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CHRISTMAS!
and
HAPPY
HANUKKAH!**



We're America's Hobby Radio Magazine

There is only **ONE** regularly published magazine that covers CB radio, scanners, two-way radio, GMRS, FRS and MURS!

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NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

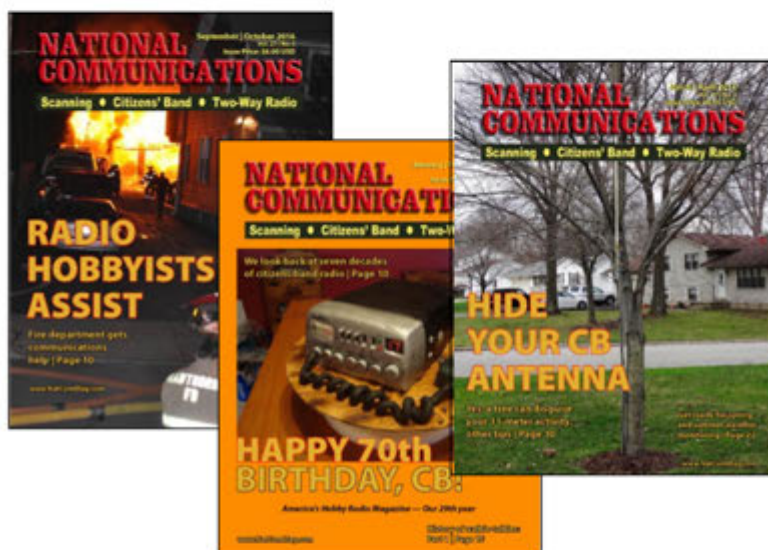
Scanning • Citizens' Band • Two-Way Radio

NatCom publishes six times a year and persons with an online access account get access to not only the current issue of the magazine in PDF format, but also every issue of the magazine published going back to 1988! That's 29 years of pure radio communications reading!

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A Word from the Editor

Will Stanley, Editor, The *REACTer*

Happy Thanksgiving!

I trust you all had a great Thanksgiving and hope you will all have Merry Christmases. 'Tis the Season! This cranky old year is about to end and a new one begin. A turning point, if you will.

"History is replete with turning points". In the movie Star Trek 6: The Undiscovered Country, Mr. Spock said that very phrase. Indeed, a turning point has been reached for The *REACTer*.

I have been at the helm of The *REACTer* for more than 4 years and it is time for me to move on, to allow new blood to take over, a person with new ideas and a fresh outlook. And that brings us to this:

The *REACTer* needs a new Editor!

This issue, November - December 2020, will be my last at The *REACTer*. A new Editor is needed beginning in 2021. I trust the Board will get an excellent editor for our magazine. Contact John Capodanno at

You might see stuff from me still occasionally, plus, I hope, my Team, Greensboro *REACT*. The design, layout, style and even the frequency of publication will be entirely up to the new editor and John Capodanno, our President, so within the first several issues, I expect you will see some changes. Feel free to communicate with whoever the Board picks, as you have with me, when you see something you like or even something you don't.

REACTively,



The *REACTer* (ISSN 1055-9167) is the official publication of *REACT* International, Inc., a non-profit public service corporation.

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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

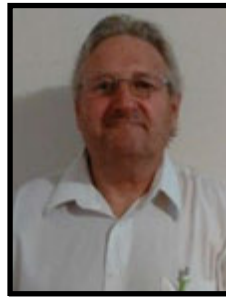
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FCC releases proposal for new filing fee structure:

New fees for ham radio

(reduction in GMRS license fee)

News from the



On Wednesday August 26th, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270 which implements portions of the Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act of 2018 (or RAY BAUM'S Act), which gives the FCC statutory authority to collect application fees. As a part of the Act, the FCC is required to switch from a fee structure mandated by Congress 20 years ago to a new cost-based system. This change will result in some fees being reduced and in some cases, such as the Amateur Radio Service, new fees are being added.

Proposed new fees for Amateur Radio and reduction in GMRS fees

See also MichiBradley.com (opinions not those of REC Networks): Thoughts and Analysis on the Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fees

Section 8 of the RAY BAUM'S Act does not provide any kind of statutory exemption for filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service, which, historically has had no filing fees. Citing the costs involved in the automated processes, routine maintenance of the Commission's Universal Licensing System (ULS) and limited instances where staff needs to be involved in the application process, ***the FCC is proposing an across-the-board fee of \$50 for new and modified licenses in the personal radio services, which includes Amateur Radio and the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS). For GMRS, this is a reduction of the current \$70 fee.*** The FCC also proposes these fees for license renewals and requests for vanity call signs, the latter which had its filing fee eliminated several years ago. The FCC is proposing to still not charge for administrative updates, such as mailing address changes on amateur or GMRS applications. Amateur Radio will remain exempt from annual regulatory fees under Section 9 of the RAY BAUM'S Act.

Commenting on the changes

Once the NPRM is published in the Federal Register, filing deadlines for comments and reply comments will be established. Those dates will be announced by the FCC in a separate Public Notice. Comments will be accepted in the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System under proceeding 20-270.

A copy of the NPRM, which includes the proposed fee structures, can be found here. REC is still evaluating the NPRM and is not prepared to make a position statement, but plans to do so in a subsequent news release.

The RAY BAUM'S Act is part of Public Law 115-141 and can be found in this PDF document starting on page 734 (Division P). The relevant part of the law starts on Page 736, under Section 8.



Silent Mics

The REACTer, with a heavy heart, inform the REACT Family of the passing of this member



Dave Proctor 1947-2020

Dave Proctor, aged 73 years young, passed away from complications from cancer surgery November 24, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Linda and family. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1966 to 1973, and in the U.S Army Reserves from 1978 to 1995. He was an active member in the Civil Air Patrol Program in Fremont, Dodge County REACT from May 4, 1997, until his passing, the American Red Cross, the V.F.W. Post #854, American Legion Post #20, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles #200.

The funeral was December 1. Military honors were provided by the Fremont Honor Guard.



REACT International's 60th ANNIVERSARY LOGO

PATCHES ARE AVAILABLE AS WELL AS LAPEL PINS.

Also, hard copy high quality images of the new logo in various sizes will be made available to anyone who wants them for use in their own Team publications/publicity. Contact Will Stanley at RI.HQ@REACTintl.org.



ORDER FORM

Name _____ Team Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone # _____

I would like to order _____ Patches @ \$3.00 each (or 2 for \$5.00), US shipping included
(contact office for int'l cost)

I would like to order _____ Lapel Pins @ \$7.00 (or 2 for \$12.00) US shipping included
(contact office for int'l cost)

Scan this form and email to J.Capodanno@REACTIntl.org and submit payment on RI website (REACTIntl.org) using the Paypal link at the bottom right of the first page (DONATE TO US). We will match your payment with your order and ship your items right away. Allow 2 weeks for delivery. You may also snail-mail it to Post Office Box 21064, Glendale CA 91221 (but this is slower)

REACT International Sixtieth Anniversary Logo order

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!**



Training for the Future

Kirk Paxson, Training Coordinator

Situational Awareness

One thing for certain 2020 has been a year of uncertainty, between a worldwide pandemic, a presidential election and the always present and unending question is what next. Of course, we can call this life, but this year I find myself wishing for the normal and mundane for a week. I am guessing many of you I assume may feel somewhat the same. But the reality is we as people need to adapt not only for our own well-being but for the people, we may have charge over.

REACT teams may be asked to provide assistance in any number of situations, but one that most are not accustomed to is where you may be in an environment where someone or a group may want to do harm to first responders and/or their equipment, which *REACT* Teams can easily fall into. I have compiled from a few official sources of how you can keep the public safe and even more important yourself safe. I encourage everyone to read the resources cited and apply them to your team's operations as appropriate.

There is a number a of things *REACT* responder needs to do when arriving at an event or scene, like having the proper gear for the situation, but the most important that you have no control over is situational awareness. What is happening in the environment you will be entering? Situational awareness can be described as aware by observing, interpreting, and analyzing the human and environmental conditions in which the responder conducts operations it is an important aspect of operational security and effectiveness. Increased awareness is an important component for a *REACT* member to observe effectively, analyze thoroughly, predict accurately and act appropriately to avoid, mitigate or overcome potential hazards.

An ideal time start gathering situational awareness is to start out gathering general information as you move into an area or situation by using your sight, hearing and smell and demeanor of the people on scene if any. As we arrive it is only natural to narrow our focus to a specific task or action, and become less focused on everything happening around us. With so much happening to include your response to the situation you may fail to notice and identify threats that could pose a serious threat to your health and safety or that of the people you are trying to assist.

Here are some points of not only doing effective situational awareness scans but maintaining them. Consider these

Is there anything around you that poses a threat to you (or your) health and safety, and if so, to what extent?

Is the threat big enough that you should stop working?

What is the worst-case scenario?

Is there anything you can do to safely reduce that threat?

Is it time to regroup and attack the problem from a safer angle?

Practice this to become more proficient in doing situation assessments. Practicing the following steps will improve your ability to conduct them. *REACT* members should assess their situation in a predictable pattern every few minutes during an incident. Here are suggestions on how.

Get in the habit of stopping for a moment to assess your environment.

Something does not seem right stop what you are doing.

Use all your available senses to test the environment.

Anticipate as many possibilities as you may envision.

If you identify a possible hazard, consider stopping what you are doing and notify your team leader.

Situational awareness is a mental state of alertness that involves perceiving, processing and predicting the event to prevent an unexpected incident from happening. Remember. Training can aid in developing situational awareness skills, by taking courses in identify terrorists or organized civil unrest activities. There are hazardous material courses available for no cost from the department of transportation. Remember It is always better to be on the side of safety than to let a bad situation grow worse.

Additional Resources:

Situational awareness is not enough. Bennett, G. (2018, January). Firehouse Blog.

Importance of situational awareness. Friese, G. (2017, February). Firerescue1 Blog.

Training

The environment in which we do emergency communications changes frequently. The standards for emergency workers and volunteers have become more focused require *REACT* members to be better trained and credentialed to work with some law enforcement, fire, EMS, and transportation agencies. These courses are designed to keep you up to date with the changes. If we are to make a difference, our Teams must be able to cooperate and coordinate to work together in major events. To do that we have to have a common understanding of how, what, where, when, and why. Training provides that understanding. If you have a great deal of experience in other communications or emergency response organizations, our training helps you understand how we operate.

Training Course Spotlight

Course 117 Spot Reporting

Spot Reporting is a new *REACT* course addressing how, when, and to whom to report a major emergency and disaster impacts in your area. A key component of information gathering by emergency management agencies, the National Weather Service, and the organizations you support by local or national Memoranda of Understanding is the development of ground truth information. Trained observers and a reliable reporting system can make a significant difference in the quality of information available for emergency decision making by verifying other reports and filling in gaps in what is known about the event. This is a function that any *REACT* member can perform.

Our Spot Reporting course covers:

- The Value of Information

- The Sources of Information

- A Reporting System

- What to Report

- How to Report

- When to Report

- And Then There Are the Bizarre Cases

The course manual is 15 pages in length and should take no more than 1 hour to complete. There is a detailed final examination – when you are ready, contact our training staff at Training@REACTIntl.org to obtain the web address and password for our online testing system. Continuing education units are awarded for course completion.

This course will not make you an expert in submitting Spot Reports. It is an introduction. Further practice can be had in our quarterly ALERTEX Internet exercise series. Get to know your supported organizations, review the Memorandum of Understanding, and identify with the supported organization what their information needs are. Do Team tabletop exercises in which reporting has a key role. When you develop proficiency, you will make a real contribution to improve *REACT*'s overall ability to be an effective communications partner for the emergency management community.

REACT Traffic Handler recognition – Will Not Completed

REACT's traffic handlers move messages throughout the *REACT* organization using the *REACT* Traffic System, National Traffic System and Radio Relay International the intended destination for these messages is to teams throughout *REACT*. As a way to recognize their contribution to *REACT*, their achievement will be noted according to the parameters below. Please be aware these award parameters may need to be adjusted.

This the current criteria

- (1) the number of nets participated in (10 points per net),
- (2) actual or exercise disaster communications, (20 points per day per event) and
- (3) number of messages handled (1 point per Routine message, 2 points for Priority, and 3 points for Emergency).
- (4) a total of 60 points being required for recognition.

Please send your monthly station report by the 7th to training@reactintl.org

If you would like to participate in *REACT*'s traffic system, we meet every Wednesday at 9:15 PM Eastern on Zello. The channel name is *REACT*/Traffic System.

Since the *REACT*er is published bi-monthly the previous two months will be given here.

Congratulations to the Traffic handlers and their dedication to *REACT*.

Greg Peters Traffic 811 September 26,891; October 13,672

King Walker Traffic 741: September 426; October 400



News from Region Nine Director

Ravindranath "Robby" Goswami, 9Z4RG/NZ4RG
Region 9 Director

REACT PARTICIPATES IN AMATEUR RADIO CONSULTATION

The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) recently held consultations with stakeholders in the Amateur Radio community on the revision to the Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Service. *REACT* was invited to participate in a committee to revise the framework prior to publication for public consultation.



Several meetings were held, and *REACT* provided a number of suggestions for changes, many of which were accepted, resulting in some significant changes to the Framework.

The TATT Framework for the Authorisation of Amateur Radio Services

Some of the suggestions that were made that are now included in the revision include:

1. Removal of the age restriction for obtaining an amateur radio license. Therefore persons under 18 can now be licensed, meaning that Junior *REACT*ers can now pursue amateur radio certification.
2. An increase in the license term from the previous 3-years to a revised 10-year period.
3. Inclusion of a category of license for emergency communications organizations. Previously, only a club-station license existed.
4. Allocation of a special prefix for reciprocal licensing, making for a shorter call sign

WINLINK FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Winlink Global Radio Email is a project of the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation. Winlink can be used as part of the emergency communications toolkit.



Imagine sending an email via long distances, locally, regionally, and internationally without the Internet. Pre-formatted forms such as ICS 213 General Message templates are available as well. This capability can be critical in a disaster scenario where rescue, logistics, and health and welfare traffic need to be passed, but traditional communications such as cell phones and commercial LMR radio systems are down. Served agencies will appreciate having this capability being available to them.



Photo: A typical Winlink Station

There are many ways in which Winlink can be implemented and used. Typically, a computer connected to an HF radio that has a Pactor modem is used.

The Winlink station can connect to gateways around the world that are available on several bands. Winlink can also be used on the 2m/VHF bands. It is possible for a sound card modem, which is software-based instead of a hardware modem, to be used.

Pactor modems tend to be quite expensive. So VARA FM is an example of using software to simulate the signals required. It is also possible to use the Internet via the Telnet protocol. Winlink is quite flexible with many options available for connectivity. However, once configured, training and practice via drills will be important to develop familiarity and confirmed capability and capacity.

The website for more information, including to download the Winlink application, is:

<https://www.winlink.org/>



Screenshot: Winlink.org website

It would not be possible to provide detailed guidance within this short article in order to fully install and configure Winlink. There are many videos on YouTube that go into detail, so a search for Winlink should provide a wealth of guidance. This article is only intended to bring an awareness of some of the possibilities that Winlink provides.

Platform	Channel/Talkgroup/Conference
EchoLink Conference	109779 *REACT*
DMR BrandMeister Talkgroup	TG 3740 REACT
YSF Reflector	19798 REACT
XLX Reflector	374 REACT
Hamshack Hotline Conference Bridge	Ext. 358 REACT
Zello Channel (no license required)	REACT MEMBERS

Table: Analog and Digital Platform Talkgroups

It would perhaps be useful to mention some other means of communications available to REACT amateurs on the analog, digital voice, and VoIP platforms. The following table provides a listing of currently available options. Perhaps in future articles, we can elaborate on each one in more detail.

REACT Teams with amateur radio operators are encouraged to consider implementing Winlink as part of their emcomms activity. REACT's partnership with Radio Relay

International makes it possible for Winlink to be used in disaster communications.

Happy Winlinking!

SPECIAL VIRTUAL END OF YEAR GET TOGETHER VIA ZOOM

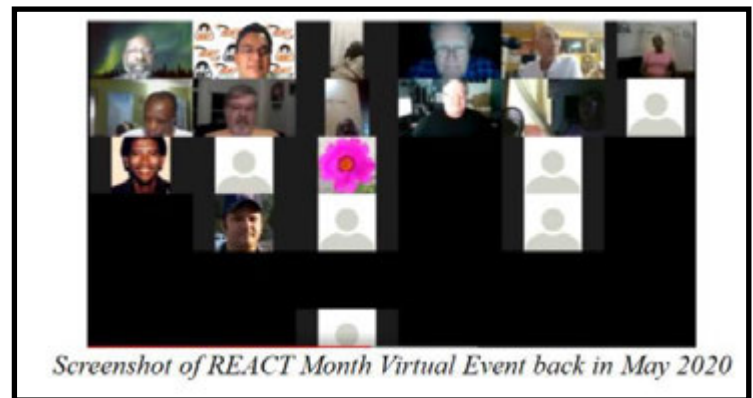
Save the date! On Saturday 19th December 2020, a special virtual end of year get together will be held via the Zoom platform. The start time will be 7 pm EST (8 pm AST and 0000 UTC). The session should go for no more than 1-hour duration.

Zoom forecasts sales surge as video conferencing be-



comes more demanded - CGTN

All REACTers worldwide are invited to attend. This event will be similar to the one that was held to celebrate REACT Month back in May 2020. The year 2020 has been unprecedented in so many ways, not the least of which is the COVID-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding the situation, one that continues, it does not mean we cannot still take a little time out to celebrate. It is an opportunity to meet REACT members that you might have heard about, met a long time ago, haven't seen a while, spoken



Screenshot of REACT Month Virtual Event back in May 2020

with on the air, or seen in The REACTer.

The event will be informal, so no speeches, no pressure. Just REACTers saying hi, sharing a thought, meeting and greeting, and interacting in a casual atmosphere.

To express your interest in attending, head over to the REACT MEMBERS group on Facebook. A short URL to the page is:

<http://meet.treact.com/>

If the response exceeds the Zoom license limits, the event will also be streamed live via YouTube.

Spread the word to fellow REACTers.

Hope to see you at the event!



Are you coming to the celebration?

Watch for details soon!

SCAM WARNING

Recently, I was the recipient of a call from "Zack" who claimed he was the new account manager handling *REACT's* Tickets At Work account.

His call came from a New Jersey telephone number and his message gave a New Jersey telephone number to call to contact him. He identified the business as *REACT* and called me by name.

Tickets At Work is headquartered in Orlando FL.

I spoke with a very nice young lady there and she told me that they do not call the member companies, soliciting sales.

I gave her the number that "Zack" left for me to call and told her she might want to report the call to her upper ups to look into it.

In the meantime... if you receive such a call for Tickets at Work, **DO NOT RESPOND**. This is a scam. If you are utilizing our Tickets at Work benefit, follow the instructions that appear on the website and from time to time in *The REACTer*.



Letters to the Editor

Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in any letter to the editor are exclusively those of the letter writer and do not represent REACT International, it's Officers or Board members in any way.

I am a Proud Member of *REACT* and for what I am about to say, I will probably get negative feedback, but I don't care.

As a member of *REACT* I would be glad to pay \$100.00 a year for membership dues if we had good insurance. I hear our dues are going up \$3.00 and some people don't like it.

What is \$3.00? It is no big deal. I was a member of an organization in another county where I did pay \$100 a year where we did everything. I was a member of *REACT* before we started Cleveland County *REACT* in 1995. I helped start this Team. The Team I was a member of is no longer around. The Chief of that Team got in bad health and let someone else take over. That person let the insurance lapse and the team closed down due to im-

proper management.

So, I would be glad to pay \$100 or \$50 a year to be a member of *REACT* if we had good insurance to cover the activities we do.

Also, let me say that *REACT* needs a new PSA on TV and the internet. *REACT* needs PR so people know *REACT* is still around, will be 60 years old in 2022 and we are not a only CB Radio OR Amateur Radio! We use CB- Amateur- GMRS- FRS and MURS radio. We are pushing Amateur Radio too much and that will turn people off of becoming a member of *REACT* or starting a Team because of the testing and licensing requirements for Ham.

We are not an Amateur Radio Club, so if anyone gets mad over my letter, too bad. I tell it and see it as it is!

Have a good weekend and God Bless to all.

Jay Flora

Cleveland County *REACT* Team 4935

Shelby, NC

KBUO-6508 CB-19

WQSJ-975 GMRS

WA4JAY HAM

VIRTUAL YEAR END ZOOM EVENT



On Saturday 19th
December 2020 at 7 PM
EST, we will be having a
Virtual End Of Year
Zoom Event, similar to
the one held earlier in

the year. The session should last no more than one (1) hour duration and will be informal. It will be a great opportunity for *REACTers* to meet each other and exchange greetings.

Please save the date on your calendar. Hoping that you can make it. Also please feel free to share with your Teams and members.

Here is the link with the information on the event.

<https://fb.me/e/XtywvqqN>



NEWS

FROM THE

FRONT LINES

Southeast Colorado *REACT*

(Colorado)

Submitted by Riley Frazee

Southeast Colorado *REACT* Team 6250 has had a busy COVID year. We have installed two new GMRS Repeaters and have recently received a Motorola DMR Repeater for installation on the Brandmeister Network. This will join our three other associated DMR Repeaters already on the air. Did you also know that you can join our *REACT* Team net on BrandMeister Talkgroup 3740 on Thursday nights at 2030 Hours Mountain Time?

In addition to building our infrastructure, we have also built a Portable Deployable Communications System. We refer to this as a PODCOM box for short. This was built with some funding and donations of equipment from agencies we serve as well as *REACT* members money. We have used the box remotely twice in the field for exercises and it has worked as intended.

The box idea came from having radios at my house at a base station and how difficult it is to remove them and transport them for use at a remote location such as a County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

The idea was developed and drawn out on paper and a ten unit rack case with wheels was purchased as the base of the project.

Kenwood NX- 5700 (VHF),5800 (UHF) and 5900 (700/800MHz) radios use a single control head. The

radios are capable of Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) and P25 Digital Protocols. These radios will soon be equipped with AES-256 Encryption and can utilize the WQUS415 VHF and UHF Frequencies.

A Generic Hotspot for DMR is included as is a ClearNode for All Star and Echolink connections when we operate remote and away from the range of a high power repeater. This can be driven by Verizon using a mifi or Viaero Wireless as a hotspot from a cellphone or through the Network Radio. This offers redundancy and doubles coverage areas.

The SenHaix N60 4G radio or network radio runs off of Wifi, GSM or CDMA to provide radio capabilities through the cellular network. SECO *REACT* Team utilizes Zello as does *REACT* International and *REACT* Members for wide area coordination regardless of license level or even unlicensed personnel. Some public safety agencies use Zello to link to their public safety radio system as well. Echolink can also be used through this android powered radio.

We use a Yeasu FT-857D and a YT- 1000 Antenna Tuner for HF Amateur (Ham) communications. I know this radio has the ability to do VHF and UHF as well but we use the Kenwood for that but could easily use the 857 by swapping an antenna cable. The 857 also includes a Wolphi-Link for using Digital Modes through a computer or cellular phone.



SE Colorado's Podcom box

The Stryker SR-89MC is a 10 meter radio that is used to monitor 10 and 11 meter traffic as needed. We had to use this radio for its small size and the ability to fit in the box on top of the YT-1000 Controller. This was not our preference.

The ICom A-110 aircraft radio is utilized to monitor air traffic and listening for emergency beacons on the 121.5 frequency.

A BCD996T scanner is for monitoring public safety frequencies from surround areas and states as we border three other states nearby. This scanner is P25 capable and can monitor the Digital Trunked Radio Systems that Public Safety is typically on in Colorado.

A CyberPower CPS- 1215RMS provides 6 110 Volt power plugs on the front for easy connection to power.

Below the 110 volt power bar is a 12 Volt power bar with two Anderson PowerPole connections to power other radios that may not be included in the PODCOM Box.

It also includes four USB 2amp Power supplies for hotspot and phone charging. Two Cigarette Lighter Sockets are also included for random powering of walkup radios or cell phones etc. .



The Podcom box cover

The box is wired with 12 volt in mind so it can be powered remotely with a 12 volt car battery and solar panels to keep it charged. The Power supply is a DuraComm RU1-4012 40amp power supply which powers a West Mountain Radio RIGrunner 4008H Horizontal distribution box and it can be unplugged from the power supply and connected with a cable with alligator clips to convert it to 12 volt battery operation in the field.

The rear of the box has an opening to access the rear of the radios for cabling and power connections making it easy to maintain. Also on the rear are two 19 inch rack mount fans, one to push the cool air in at the bottom and the other at the top pulls the hot air out to keep the radios cool while working.

The antennas all come out of the top of the PODCOM Box though a bulkhead mount. Each radio has an antenna that can be mounted to the top of the box or connected to cabling at an EOC to use antennas mounted outside on the tower as well.

The total cost for the entire project with all the radios was about \$10,000.00. If you have any questions or

want any more information not discussed here, please contact us.

Blackberry REACT

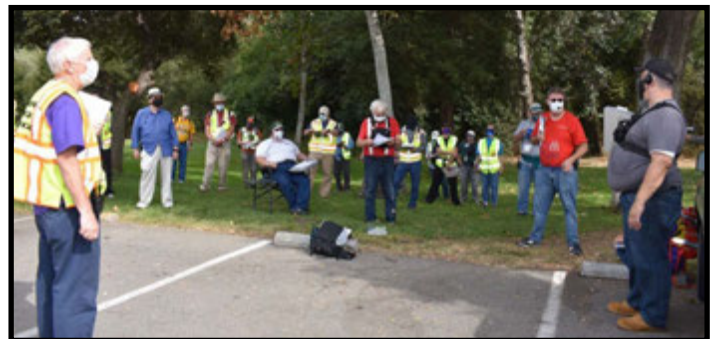
(California)

Submitted by Phil Henderson

Santa Clara County ARES/RACES conducted a training exercise October 10 that is a good example of an outdoor exercise that could be conducted even during a COVID-19 situation by using all the required precautions for masks and spacing. The drill was conducted at a local county park.

SCC ARES/RACES has maintained a credentialing training program for Mutual Aid Communicators (MACs) since 2009. The program is available to all SCC amateur radio operators. Specific classroom as well as outdoor exercises include the following topics: Field Operations, Net Control, Packet Operations and Shadow Communications.

When COVID-19 hit us early in 2020, all outdoor and indoor activities with large groups of people were discontinued. We continued to have weekly radio nets



Everybody gathered for the briefing

(from home) and some training with ZOOM classes. What was missing for some of the credentials was working as a radio communicator in a real public service event. This led to the training exercise that is described here.

About 3 weeks prior to the scheduled date of the exercise, the County District Emergency Coordinator Staff



Simple but effective floats to make the parade interesting

and other volunteers met to plan a simulated parade, based upon a Festival of Lights Parade conducted annually in one of the cities in the county where ham radio is used to assist the parade staff. This included net control, staging, checkpoints and (simulated) police.



Main Street with side streets marked with ham operators on every corner

A real parade was to be staged with (small) floats and people walking along who were also hams. Those attending the exercise were to be divided into two groups. One group would be the ham staff at net control, staging and checkpoints and the other group would be the parade. Then, halfway through the 6 hour event, the 2 groups would switch places. "Injects" were to be made along the route that included an illegally parked vehicle, an unattended mysterious bag, missing person reports and such, that required checkpoint operators to report this to NC, as if this were a real event. Those who needed a public service event on their record were able to use this to satisfy part of the credentialing program.

All had a great time and it was a good learning experience, putting to use the classroom work that had been done. Below are some photos taken at the event. More photos of the event can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yy86tg93>

Southeast Louisiana REACT

(Louisiana)

Submitted by Joe Glorioso

Never Let Your Guard Down.

On October 9, 2020 the Crescent City Amateur Radio Group & The Southeast Louisiana REACT Team was monitoring Hurricane Delta as it approach the Southwest coast of Louisiana. The New Orleans region started to get some feeder bans from the storm. One of these feeder bans created a wind gust of 75 miles per hour that was reported from the lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge Authority, causing power outages, trees down & power lines down, etc as far away as Slidell Louisiana.

Nearly 200 miles away from land fall! The Echo link connection with the Hurricane VOIP Net & the National Hurricane Center was on emergency power over 9 hours. Even though we were not in the path of the



hurricane we still felt adverts affects from the storm. Lesson Learned

REACT 74

(North Carolina)

Submitted by William Roberts

Sometimes an article can be nothing more than a Team showing off it's new logo and apparel!



But the Team is also adding a response trailer to our resources. With the addition of the trailer, when it is set up, we will be providing limited canteen service at structure fires.



A generator will be utilized for hot soup, lighting, and coffee during the winter months. The trailer is already set up with traffic control equipment, search and rescue gear, minimum camping equipment, chairs, propane stove, etc. It's a work in progress so can be utilized by multiple departments and services.

San Angelo REACT

(Texas)

Submitted by King Walker

On October 29th beginning at 5 p.m. CT until 9:30 p.m., San Angelo REACT assisted with traffic for the YMCA candy giveaway on Veteran's Drive in San Angelo.

There were 9 Team members that helped with the event,



creating a manpower amount of 38.5 hours. The San Angelo Police Department and the Tom Green County Sheriff's

Office also were present.

Radio communications were carried out on GMRS frequency 462.675.

The weekend of October 17 & 18th, Dave Mulvey says the Team participated in the JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) event for the Scouts.



We had around a dozen kids in total that came to the event. Highlights for the Scouts included:

Climbing around in the REACT communications van

A Broadcast FM demonstration

Visiting with our city and county emergency management leadership

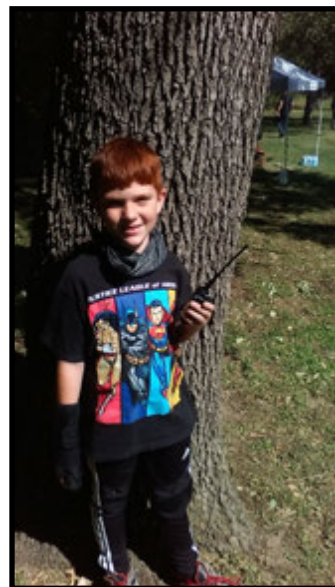
Radio Contact with Scouting stations in Indonesia, Loch Ness Scotland, and many US locations.

One parent told me that we "blew her 6 year old son's



mind" talking with other countries. I think that is a sign of success!

(Left - Who says you can ever be too old to skateboard!)



On November 10th, the Team was called out to relieve SAPD at a water main break. Three officers were returned to patrol duty at the peak of rush hour due to the efforts of the Team. Five hours later the line was



- J69BB Rosemond St Lucia
- 9Z4RG Robby Trinidad & Tobago *REACT* Reg-9 DR
- 9Z4FR Rohan *REACT* Team 6005 Trinidad & Tobago
- KC7FBN Rob Baca Raton, Fla
- KN4VUW Megan Baca Raton, Fla
- 9Z4HX Carlton *REACT* 12249 Trinidad & Tobago
- 9Z4RGN Ronald Trinidad & Tobago
- K8LEN Pat Pekin, IN

- VK2DY Robert Bureau of Meteorology Storm Spotters, and Australian Red Cross NSW Australia
- V44KM Hugh St Kitts and Nevis
- KE8KOC Kirk Sparta, MI
- 9Z4DAA David Trinidad & Tobago
- W3DFP David Howard County *REACT* Woodstock, MD

patched and water was restored to the neighborhood. The break was at the base of an electrical power pole that had the transformer for the block of customers.



- KB8RCR Ryan Remus, MI
- 9Y4NG Arnold Trinidad & Tobago
- KE8PLE John Monroe, MI
- V44KHR Roosevelt St Kitts and Nevis
- 9Z4GAH Garth *REACT* 134 Trinidad & Tobago
- 9Z4Y Mark Trinidad and Tobago
- 9Y4NG *REACT* 100 SAN FERNANDO Trinidad & Tobago
- J66CC Avery Castries St Lucia
- VP2MQ Victor Montserrat
- KK4KBL Barrie *REACT-17* Shelby, NC
- WA4BPW Sam *REACT-5* BOILING SPRINGS, NC
- KG4JJM Robert Cherryville, NC
- W6GHZ Rich CONNELLYS SPRINGS, NC

Also at the base of the pole was a gas line that was not ruptured thanks to the fast acting efforts of AEP that used a pole repair truck to hold the pole in place while the torrent was subdued.

73's and thanks for all your time and talents!

World Wide Ham Net
Tuesday, Nov. 10 (9 p.m. ET)

Submitted by Jay Flora, Net Controller

On November 10th, we had a good World Wide *REACT* Net on Echolink. A lot of Check-ins!

I will be doing the Net next Tuesday 11-17 and Robby may have some new Teams in the Islands if all goes according to plan.

Thanks to all for checking in and here are the check-ins for 11-10.

Greensboro *REACT*

(North Carolina)
 Submitted by Will Stanley

Speaking of new logos (as we were elsewhere in this issue)... while Greensboro *REACT* still struggles to get media recognition to try to attract members, we are moving forward!

We currently have three members and are looking for more. We have also redesigned our original logo. I think the new one says more about who we are...





Get Ready for Winter Scanning!

Chuck Gysi, Editor, National Communications Magazine

As we were preparing this issue of NatCom for our readers, snowflakes had already fallen twice here in Illinois. The forecast is for a snowy winter!

I typically expand my range of scanning targets during the winter months so I can keep abreast of roadway conditions if I have travel planned. It's essential that I know the shape of roads and streets before I head out, so I listen and discover what may or may not be a good route for where I need to go.

It's always good to know that state, county and local snow plows are out and about, especially after a winter storm resulting in snow or ice – or both! Most highway crews will be out sanding roads, spreading chemicals and scraping the effects of snow accumulations shortly after winter storms begin.

While snow plows usually are easy to monitor during winter storms, don't forget some additional scanning targets during the colder part of the year. My suggestions, in addition to the obvious public safety agencies such as police, include school buses and tow trucks.

School buses are out trying to safely navigate suburban streets and rural roads – if school is in session – and if a school bus can't get up a road, you are going to hear the driver call in to their bus garage to report the condition as well seeking advice on how to handle the situation. Sometimes the driver will have to pick up children at a different, safer location, or perhaps even drop off students at a different spot. Sometimes, the pickup just isn't going to happen, especially during dangerous conditions.

Buses get stuck in the snow, too, and if that's the case, you'll learn what roads to avoid. In most situations, you're just not going to be able to maneuver around a big yellow bus!

Tow trucks are an obvious winter monitoring target, too, because they will be out pulling cars and vehicles

out of ditches after motorists take an icy slide to the side.

By monitoring school bus and tow truck frequencies and talkgroups, you'll have a good idea of what roads to avoid during your travels.

I personally like to keep up to date with changing-weather conditions, and monitoring local snow plows will help keep you in the know. State transportation department plows are best to monitor for general highway conditions, from busy suburban thoroughfares to interstate highways and toll roads. Typically, state plows are out on interstate and state highways. County plows handle county roads, including roads you may not realize are county roadways, and municipal (township) and city plows will handle local streets and roads that aren't covered by the state and county plows.



On state highway frequencies, you'll hear weather reports given by highway garages and winter storm centers to plow drivers. These weather reports come from private forecasting firms that contract with states and sometimes can vary from reports you might hear from the National Weather Service or local media. You might be surprised to find a difference in these reports, but it's not a bad idea to hear these additional weather reports if

winter travel is essential for you.

If police call road crews with reports of dangerous roadways, you'll often hear these situations given out to plow drivers on their frequencies, sometimes directly by the police dispatchers if they have access to highway maintenance channels.

So where do you find snow plow frequencies? That's no easy answer anymore. The best place to start is a website such as RadioReference.com. State highway trucks almost always will have their own frequencies in a given area, and while these frequencies can vary inside a state from one region to another, it will pretty

much be uniform. For instance, if the 47-MHz band is being used by state DOT trucks in your area, you'll pretty much hear trucks statewide in the same band.

At one time, state highway channels were pretty much exclusively on their own frequencies. For instance, you'd have found these frequencies in the past in areas such as 47-, 151-, 156-, 159- and maybe the 453-MHz bands.

While there remain a lot of legacy radio systems out there, and may remain for years to come, some state highway radio systems have migrated to not only digital P25 and DMR systems on frequencies that are available for any public safety entity these days, but perhaps also in the 700- and 800-MHz bands, too, especially regional and statewide trunked systems.

The Iowa Department of Transportation, for instance, moved from legacy analog VHF frequencies to a P25 digital radio system that utilizes a multiplicity of frequencies in the VHF high spectrum that are available to any public safety entity. Likewise, state transportation trucks in Minnesota are on the statewide 800-MHz ARMER trunked system. Some city and county highway units have migrated to that same statewide 800-MHz system, too, which offers cross-communication among various highway and public safety agencies during bad winter storms.

While roadways have to be plowed during colder months in most areas of the nation, there are other plowing operations that may be taking place during a winter storm.

If you live near an airport, runways need to be cleared so planes can land and take off. Some of the much larger airports may have frequencies dedicated just for winter plow operations, while others may use regular maintenance channels for snow removal tasks. Whether you're planning a flight, or just interested in the general scope of snow operations in your area, tuning in to your local airport as it digs out may prove worthwhile. It's often a struggle for airport plows to keep runways clear for incoming and departing aircraft.

Private parking lots need to be cleaned out after snow storms and seasonal businesses such as landscaping and nursery operations mount snow plows on their trucks during the winter months to keep crews busy. You'll find them using their usual frequencies for private plowing operations. Some states and locales also contract with private plows or haulers with plows to help clear off highways and streets during major snow events. You might be surprised to hear the amount of snow operations on your scanner if you just do a simple frequency search during a major snowstorm!

No matter what you do during the winter months, monitoring your local and regional snow plows will pay off if you have to travel just to the corner store or to another corner of the state. Listen to the problem areas and hear the updated road condition reports. You'll be glad you did and you may have helped yourself avert a dangerous situation!

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NOAA Predicts Which States Will Get A Colder Than Normal Winter This Year

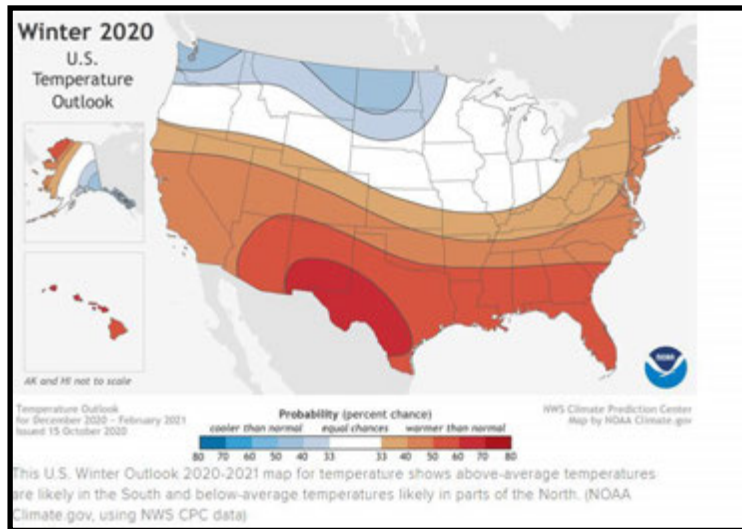
By Alexandra Kelley

Story at a glance

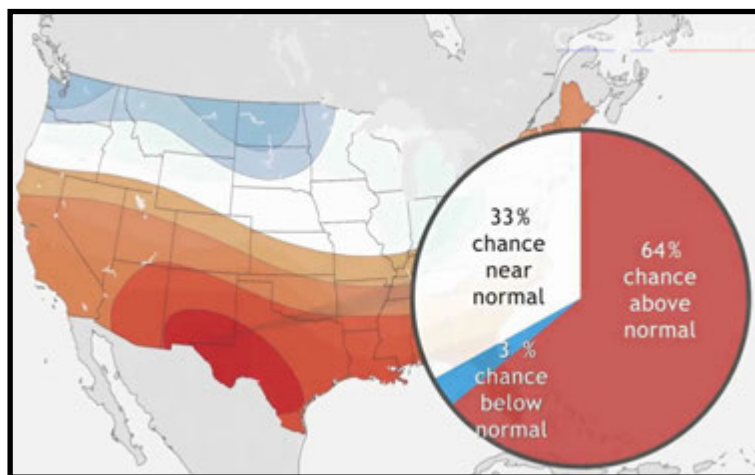
- **The U.S. is in for a warm, dry winter this season, partially due to La Niña winds cooling sea surface temperatures.**
- **Low precipitation is expected to ensue for most of the southern region of the U.S.**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued its winter weather outlook on Thursday, predicting an average of warmer than normal winter temperatures for the majority of the country.

Forecasts indicate that two-thirds of the U.S. states should see warmer weather during the historically colder months, with warm and dry conditions prevailing across the southern tier of the U.S.



Northern states will see chillier and wetter conditions, primarily due to the arrival of La Niña, a weather pattern featuring periods of chillier sea surface temperatures.



Drought conditions are also expected to accompany the drier weather, especially out West. The report mentioned that about 45 percent of the U.S. is experiencing some form of drought right now, namely in the Northeast and western regions. This is largely due to a tepid Southwest summer monsoon season as well as historic heat waves, which recently saw the hottest September on record.



La Niña is only expected to bring similar dryness to southern regions.

“With La Niña well established and expected to persist through the upcoming 2020 winter season, we anticipate the typical, cooler, wetter North, and warmer, drier South, as the most likely outcome of winter weather that the U.S. will experience this year,” said Mike Halpert, deputy director of NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center.

The South will also be the primary recipient of the higher temperatures, with a warm winter likely to stretch from the Southwest to the Southeast of the U.S., running down to the Gulf Coast.

Other regions, like the Mid-Atlantic, the Northeast and the southern parts of the West Coast, are expected to see more modest warmer temperatures, along with Hawaii and parts of Alaska.

The only states expected to see below-average winter temperatures are the ones located from the Pacific Northwest into the Northern Plains, as well as for southern Alaska.

©2020 National Weather Service
Published on Oct 16, 2020

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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

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REACT International Event Calendar

NOVEMBER 2020

1.....REACTer Published
1.....**Daylight Savings Time Ends**
3.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
7.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
10.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
14.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
15.....Deadline for December REACTer
17.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
21.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
24.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
26.....**Thanksgiving Day (US)**
28.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)

DECEMBER 2020

1.....REACTer Published
1.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
5.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
8.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
12.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
15.....Deadline for January REACTer
15.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
19.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
22.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
24.....**Christmas Eve**
25.....**Christmas**
26.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
29.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
31.....**New Years Eve**

JANUARY 2021

1.....REACTer Published
1.....**New Year's Day**
2.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
5.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
9.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
12.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
15.....Deadline for February REACTer
16.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
19.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
23.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
26.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
30.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)

FEBRUARY 2021

1.....REACTer Published
2.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
6.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
9.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
13.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
14.....**Valentine's Day**
15.....Deadline for March REACTer
16.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
20.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
23.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
27.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)

MARCH 2021

1.....REACTer Published
2.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
6.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
9.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
13.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
14.....**Daylight Savings Time Begins**
17.....**St. Patty's Day**
15.....Deadline for April REACTer
16.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
20.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
23.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
27.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
30.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)

APRIL 2021

1.....REACTer Published
1.....**April Fools Day**
3.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
4.....**Easter Sunday**
6.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
10.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
13.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
17.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
18.....Editor's Birthday (Be nice.It ain't easy being old!)
20.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)
24.....Zello World Wide Net (8:00 p.m. ET)
27.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)

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

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



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