



新年快乐

Happy Chinese New Year
Year of the Pig



2019



HAPPY

YEAR

新年快乐

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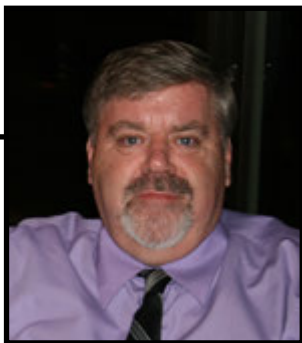
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A Word from the Editor

Will Stanley, Editor, The *REACTer*

Greetings!

Several things going on this month. We are attending the Annual Board Meeting in Las Vegas. This will be my first time to Sin City, although I have visited 'Little Vegas' (Laughlin, NV) several times. I expect there will be some good stuff accomplished at the meeting.

This month's column is going to be short, because of the Chinese New Year cover. We had to move the **In This Issue** block inside.

Keep watching The REACTer. There are going to be some exciting things happening.

REACTively,



In This Issue...

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William Stanley
Editor

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

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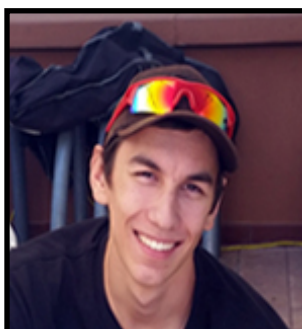
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ATTENTION:
ALL REACT MEMBERS
and
ALL HAM OPERATORS



**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**



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!**



NEWS

FROM THE

FRONT LINES

Federal City *REACT*

(Washington DC)

Submitted by Gerry Randell

Members of Federal City *REACT* helped the local police department in providing assistance with traffic and crowds during a foot race. The Team manned various intersections that were not able to be covered by police or event staff.

These pictures show some of the activity that was going on.



**VOLUNTEERS
are the
BEST!**

Hill Country *REACT*

(Texas)

Submitted by Charles Land

Hill Country *REACT* Team 4804 stays very busy supporting events in central Texas, and in this case, in far West Texas, a 450+ mile drive from San Antonio. Due to the distance from home, most of the volunteers drove in early enough to make a daytime scouting trip on Saturday, the day before the race. A few operators spent the night at their checkpoint, rather than trying to drive in the dark before sunrise. Others braved the dirt trails in the dark and arrived around 5 am to set up. High clearance vehicles with 4x4 or AWD were needed to get to most locations. At least one location required the operator to ride his mountain bike part way and walk the rest on foot.

Carroll Voss, KF5KQA produces several races throughout the year. This race was the Big Bend50 Ultra in Big Bend Ranch State Park, near Lajitas, Texas. An Ultra marathon is any foot race that exceeds the length of a regular marathon of 26 miles.

Team members Patti Land, Lee Besing (N5NTG), Dick Scheit (KB0ZDB) and Charles Land (KC5NKK), along with several members of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club including Net Control, Jim Fowler (KD5KBU), and other ham operators out of Houston, Austin and San Antonio converged in Lajitas, Texas. Race headquarters was at the park headquarters aka Warnock Visitors Center. Some posts take as long as 4 hours to reach by jeep. Others require hiking in as much as a mile from the nearest (barely) accessible dirt road. 50 mile runners started at 5:30 am and had 15 hours to finish. There were also options for 50, 30 and 10 kilometer runs.

Race day was the best weather we could hope for. Temperatures were about 40 degrees (F) at start with a slight breeze, warming up to the mid 60s by early afternoon. Some runners did break a sweat midday, but the low desert humidity made that very pleasant. All runners were accounted for before we shut down our communication stations out in the desert. The

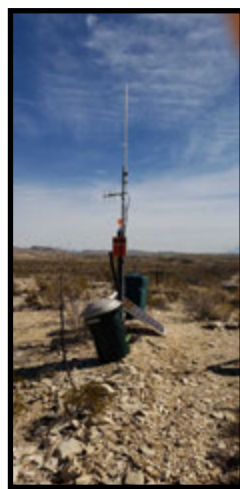
race raised over \$10,000 for the Friends of Big Bend Ranch State Park to be used for park improvements. The park staff, headed by Nate Gold were gracious and delightful helpers, and many local and out of town volunteers to set up and staff the aid stations and finish line made it an extremely successful event.

Net control was operated out of the motorhome provided by the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club (BBARC). Operators used two different 2 meter amateur repeaters.



The primary frequency was a permanent repeater owned by the Big Bend Amateur Radio club, solar powered, located 30 miles from race HQ on top of Christmas Mountain.

This repeater is also linked via analog UHF links to repeaters in Alpine, Fort Stockton, Fort Davis, and Presidio and can be heard in Midland Texas, about 300 miles from race HQ.



Secondary frequency was a temporary repeater that was set up for this event as a back up to the primary repeater. It turned out to be the primary repeater for a couple check points because they couldn't reach the primary repeater. Dubbed the "trash can repeater" – because it

had to be assembled quickly for our event by the BBARC in a couple of trash cans, along



with a couple deep cycle batteries and two solar panels.

At some checkpoints, the operators needed to use cross band repeaters to be able to communicate. Many amateur dual band mobile radios are capable of cross band repeating. This allows the operator to use a HT radio at their station on low power and talk through their higher power mobile radio located on a hilltop up to a mile away.

The event started with 13 runners on the 50 mile course, 52 runners on the 50k, 104 runners on the 30k and 107 runners on the 10k course. The 50 mile runners had to run the 50k course first, clearing through the Start/Finish line by 1430 hours in order to finish by running the 30k route next.

There were multiple checkpoint / aid stations spaced approximately every 5 miles. Radio operators recorded runner numbers and times that they passed the check points and radioed their information to net control. When all runners were accounted for at an aid station, they were permitted to secure their stations.



Races in the Big Bend area are growing in popularity because of the remoteness, uniqueness and desert beauty of the area. We did have passable cell service at race HQ, but not elsewhere. Race HQ was a quarter mile from the Mexican border. Some local operators reported that they have seen more people moving into the area and an uptick in petty thefts, etc. which they attribute more to people coming from the North than from the South. But everyone felt totally secure due to the presence of good radio communications, mountain bicycle patrols and

fellow runners.

The area receives an average rainfall of 7 inches per year – and is part of the Chihuahuan Desert. Runners had a variety of trail conditions from caliches (decomposed limestone) to rocky to loose dirt trails. Elevations varied from 2500 to 3400 feet above sea level. Anyone venturing off trail had to contend with Sotol, prickly pear and ocotillo, all generously equipped with sharp thorns.

Brewster County has a population of a few thousand people and covers an area much larger than Rhode Island. The locals do have a sense of humor. Although unincorporated, Lajitas has a “mayor” who will chug a lug a long neck if handed to him. He has never lost an election. One member brought his DJI Mavic Pro drone after receiving permission from the Park Rangers to fly in what is normally a restricted area. Videos from this event will be shared on YouTube. (Ed. Note: Also available on Facebook REACT Members page)



Some photos of part of the run area.





What is this "Chinese New Year"?

Our Chairman and President is very interested in this holiday and so we thought we'd do a feature on it and share this holiday with all of our readers.

No, it's not related to radio or *REACT* directly, but it is interesting, nonetheless.

New Year, also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, is the most important Chinese holiday. It is defined as the first day of the first month in the traditional Chinese calendar. Unlike the New Year observed by those that use the Gregorian Calendar, which is based on a solar calendar, the Chinese New Year is based on a traditional Chinese lunisolar calendar whose dates indicate both the phase of the moon as well as the time of the solar year. In addition, a lunar month is around two days shorter than a solar month. As such, in order to "catch up" with the solar calendar, an extra month is inserted every few years. This is why, according to the solar calendar, the Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year.

Typically, the celebration begins on the New Year's Eve and lasts for around 15 days through the middle of the first month. Before the celebration, people traditionally clean their houses thoroughly, and also display traditional New Year's decorations. This festivity is a time for family reunion, and is considered the most important part of the Chinese New Year celebration. People often visit relatives and friends, do

some shopping, watch traditional Chinese New Year events, launch fireworks, and plan for the coming year. The celebration is sometimes accentuated with a religious ceremony given in honor of heaven, earth, the family's ancestors and other gods. In modern China, Chinese New Year is a celebrated public holiday, and working professionals usually enjoy 7 days of time off, including the weekend. After the family reunion and observation of certain traditions, some modern Chinese families may make use of the public holiday as an opportunity to visit tourist destinations.

<http://www.chinesenewyears.info>

The following is a tale that explains how and why the Chinese New Year tradition of red fireworks came about:

Once upon a time there was a terrible giant beast, Nian, who used to torment a village and swallow children in a single bite. Every year he would appear, and every year the villagers would hide and pray for their safety. Deliverance from this beast came only when villagers finally discovered that Nian was afraid of loud noises and the color red. To defeat this monster, they began to light bamboo sticks and used the color red on both themselves and their doorways to frighten the monster away. Since then, this day has been named Guo Nian ('guo' meaning pass and 'nian' meaning year) – 'to pass over the year.' So, now, Chinese consider this day as an auspicious one, as it brought them new life and salvation.



2019 Board of Directors Elections

Regions 2, 5 and 8 are up for election

Click Here for Nomination Form
http://pub.reactintl.org/Applications/Dir_Nomination.pdf

See nomination form for requirements. Must be 21+ and have been a *REACT* member for at least 3 years, plus have demonstrated leadership abilities at local / council or other non-profit org levels. Must reside in, and be a member of a team in, the region for which you are applying to run. Need to be able to cover own expenses incurred in the course of your duties as a director, including travel & lodging expense to attend annual board meeting.

E-mail and electronic communications (Skype) is used heavily by the board, thus a reliable computer and hi-speed Internet connection is a recommendation for all successful candidates. There are no term limits for re-election.

March 15, 2019 Deadline to receive nomination forms.

If you are going to run for one of the three regions, whether for first time or re-election, please submit a photograph (head and shoulders) and a Candidate Statement to The *REACT*er by the deadline for submitting nominations.

The *REACT*er will run an election feature in the April issue.

The *REACT*er will not endorse any candidate.



Silent Mics



*It is with great sadness that we notify the **REACT** family of the passing of these members.*

Salvatore Santangelo 1945 - 2019



Salvatore Santangelo went to be with the Lord on January 25th, 2019.

Sal, as he was known to friends and family, was active in **CREST REACT** and was one of the driving forces in getting Los Angeles County **REACT** started. In addition to 23 years in **REACT**, he gave 47 years to his country in the Army, retiring as a Sgt. Major. He was Life Member 530 with **REACT** and resided in Downey, CA

Sal loved to play golf and also loved boating and spending time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Annette, 2 sons, Anthony and Larry and a daughter, Jennifer as well as 8 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter.

Sal's son, Tony, wrote this tribute on Facebook:

"Dad, you fought the good fight and you finished the race with valor and courage. You loved your family and your friends, you lived an honorable life and had the deepest love and ceaseless dedication of a beautiful wife and the genuine love and respect of your children. We may have lost your presence on Earth, but your love and spirit will continue to live in all of us and all those who knew and loved you.

Your wisdom and strength will continue to guide us and I will never let go of your hand.

We will never forget you and the great example of a human being you were for all of us.

Rest in Peace, Dad."



Donald Crews Sr. 1951 - 2018

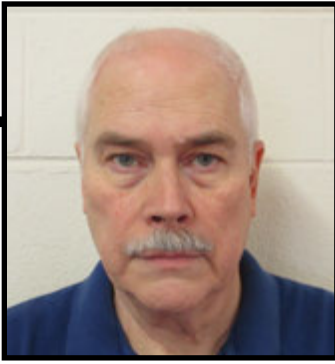


Donald Crews Sr. left this world on December 13, 2018.

Don was born July 22, 1951 in Louisville, KY to Mary Jones who later married his loving stepfather Robert Moore. He joined the US Marine Corp. at a young age and developed great pride for his country. Don helped form the first CB Radio Emergency (**REACT**) groups (C001). He was a volunteer and disaster coordinator with the American Red Cross for 20+ years. He was a **REACT** member for many years, even all the way back to **REACT**'s Highway Safety Break program. He believed in what **REACT** stood for and was very proud of being a **REACT**er.

Don is survived by his children: Elizabeth (Rick) Dyess, Angela (Brandon) Fox, Penny Thompson, Lisa Crews, Mark (Dara) Catron, and Donald (Courtney) Crews Jr. Also survived by Mary (Brown) Crews whom he married in 1975.

Don is preceded in death by his special granddaughter Rian Patience Wesley, 2 sisters, grandparents and his parents.



Training for the Future

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

TRAINING COMPLETIONS: Since August 2017, 25 *REACT* members from 16 Teams have completed 133 training courses totaling 285 training hours. Completions in January include:

- James Bois (9701) – Family Radio Service
- Donald Darcy (6247) – Introduction to Land Search and Rescue
- Donald Darcy (6247) – Emergency Communications
- Donald Darcy (6247) – Protecting Personal and Sensitive Information
- Donald Darcy (6247) – Monitoring
- Donald Darcy (6247) – Basics of Drills and Exercises
- Donald Darcy (6247) – Messages – The Radiogram
- Donald Darcy (6247) – Disaster Basics
- Donald Darcy (6247) – Messages – The ICS Form 213
- Donald Darcy (6247) – Alerting
- Donald Darcy (6247) – Using the Zello Voice Traffic Net
- Donald Darcy (6247) – The Emergency Operations Plan
- Donald Darcy (6247) – Deployment Awareness
- Donald Darcy (6247) – Spot Reporting
- Donald Darcy (6247) – Family Radio Service
- Riley Frazee (6250) - Monitoring
- Walter Green (6247) – Family Radio Service
- Stan Latta (6247) – Spot Reporting
- Stan Latta (6247) – Family Radio Service
- Taylor Pruitt (6250) – Monitoring

Every Team has received a copy of the current

Training Catalog. Every new member should start their *REACT* training with the courses required for Type IV credentialing. If you are not training you are falling behind the standard required to do *REACT*'s emergency communications mission. It is as simple as that. If you need a copy of the Training Catalog you can request one at Training@REACTIntl.org.

NEW TYPE IV CREDENTIALS: The following member has completed requirements for Type IV credentialing:

- Donald Darcy (6247) – Base Station Operator, Communications Team Operator, Message Team Operator

QUALIFYING MESSAGE RUNS AND TRAFFIC DRILLS: Every month following the first Wednesday *REACT* Traffic System net, we conduct a Message Run. This requires 100% Good Copy of a standard format radiogram transmitted at 10, 15 or 100 words per minute.

The January Qualifying performances are:

- January Message Run (100 words per minute): Stan Latta (6247)
- RC Anderson (6247)

ALERTEX 2019-A: The first of our quarterly exercises for 2019 will be held during the week of 10-16 February. The scenario will be mobilization for a national crisis. All Teams should have received an exercise package by the time you read this.

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. Last year Traffic System Stations moved over 1500 messages to *REACT* Teams in 11 major events. If you want to be engaged in disaster communications, we need your help as a Traffic System Station. The vast majority of the work is done on Zello and by e-mail. To make a difference contact Training@REACTIntl.org.

FROM THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

ACTUAL CAPABILITY: Last month we reported the results of a survey of *REACT* Teams focused on the ability to communicate with the general public in an emergency. One additional Team has joined the list of ready teams. The current capability of *REACT* to communicate with the public on CB or FRS channels is 19 teams in 13 states. The updated list is below:

- Region 1 – New York Dutchess and Putnam County *REACT*
- Region 1 – Rhode Island Northern Rhode Island *REACT*
- Region 2 – Kentucky Louisville Metro *REACT*
- Region 2 – Maryland Frostberg *REACT*
- Prince George’s County *REACT*
- Region 2 – Pennsylvania York County *REACT*
- Region 2 – Virginia *REACT* Warning Team
- Region 3 – Florida Flagler County Assist *REACT*
- Space Coast *REACT*
- Region 3 – North Carolina Caldwell County *REACT*
- Cleveland County (NC) *REACT*
- Region 3 – Star Mountain (TN) *REACT*
- Region 5 – Dodge County (NE) *REACT*
- Tri-County *REACT*
- Region 6 – Oahu (HI) Emergency *REACT*
- Region 7 – Texas Dallas county *REACT*
- Hill Country *REACT*
- Region 8 – California Golden Gate *REACT*
- Los Angeles County *REACT*

If your Team is not on the list of Teams above, or if you are an Associate Member or a member

of an otherwise inactive Team who is interested in doing *REACT*’s mission, contact the Operations Committee at [W.Green@REACT Intl.org](mailto:W.Green@REACTIntl.org) with the following information:

Your Team name or your location (for Associates)

- (1) Can you monitor CB from a base station?
- (2) Can you deploy a mobile CB station in your local area (a 25 miles radius from home)?
- (3) Can you monitor FRS from your base station location?
- (4) Can you deploy a mobile FRS station in your local area (a 25 miles radius from home)?

ARE YOU RECOGNIZING YOUR PEOPLE?

Does your Team actively support *REACT*’s emergency communications and public service missions? If so, are you using available recognition programs to recognize your Team and your members for their service? If you are a US based team, the premier program is the President’s Volunteer Service Award.

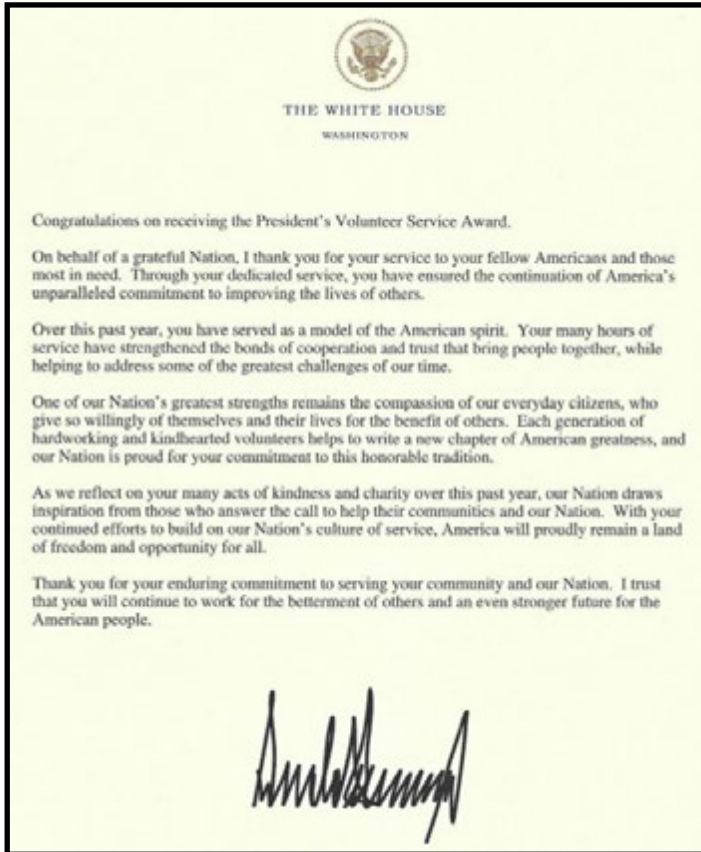
(<https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/>)



The Award is made in the name of the President of the United States and is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Points of Light Foundation.

The annual Award comes in four levels. For individual adults Gold represents 500 service hours, Silver 250 hours, and Bronze 100 hours. Teams qualify as Gold at 1000 hours, Silver 500 hours, Bronze 200 hours, with the requirement that every participating member must contribute 25 hours to the Team's total. There is a Lifetime Achievement Award for individuals requiring 4000 hours of service.

The award comes with a certificate and an accompanying letter from the President.



**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 SUCCESS**



For the past
FIFTY SEVEN
YEARS...

**Our members have worked
thousands and thousands of
hours for NO pay**

**And in 2019 and beyond,
98% of them will do it again**



FIND OUT WHY !!

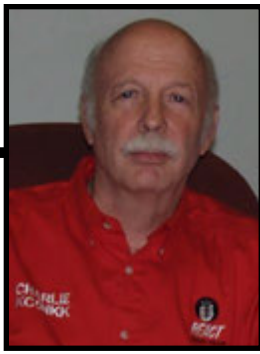
Contact *REACT* International

at 301-316-2900

Or email us at

RI.HQ@REACTIntl.org.

To find or start a *REACT* Team
in your area!



What- or WHO - Are We?

Charles D. Land, P.E.
Travis County (TX) *REACT* and
Hill Country *REACT*

All *REACT* teams go through the agonies of aging membership, lack of the younger generation, financial limitations and other challenges. These challenges can be discouraging, but don't let them obscure the opportunities.

We can mumble about what "was", what "can be", and what we don't seem to be able to do any more. Or we can get off of our rears and keyboards and get busy. *REACT* teams that flourish do so by finding needs in their communities and finding the resources to meet them. Jay's team in North Carolina stays extremely busy supporting the police organizations in the area. CERT in our area has had its ups and downs. I don't know if the cycles are tied to FEMA grant money (which comes and goes with the political winds) or changes in views of local leadership. We aren't hearing as much from CERT teams in our area as we used to. And, of course, many teams have relationships with disaster relief agencies and NGOs (Non-government organizations such as Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.) and have plans to assist during local emergencies and disasters.

The difficult part of disaster support is – duh – unpredictable. While we can have some intelligent conversation, and some drills, about the most likely issues – usually weather related (the "what" – but then the "when" is tougher, and knowing what specific tasks a *REACT* team might be challenged with requires clairvoyance. Being ready to provide assistance that is not yet defined at a time that is not known, with missing resources and local infrastructure is a real challenge. *REACT* teams, as well as many ham radio organizations such as ARES pride themselves on knowledge and flexibility – that they can adapt and innovate to meet a wide variety of challenges. But often operators get thrown into situations where they wish they were better prepared. We try to participate with Emergency Management agencies so that we have predefined tasks that we can prepare for. But more likely it is "show up"

when called and do whatever needs doing. Radio operators are often prized volunteers because they are so handy and versatile.

Many radio operators, especially *REACT*ers, enjoy public service type of events. Bike rides, marathons, parades, festivals – you name it. These events are enjoyable ways to get out and support the community, improve public safety, sharpen radio skills, learn different modes of operation, and get to know fellow operators and event organizers better. Also important – these events are opportunities to test and utilize equipment in order to be better trained and prepared when disaster strikes. The simplest preparation – have the instruction book for your radio handy – has to be learned the hard way by all of us – luckily usually at events where programming problems can be solved. And seeing what equipment others use, their "go boxes", and how they operate always show each of us opportunities for improvement in our set up and operation. And the greatest benefit? A team that is out having fun and being noticed supporting events will attract new members who want to be part of the fun. Our team finds that recent retirees are a great source of mature manpower, and newly licensed hams are a source of enthusiasm and energy that are anxious to learn from the veterans.

There is a breed of marathon runner that is looking for more challenges – longer distances, rougher terrain, night running, and runs where they have to be self sufficient with clothing, food and supplies – trail runners. Hill Country *REACT* support three ultra marathons – 80k, 100k and 100 miles. – At some of these the organizers tell runners "This is a ball buster of a run, and not for wimps, sissies or the unprepared." And you can feel the testosterone flowing. And not just the guys – there is a growing number of women who hang with the best of the men. These trail events are usually out in the boonies where cell phone coverage isn't reliable, may be during challenging weather (aka Texas in

January – can be really hot or really cold – or both in the same day) and where supply and support operations depend on radio operators who understand the event and can provide communications over hilly terrain and distances of several miles. The best way to be prepared is to utilize our equipment and skills as often as possible. Learn what works and what doesn't. Find those corroded antenna connectors, those weak power connections, and equipment that fails during temperature extremes – did you

know that lithium powered devices won't operate when the batteries are frozen to zero degrees f? Learn different technologies – packet is an excellent tool for events that are data driven, such as tracking 1000 runners and check point times. We have also had some of our operators experiment with Broadband Hamnet technology to provide a closed circuit video link over a 10 mile hop from race HQ to the finish line.

Dress For Success



There are a lot of times when, as a Public Safety Team, you will be under scrutiny by members of the public. This is unavoidable and since, unlike police, fire or EMT, we (*REACT*) do not have a 'standard uniform', we might present an odd picture to that public.

The important thing to remember is we should always strive to dress in a manner representing a moderately professional look.

Tom Land, of Lenoir Area Radio Club (North Carolina) says this about it: *"The impression the public has of Radio Operators (Amateur and others) may be seen in us as we provide our services during incidents and events. Furthermore, we could come in contact with politicians, and government officials as well as the media. Please be aware of this as you dress for your deployments. We don't need to wear suits but at the least, wear a decent shirt and pants. And be aware of the way you might wear a hat or other headgear. Also, make sure you are not wearing any clothing that might have a political message on it."*

I might add, before going out on an assignment, event or deployment that you take a look in a mirror. If you look like you're headed out to a mud-wrestling event, picking corn or other activity like that, change clothes and clean up before going out. Now, having said that, obviously if you are responding to an emergency, that's a different deal altogether.

Keep in mind, when you are out in public and wearing *REACT* clothing, you are representing our entire organization. So Dress for Success!



From The Corner of the Room

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

February already!

The Annual Board Meeting is just days away. John Capodanno puts together a fine program and the Aria Hotel is the best of the best. I was hoping to go to Vegas this year but my wife's health will not let us attend; we will miss everyone.

A big thank you to all the Board Members and all involved in *REACT*, for their hours and hours of volunteering and time to help out world-wide in emergency radio communication!

Winter is here and the cold fronts and snow and ice and wind chill is upon us so it is important to monitor your radios and listen for emergency traffic. In any emergency remember - first of all, stay calm, speak slowly and

get your message across in as few words as possible. Stay to the point!

It is very important to include location, and all the important factors so emergency response will know what they are coming to. Provide the important information to help them do their job.

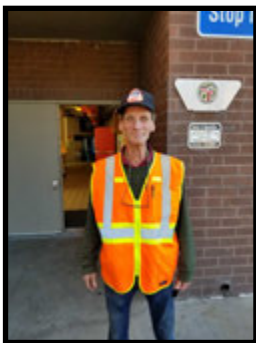
In closing, be careful on the highways with the ice and snow and soon we will be mowing the yard again in 100 degree heat, so enjoy the same.

Until next time, be safe and invite someone to your team meeting to possibly be a new member....

-73-

Have a *REACTing* Day

Meet Dennis Hicks



Dennis is LM 500. Dennis resides in Lynwood, CA. He has been active in several Teams over the years and currently helps out Los Angeles County *REACT* with events throughout the year. His most recent event was the Highland Park Parade this past December.

Be like Dennis! Be active!

The Net is Ready - Are You?

The *REACT* WW Net is a valuable training resource for you!

Every Tuesday at 9 p.m. ET, the *REACT* WW Net runs. This is an opportunity for you to practice

your communication skills working with a coordinated radio net. But it appears you are not taking advantage of this.

Some stats from previous weeks:

- 1- 1- 19 - 7 stations, 0 messages, ran for 15 minutes
- 1- 8- 19 - 7 stations, 0 messages, ran for 21 minutes
- 1- 15- 19 - 6 stations, 0 messages, ran for 22 minutes
- 1- 22- 19 - 7 stations, 0 messages, ran for 22 minutes

Like they say - "*Practice Makes Perfect*" So get on the Net on Tuesdays and PRACTICE!



View From Region One

John Mahon
Director, Region One

Hello from New England,

As I prepare for the Annual Winter Board meeting, this will be my first trip to Las Vegas, or even west of the Mississippi River in my 60 years on this planet. Yes, I have been to another country, but I do not foresee another trip outside of the United States for me in the foreseeable future.

As some of you know, I help out the office staff and volunteers with the phones, answering inbound calls. I try to answer questions and help out where I can. I am not the best Historian for *REACT* International, yet, but I will find the information you are looking for. The only dumb question is the one not asked.

REACT has many people who are trying to promote and advance our program through education, in two aspects that are equally important. First is each Team's effort to educate the community as to the uses of "two-way radio communications as an additional resource for community activities, emergencies, disasters, and emergency aid to individuals." It does not help to promote our assistance to the community without establishing a volunteer monitoring program over officially designated emergency frequencies, by two-way radio *REACT* operators who report such calls to appropriate public safety authorities.

The purpose(s) of *REACT* International, per our by-laws note seven points of our activities. These purposes are focused around two-way radio communications. We were founded, or built on Citizens Band radio as a means of the average person to communicate with one another, be it for fun, work, play, or even to pass the time when you are stuck in one place during a multiple day blizzard. The CB has served *REACT* well, and still does in some areas of the country.

A Team's public education program should be focused on the local ability and what works for your area or the terrain that may affect two-way radio signals from Mountains to skyscrapers or high powered electrical transmission lines. Naturally, teams would have to promote detailed information about which two-way radio system channels, frequencies and the times the team is trying to monitor them to help.

Monitoring channels and frequencies is just one way we help the community. Many teams provide two-way radio communications at places where events

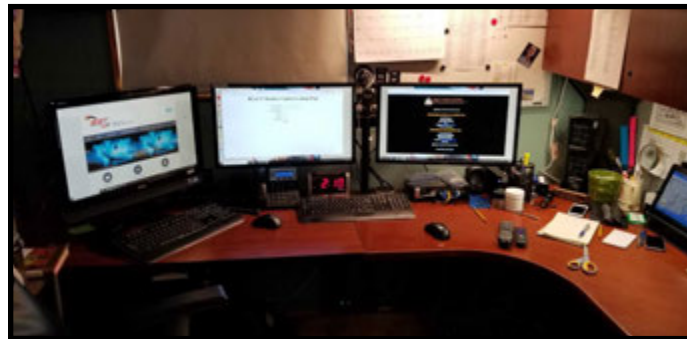
of a specific type are held, over short distances or even over long distances for multiple days. We can use CB, FRS, & MURS, for a small area where everything is within a close proximity. When we get to the larger events spread out over long distances for multiple days, we need to consider two-

way radio communications that can adapt to the challenges this brings to ensure we can still pass the message down the line where it needs to be in the hands of the recipient.

The General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) is a licensed radio service that uses channels around 462 MHz and 467 MHz. The most common use of GMRS channels is for short-distance, two-way radio voice communications using hand-held radios, mobile radios and repeater systems.

GMRS systems offer better coverage because of higher power and use of repeaters.

An FCC license is required to operate a GMRS system. Licenses are issued for a ten-year term and can be renewed between 90 days prior to the expiration date and up to the actual expiration date of the license. After a license expires, you must request a new license. You must 18 years of age and not a



representative of a foreign government. A GMRS license is good for any family member, regardless of age, to operate GMRS stations and units under your license. There is no test to take. Your use of GMRS is governed by 47 C.F.R. Part 95, Subpart E.

Amateur radio is a popular option to providing an Auxiliary Communication Service. This is the most versatile of options to serve the community. Ham radio can be adapted to many different functions or activities from the across town, around the world or into space without use of the internet or cell phones. Generally, there are six modes of operation with ham radio. Systems (5), Morse code (1), digital data (4), voice modes (4), imaging (4), and weak signal (3) offering all ham radio operators twenty-one modes to not only use, but experiment with.

Now, add the twenty different bands of amateur radio, 160m, 80m, 60m, 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 12m, and 10m, 6m, 2m, 1.25m, 70cm, 33cm, 23cm, 13cm, 3300 MHz, 5cm, 3cm and 10.5 GHz, and one has four-hundred- twenty options to choose from and experiment with for getting the message across town, worldwide or into space.

Finally, we get to the Part 90 Land Mobile Radio Service, also called public land mobile radio or private land mobile radio, is a person-to-person voice communication system consisting of two-way radio audio transmitter and receiver in one unit, which can be mobile, installed in vehicles, or portables, walkie-talkies. These systems are widely used by Public Safety and first responder organizations such as police, fire, and ambulance services, and other governmental agencies. Yes, there are inexpensive options GMRS or Part 90 use that are FCC certified.

Other systems are designed for private commercial use, by firms such as taxis or delivery services. Most systems are half-duplex, with multiple radios sharing a single radio channel, so only one radio can transmit at a time. The transceiver is normally in receiving mode so the user can hear other users on the channel. When a user wants to talk, he presses a push to talk button on his microphone, which turns on his transmitter. Two-way radio users cannot talk and listen at the same.

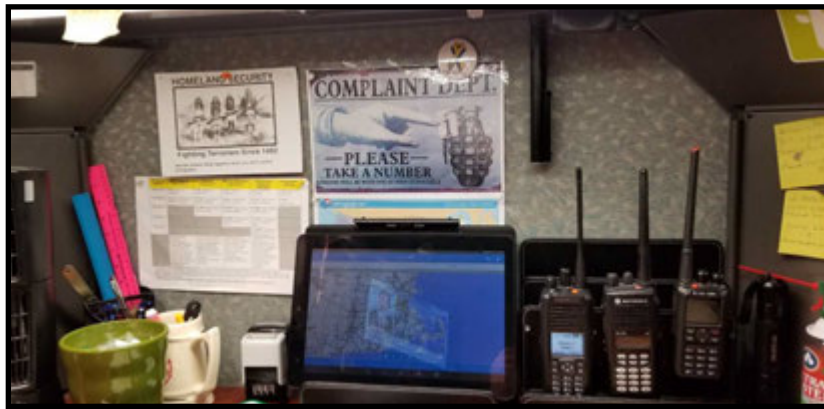
They use the VHF or UHF bands giving them a limited range, usually 3 to 20 mile range depending on terrain, although repeaters installed on tall buildings, hills or mountain peaks can be used to increase the coverage area. Older systems use AM or FM modulation, while some recent systems use digital modulation allowing them to transmit data as well as sound.

REACT teams should be trying to promote and advance our program through education. The second aspects that is as equally important as promoting our service, is to self-education. *REACT* International has a great team focused on helping you and I to be the best two-way radio operator we can be. *REACT* warning team #6247 can be found on the web at reactwarning.org. This training is designed

from standards and practices that are in place and used by many the Public Safety agencies, Police, Fire, EMS, Sheriff Departments, and Emergency Management. These standards and practices help to improve our level of competence or skill

when communicating with others, especially the Public Safety agencies we are assisting.

Those teams and members who do not successfully train and drill to these standards and practices, cannot improve their level of competence or skill when providing volunteer Auxiliary radio communications services to Federal, State, county, local and tribal governments, as well as to voluntary agencies you may work with. Members can offer their services, their privately owned radio communications equipment, but we need to be using the most efficient methods through training on these standards and practices. Who are we really helping if we don't train and cannot communicate efficiently?



REACT International Event Calendar

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)
6.....*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 p.m. ET)
6 ...*REACT* Monthly Message Run (9:25 p.m. ET)
9ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
10 - 16ALERTEX 2019-A
12*REACT* World Wide Ham Net (9 p.m. ET)
13*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 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)
20 ...*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 p.m. ET)
23ZELLO World Wide Net (9 pm.m ET)
26*REACT* World Wide Ham Net (9 p.m. ET)
27*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 p.m. ET)

MARCH 2019

1*REACT*er Published
2ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
5*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
6*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 p.m. ET)
6...*REACT* Monthly Message Run (9:25 p.m. ET)
9ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
12*REACT* World Wide Ham Net (9 p.m. ET)
13...*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 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)
20...*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 p.m. ET)
23ZELLO World Wide Net (9 pm.m ET)
26*REACT* World Wide Ham Net (9 p.m. ET)
27*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 p.m. ET)

APRIL 2019

1.....*REACT*er Published
2.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)

3.....*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 p.m. ET)
3...*REACT* Monthly Message Run (9:25 p.m. ET)
6.....ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
9.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
10.....*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 p.m. ET)
13.....ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
15.....Deadline for May *REACT*er
16.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
17.....*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 p.m. ET)
20.....ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
21.....EASTER
23.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
24.....*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 p.m. ET)
27.....ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
30.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)

MAY 2019

1.....*REACT*er Published
1.....*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 p.m. ET)
1...*REACT* Monthly Message Run (9:25 p.m. ET)
4.....ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
7.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
8.....*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 p.m. ET)
11.....ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
14.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
15.....Deadline for June *REACT*er
15.....*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 p.m. ET)
18.....ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
21.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
22.....*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 p.m. ET)
25.....ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
28.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)
29.....*REACT* Traffic Systems Net (9:15 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*

Are YOU an Artist or Designer?

REACT International Inc. announces the

60th Anniversary Logo

Contest is now

OPEN FOR ENTRIES!!!

\$100 Prize to the Winner!!

**SUBMIT
Your
design
Today!**



**SUBMIT
Your
design
Today!**

**WHO Will WIN the 60th
Anniversary Logo Contest??**

RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

- 1.) Entrant must be a *REACT* Member in good standing (Team, Life or Unattached)
- 2.) Entries must be received by December 31, 2019 to be considered. No Exceptions.
- 3.) Logo must include some variation of 60, Diamond Jubilee or other reference to *REACT's* 60th Birthday.
- 4.) The decision of the judges is final.
- 5.) Winner will receive \$100 and their logo will be placed in use for the entire 60th Year and will be featured prominently in *The REACTer* and all public and press releases and/or merchandise.
- 6.) Submit designs to *REACT* International at ri.hq@REACTIntl.org

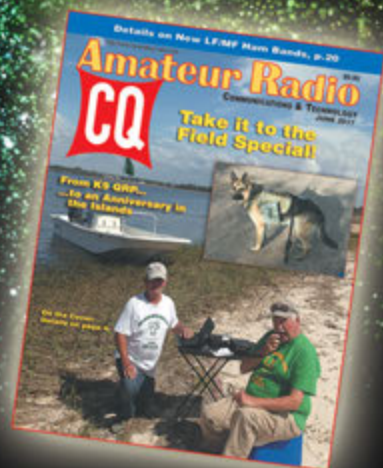


Amateur Radio



CQ the Active Ham's Magazine

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