who passes away deserves to be mentioned. The Silent Mic list maintained on reactintl.org and the Annual Silent Mic list every April does, indeed, list only those people who have passed away that were Life Members.

But in the opinion of The *REACT*er, every member deserves to be mentioned in the magazine when they pass. After all, even if they were not a Life Member, they still served their Team and their community.

To submit a Silent Mic to The *REACT*er, send a short obit (can be from a local paper) and a clear, preferably color photo (in either.gif or .jpg format) to **editor@thereacter.com**.

REACT International Event Calendar

NOVEMBER 2018

1*REACT*er Published
3.....ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
6*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
10ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
13*REACT* Worldwide Net (p.m. ET)
15.....Deadline for December *REACT*er
17ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
20*REACT* Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
22THANKSGIVING DAY (US)
24ZELLO World Wide Net 9 p.m. ET)
27*REACT* Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)

DECEMBER 2018

2.....HANNAUKAH Begins
4.....*REACT* Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
8.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
10.....HANNAUKAH Ends
11.....*REACT* Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
15ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
15.....Deadline for January *REACT*er
18.....*REACT* Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
22.....ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
24.....CHRISTMAS EVE
25.....CHRISTMAS DAY
25.....*REACT* Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
26.....BOXING DAY (Canada)
29ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. (ET)
31.....NEW YEARS EVE

JANUARY 2019

1.....NEW YEARS DAY
1*REACT*er Published
1*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
5ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
8*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
12ZELLO Worldwide Net (p.m. ET)
15.....Deadline for February *REACT*er
15*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
19ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
22*REACT* World Wide Net 9 p.m. ET)

26ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
29*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)

FEBRUARY 2019

1*REACT*er Published
2ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
4*REACT* Int'l Annual Board Mtg (Las Vegas)
5*REACT* World Wide Ham Net (9 p.m. ET)
9ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
12*REACT* World Wide Ham Net (9 p.m. ET)
14VALENTINE'S DAY
15Deadline for March *REACT*er
16ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
19*REACT* World Wide Ham Net (9 p.m. ET)
23ZELLO World Wide Net (9 pm.m ET)
26*REACT* World Wide Ham Net (9 p.m. ET)

MARCH 2019

1*REACT*er Published
2ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
5*REACT* World Wide Ham Net (9 p.m. ET)
9ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
12*REACT* World Wide Ham Net (9 p.m. ET)
15Deadline for April *REACT*er
16ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
17ST. PATRICK'S DAY
19*REACT* World Wide Ham Net (9 p.m. ET)
23ZELLO World Wide Net (9 pm.m ET)
26*REACT* World Wide Ham Net (9 p.m. ET)

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

*To add items to this calendar, contact:
REACT International: 301-316-2900 (Inter-Office Phone: Ext 114)
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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