

THE
REACT
ER
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF REACT INTERNATIONAL, INC.

THANKSGIVING



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

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<http://www.NatComMag.com>

Editor's Position

REACT International is looking for a Editor for The *REACT*er! This position offers a nominal salary, which will be determined at the time of hire. The successful candidate will have excellent writing skills, the ability to collect information and news, particularly Team News, for the magazine, and be able to work either with Adobe InDesign, Adobe Page-maker. The *REACT*er is the primary communications tool between the members and *REACT* International and so plays a very important part in the organization.

Contact *REACT* International Office at (301) 316-2900 or email at RI.HQ@REACTIntl.org



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John Capodanno
Editor

DEADLINE: 15th of the Month prior to publication (i.e: November 15th for December 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 *REACT*er can be emailed to: editor@theREACTer.com

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

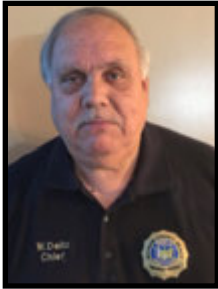
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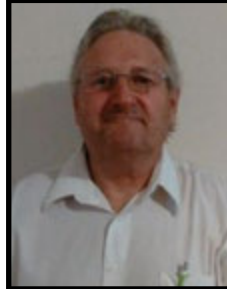


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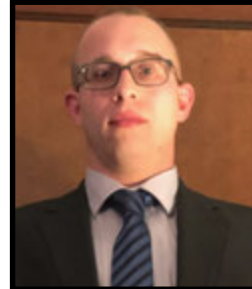


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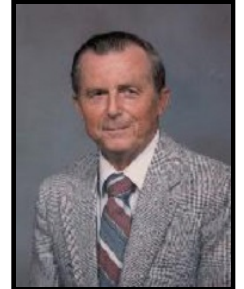
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To request a course book or to take course exams go to this address: <https://reactintl.org/course> For additional information send a message to training@reactintl.org

Southex Expo - Promoting REACT

Submitted by: Ravindranath “Robby” Goswami, 9Z4RG/NZ4RG, Region 9 Director

REACT may be considered by some as one of the best-kept secrets when it comes to emergency and disaster communications volunteers. *REACT* in Trinidad and Tobago has put its shoulder to the wheel and mounted a promotional display to get the word out about the organization, with the target audience being those who may wish to utilize the services provided, and, perhaps more importantly a way to recruit new members.

Southex is an annual expo that takes place at the Gulf City Mall in the southern City of San Fernando, Trinidad. *REACT* has participated in the expo in prior years as it allowed the organization to demonstrate its capability in the area of emergency communications with our motto of “*Public Service Through Communications*”.

This year the event took place from the 5th – 9th of October 2022, and *REACT* Team 6007 took up the challenge to put on the display. As the pictures show, the effort was an excellent one, with a very professionally built display mounted to showcase some of the history of the organization, its purpose, equipment used, and other information for visitors to learn about radio communications.



Features of the display included different types of transceivers and antennas, a multimedia display with slide shows of *REACT* activities, loops of morse code audio, and recorded two-way radio transmissions. *REACT* signage, and many lighting props were also used quite effectively to highlight the display.

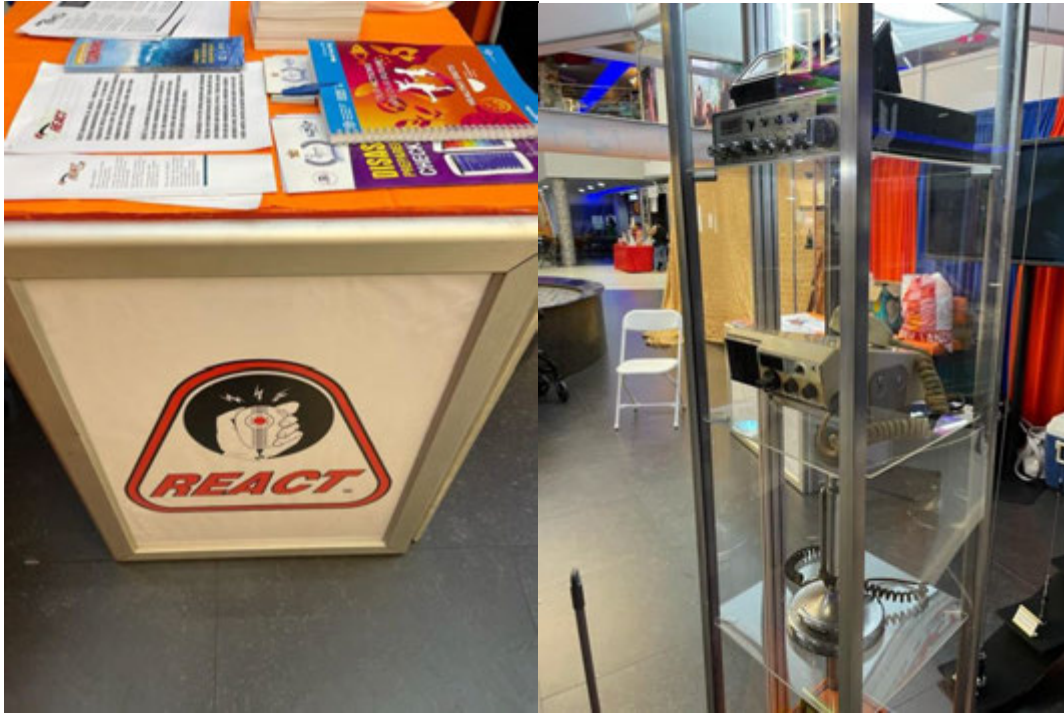
Several flyers about how to join *REACT*, available training courses, information on disaster preparedness as well as installing Zello for the public to interact with *REACT*, were some of the features available for visitors. In addition, other giveaways were part of the items distributed to persons that stopped by.

A visitors log enabled the gathering of contacts for persons who were interested in further information and possibly volunteering to become *REACT*ers. *REACT* members were present to demonstrate various aspects of radio operations and to answer any questions that visitors may have.



The Team was led by President Anwar Mondol, *REACT* Unit 701 and along with Technical Officer Faizul Mohammed, *REACT* Unit 708, who spared no effort to ensure a beautiful display and a successful event.

Several members of Team 6007 and their families, as well as associates, pitched in generously towards creating an ideal display in a very short time frame.



Members from other Teams also assisted in various ways. Neil Jones, *REACT* Unit 629, President of Team 6006, as well as several members of the Team, were also involved in assisting over the period. The opportunity for the booth was provided by Krishnan Seukeran, *REACT* Unit 112 of Team 2496, and this is the third year in which he has facilitated such an arrangement through Southex.





There were many visitors to the booth over the five days that the event took place. Feedback from persons was generally positive, with lots of commendation received on the display and information presented. Several persons expressed an interest in joining *REACT*, which should augur well for the organization.

Everyone involved must be commended for all the work, including long hours spent, some of which were done in the background. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to all who made this possible and thank them for an excellent job.

Let's continue to promote *REACT*!

Southern MN Albert Lea REACT Big Island Rendezvous

On Oct. 9th Southern MN Albert Lea REACT Team's meeting, recognized Volunteers for helping us at the Big Island Rendezvous and Festival by parking Public on Sat. & Sunday at the Freeborn cnty Fairgrounds Oct. 1st & 2nd. Thankyou to our volunteers and 9 Southern MN Albert Lea REACT Team members.



Building A Small Manpack-Portable Station

Article and Photos By John Wright, Southwestern REACT

The saga of the ever-shrinking go-kit

The Beginings:

Several years back, I walked into a Home Depot after attending an ARES meeting where the topic of discussion was go-kits or go-boxes. Right in the middle of the floor was a display of three tiered wheeled tool boxes. My first impression was “These would be great for a go-box.” Needless to say, I walked out of the store with one.

Not knowing any better, I went overboard in my construction of my first go-box. I threw in almost everything but the kitchen sink, and I probably would have included one if it had fit...

For the radio, I chose a Yaesu FT-7900R, only because I had a spare one. I also included a small 25 watt Henry 2-meter amplifier to boost the output of an HT. The biggest mistake I made was the battery. In my quest for large capacity, I purchased a 94Ah flooded lead acid deep cycle marine battery. Rather than go into the details of construction, go to <https://thewrightstuff.smugmug.com/Amateur-Ham-Radio/Go-Kit-Build/> to see how it was put together.

I soon discovered that this kit was only practical if I could set up within a reasonable distance of my truck and I didn't have to haul the thing over rough terrain. While it worked well, I decided I needed a lighter, more portable alternative.

Iteration Two:

When I replaced the other FT-7900R in my truck with a Yaesu Fusion radio, it seemed like a good time to investigate a more portable go-box solution. This time, I took a trio of military steel ammunition cans to build the kit. The radio went into one, batteries and a charger into another and a third, smaller can held accessories, such as a roll-up J pole antenna, coax, etc. See the build pictures at <https://thewrightstuff.smugmug.com/Amateur-Ham-Radio/Ammo-Can-Go-Kit-Build/>.

This kit worked very well, but was still a bit awkward as nature didn't see fit to grace me with a prehensile tail to carry that third ammo can.

Iteration Three:

Then along comes COVID, leaving me with little to fight the boredom of being cooped up in the house. In my prowlings about the net, I came across an interesting design for a go-kit power box built by another ham. As I love a good project, I thought this would be a good

time to re-imagine the ammo can go kit. I bought the requisite parts and proceeded to rebuild the ammo can kit into a pair of Harbor Freight plastic ammo boxes. This time, the radio was a Yaesu FTM-350AR, which replaced the FT-7900R, which was subsequently sold.

Pictures are at: <https://thewrightstuff.smugmug.com/Amateur-Ham-Radio/Go-Kit-Rebuild/>.

Iteration 4:

This brings us to the present. I've always wanted to build a go-kit into a backpack for additional portability but those type of setups usually require rails to protect the radio from bumps and bruises. Most of the rails I saw on the market were for the so-called “shack-in-a-box” radios, such as the smaller HF/VHF/UHF rigs from Yaesu and iCom. Nobody seemed to make a rail kit for the average dual band mobile radio. Until a month ago...

I was prowling YouTube and came across an individual billing himself as the “Tech Prepper.” While I don't ascribe to the prepper philosophy, this person was a builder of manpack portable setups. He was using rails from a company called “Armoloq.” To my delight, I discovered this company made a rail set for the Yaesu FT-7900R (there's that radio again) and I just happened to have one sitting in a unused go-box in the shed. Armoloq also has relocation kits for the coax connector and external speaker connection on the radio.

All this gradually morphed into another go-kit. I started with the FT-7900R and the rail kit, followed by a small (Ah) Bioenno LiFePo battery. I already had one of their batteries with a charger in another kit, so I didn't purchase another charger. I had a couple of false starts on trying to find a suitable bag or pack for this setup, but finally located one on Amazon. (A list of parts is at the end of the article.) With the addition of a strap to hold a small coil of coax and a roll-up J-Pole antenna, the kit is ready to go. The kit is based on the supposition there will be a place to hang the antenna at the operating location.

Parts List:

- Yaesu FT-7900R Dual-Band mobile radio
- Armoloq TPS-7879 Rail Kit
<https://www.armoloq.com/>
- Bioenno 12V 6Ah LiFePo battery
- <https://www.bioennopower.com/>

- QT&QT Tactical Sling Bag
<https://www.amazon.com/>
- N9TAX dual-band roll-up J-Pole Antenna
<https://n9taxlabs.com/shop/ols/products/dual-band-2m-70cm-standard-antenna>

Build Pictures



Figure 1: Yaesu FT-7900R dual-band radio



Figure 4: SO-239 bulkhead connector attached to ARMOLOQ mounting bracket



Figure 2: ARMOLOQ TPA-7879 rails



Figure 5: Speaker connection attached to ARMOLOQ bracket.



Figure 3: Another view of the ARMOLOQ rails



Figure 6: ARMOLOQ rails with SO-239 and speaker connectors mounted

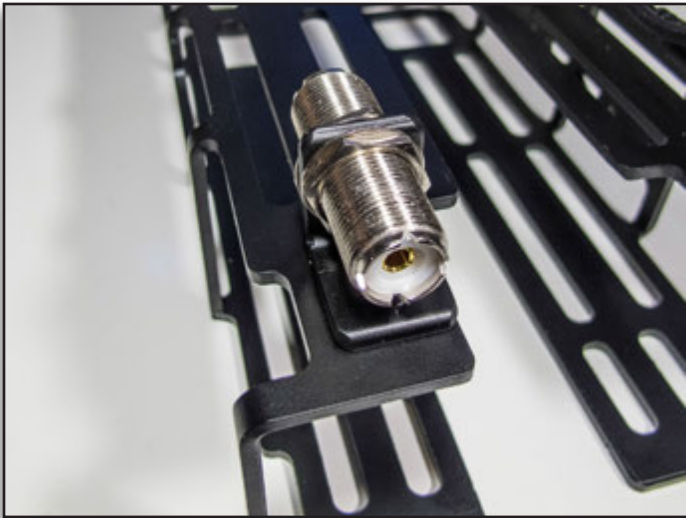


Figure 7: SO-239 bulkhead connector mounted to the rails.



Figure 10: Radio and rail combination ready for operation.



Figure 8: Speaker connector mounted to the rails



Figure 11: Addition of flip-down feet to elevate radio to a more comfortable operating position.



Figure 9: FT-7900R radio with rails attached.



Figure 12: Top view of radio and rails.



Figure 13: Bioenno 6Ah LiFePo battery



Figure 14: N9TAX dual-band roll-up J-Pole antenna (L) and 25 ft length of RG-8U coax (R)



Figure 15: QT&QY Tactical Sling Bag, back view.



Figure 16: QT&QY Tactical Sling Bag, front view.



Figure 17: QT&QY Tactical Sling Bag with antenna and coax attached. Ready to deploy, total weight 8 lbs.

REACT Traffic System Team Activity Briefing

San Angelo REACT Inc. (Texas)

Forwarded by: REACT Traffic System Watch Officer



The San Angelo REACT Team works closely with the Office of Emergency Management as well as with city, county, state, and federal agencies. San Angelo REACT also works cooperatively with many other agencies as requested, such as the American Red Cross, volunteer fire departments, the Amateur Radio Club, the San Angelo Emergency Corps, the Salvation Army, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the National Weather Service, Goodfellow Air Force Base, the Civil Air Patrol, local hospitals, and all area school districts to make our city and county as disaster-resistant as possible.



Message ID: 5F4ZL4AIZ0KV

Date: 2022/10/31 21:18

From: KC7LOX

To: w5jdo; KB3UEZ

Cc: King Walker Traffic 742

Source: KC7LOX

Subject: ARES FSD157-Special Exercise-VETERANS DRIVE BETWEEN IRVING STREET AND 14TH STREET

1. Nature of Activity: [Special Exercise]
2. Description of Activity: DIRECTED TRAFFIC FOR A 'FUN' RUN
3. Places or Areas Involved: VETERANS DRIVE BETWEEN IRVING STREET AND 14TH STREET, SAN ANGELO
4. Number of Amateurs Participating: 8
5. Event START Date/Time: 20221029 0730
6. Event END Date/Time: 20221029 1000
7. Event Duration in Hours: 2.5
8. Total Person Hours: 20
9. Number of Repeaters Used: 1
10. Estimated Staffing Cost: 3040.00
11. Estimated Equipment Cost: 4800.00
12. Total Cost of Service: 7840.00
13. Nets and/or Frequencies Used & Repeater Call Signs: 462.675 KAC3030

14. Number of Messages Handled: 4

15. Names of Agencies Receiving Support: SAPD, SA TFC DEPT.

16. Calls Signs of Amateurs as Major Participants: KB5RRP, KC5CNH, N5ZIX, KE5EFU, KC7LOX, KE5TXL, UNITS 5 AND 16.



REACT Warning Team (California)

Forwarded by: REACT Traffic System Watch Officer



The mission of REACT International Warning Team 6247 is to support emergency communication and coordination between REACT Teams, REACT International Headquarters, and supported emergency response and relief organizations by: Operating a traffic handling system to receive, transmit, and deliver formal messages in standard formats to support disaster communications. Supporting training for REACT members in disaster messaging through the use of the traffic handling system. Providing alerting and warning messages to and receiving situation reports from REACT Teams during disaster exercises and actual major emergencies and disasters. Operating alternate communications pathways in disasters for supported organizations.



The Warning Team, South Central Kansas REACT, and San Angelo REACT Team including their County Emergency Management representative participated in the Great Kansas Region 7 Earthquake Exercise on October 20th. This is a nationwide exercise involving volunteers throughout the nation using. Using any communications mode available. The REACT Traffic System participated as an AUXCOMM asset providing both HF radio frequency and RF to digital Echolink and Winlink message handling and a stand-by net.

Below is some of the message traffic passed using all three modes. The messages were transmitted digitally and the radiogram was passed by voice on HF Radio 12.277 and Echolink simultaneously.

Message ID: BF5PLAYXBGK9

Date: 2022/10/20 12:46

From: KB3UEZ

To: All REACT International Traffic Handlers

Cc: training@reactintl.org

Source: KB3UEZ

Subject: 213-EXCERCISE REACT GREAT SHAKE 22-EXCERCISE REACT GREAT SHAKE OUT 2022 - 2022-1

GENERAL MESSAGE (ICS 213)

REACT International Traffic System

- 1. Incident Name: EXCERCISE REACT GREAT SHAKEOUT 22
- 2. To (Name and Position): REACT Traffic Stations
- 3. From (Name and Position): Paxson REACT Operations
- 4. Subject: EXCERCISE REACT GREAT SHAKE OUT 2022
- 5. Date: 2022-10-20
- 6. Time: 0800CDT
- 7. Message:
EXERCISE

Standy-by Net has begun on the REACT International Echolink conference server *REACT* or Echolink Node 109779 to pass message traffic.

This is the message that you should pass to Net Control KB3UEZ

EXERCISE WXONET TRAFFIC 711 REPORTS A LARGE EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS ALL INFRASTRUCTURE IS DEDESTROYED REQUESTING A TYPE 4 COMMUNICATIONS TEAM. EXERCISE

What you need to do:

"Send Message as a radiogram to KB3UEZ using your own preamble and signature with REACT your tactical Call Sign on the Echolink Conference Server.

8. Approved by: PAXSON TRAFFIC 422 Position/Title: REACT Traffic System Manager

REACT INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM RADIOGRAM
ALL MODE RF VOICE

| NUMBER | FREQUENCY | MODE | STATION OR ORIGIN | CLASS | PLANE OF ORIGIN | TIME FILED | DATE FILED |
|--------|-----------|------|-------------------|-------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| 213 | EXCERCISE | HF | W9JNC | 25 | REACT | 0800CDT | 10/20 |

To: LAUFANGLAWNET TRAFFIC 711

From: PAXSON REACT OPERATIONS

Date: 2022-10-20

| REACT | TRAFFIC | SYSTEM | HAS | THRU |
|--------|---------|----------------|-----------|--------|
| TYPE | 4 | COMMUNICATIONS | TEAM | N |
| PLEASE | ADVISE | FLR TRK | WITH | A |
| RESCUE | REQUEST | ON | FREQUENCY | IN |
| END | 277 | OK | W9JNC | KB3UEZ |

Signature: PAXSON REACT OPERATIONS

Received: From: Date: Time: Sent: To: Date: Time:

A licensed Amateur Radio Operator whose address is shown above handled this message free of charge. All such messages are handled solely in the presence of operating. If their operator can attend no compensation. A return message can be filed with the ham delivering this message if you. Further information on Amateur Radio may be obtained from ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

The American Radio Relay League, Inc. is the National Voluntary Society of licensed radio amateurs and the publisher of QST Magazine. One of its functions is promotion of public service communication among Amateur Operators. To that end, the League has organized the National Traffic System for daily nationwide message handling. ARRL Form #100-2 Radiogram was adopted in March 2008 by the REACT International Traffic System with some modifications which include a provision to include a Tactical Call Sign and the "Station Op Mode" as described in the ARRL 99th REACT Form #100-2.1. (Historical Copyright REACT International 2021)

Training For the Future

Kirk Paxson

Chairman, REACT Training Committee



Training Completions

During October these REACT Members Successfully Completed our training courses totaling 90 Hours of Continuing Education Credits. Congratulations to:

Rex Endicott – 102 Introduction to Land Search and Rescue
Carol Ann Johnson – 109B Messages – ICS 213 General Messages
Tanner Maughan – 110 Deployment Awareness
Ryan Tracie – 110 Deployment Awareness
Ward Lipscomb – 110 Deployment Awareness
David KUNETKA – 110 Deployment Awareness
Sean Rutherford – 110 Deployment Awareness
Rodney Youngblood – 110 Deployment Awareness
Jonathan Cook – 110 Deployment Awareness
Mike Roe – 110 Deployment Awareness

REACT Courses

As a benefit to *REACT* Members *REACT* International publishes training courses on a wide variety of topics related to emergency communications and team management. Each course consists of an independent study text and an online examination. Successful completion of the examination 70% or higher results in an award of a course certificate and continuing education units (the national standard recognition for professional training in a non-academic setting). The following courses are available:

- 101 Emergency Communications - An in-depth coverage of the theory, equipment, and operating practices for emergency communications in Amateur and Personal Radio Services.
- 102 Introduction to Land Search and Rescue - Introduces the member to procedures used during searches for missing persons and to the detection of and search for electronic distress beacons.

- 103B Protecting Personal and Sensitive Information - Provides guidelines for the protection of personal information and operationally sensitive information during emergency operations.
- 103C Using the Zello Voice Traffic and Operations Nets - Covers technical procedures for installation and use of the Zello Internet radio application for emergency communications nets.
- 104 Monitoring – An in-depth coverage of procedures for monitoring emergency communications frequencies and handling calls for assistance or reports of emergency situations by the general public and by emergency beacons.
- 105 Introduction to Net Operations – Introduces the member to the functions, procedures, and types of formal emergency communications nets.
- 106B Family Radio Service – An introduction to the use of Family Radio Service radios for emergency communications, including relevant radio theory, and the current FCC rules for this service.
- 109A Messages – The Radiogram – An in-depth coverage of the format and content of the international standard Amateur Radio radiogram as used in emergency communications.
- 109B Messages – ICS 213 General Message – An in-depth coverage of the format and content of the ICS 213 message, including the use of standard templates for ICS 213 messages.
- 110 Deployment Awareness – Introduces members to how and when a Team deploys to do work in major emergencies and disasters and to the challenges of working in the disaster environment.
- 111 Basics of Drills and Exercises – Introduces the member to the types, purposes, and composition of exercises that can be used for training at the Team level and to REACT’s ALERTEX series of online international exercises.
- 113 Disaster Basics – An overview of the most common types of disasters that REACT Teams may experience and the hazards and impacts these events generate that may influence how response and recovery operations are conducted.
- 114 Alerting – A description of REACT International’s emergency alerting system and guidelines for Teams in establishing their own alerting systems for emergency response.
- 115 The Emergency Operations Plan – Describes the role and functions of emergency operations plans in guiding response and addresses the process Teams should use in writing a Team Emergency Operations Plan.
- 116 Introduction to Net Control – Introduces the member to the role of Net Control Stations in managing effective radio communications in disasters and addresses the Net Control Station’s duties and procedures.
- 117 Spot Reporting – Covers how, when, and to whom to report weather and disaster impacts using short reports and the radiogram format.
- 120 REACT Traffic System Operator Basic Familiarization – Provides an overview of how REACT’s system for originating, transmitting and delivering alerts, warnings, and formal messages functions.

To request a single course book please send your request to training@reactintl.org with your full name and your *REACT* member ID Number

REACT International

EMCOMM & AUXCOMM

Tuesday Evening Training & Social Net

World-Wide All-Mode Net

You are invited to the REACT International All Mode Net. You do not need to be a REACT member to listen in or participate in comradeship and friendship of this weekly net.

ALL are welcome use:

- **Echolink Nodes 109779, 336037**
- **DMR talkgroup 3740**
- **Check-In using Winlink at REACT@winlink.org.**

Every Week on Tuesdays at 9pm Eastern U.S.



**Public Service
Through Communications**



Seeking Volunteers from around the World to serve their communities.

Annual Board Meeting

JANUARY 23/2023



REACT

INTERNATIONAL, INC.



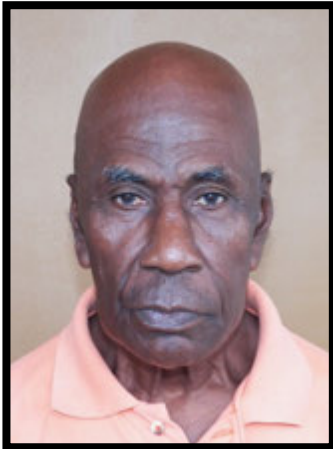
Silent Mics



It is with a heavy heart that we inform the *REACT* Family of the passing of these members

George Kalicharan

1935-2022



It is indeed with deep and tremendous sadness that we inform you of the passing of another one of REACT Team 4928's dear members, and one of REACT's elders in Trinidad & Tobago, the late George Kalicharan (R2152), who left us on the 23rd October 2022, after ailing for some time.

The passing of Mr. Kalicharan is a solemn, numbing loss for REACT, and a tremendous and significant loss for the steelpan fraternity in Trinidad & Tobago.

Affectionately known as Yoyo, and also known as Pan Maestro, he was renowned as one of our country's longest-serving steelpan tuners, and was an avid lover of the instrument and its music.

He was truly loved and respected by many pan tuners, arrangers, and players alike.

George was one of the members of Boys Town Steel Orchestra, a defunct steelband from Point Cumana, who won the first Steelband Music Festival in 1952.

In 2012, He was among former members of the band who were honored at the Pan Connoisseurs Pan Theater in St. James, in commemoration of the band's 1952 victory.

At the 4th Annual Pan On D' Avenue parade, held in 2015 along Ariapita Avenue, Woodbrook, George Kalicharan was one of fifteen steelpan tuners who were honored for their contributions to the artform.

Mr. Kalicharan has for many years been admired as a REACTer, and respected for his knowledge of steelpan music.

As a radio operator, and a member of REACT, George was always eager and willing to offer his services for events, and to go out and assist others during emergencies.

He was a true REACTer to the bone, and would always proudly be attired in REACT apparel, and even his motor vehicle, radio equipment, etc., would be adorned with decals and other REACT insignia, along with his callsign.

The funeral service for the late George Kalicharan was held on Monday, 31st October 2022.

DEATH...

leaves a heartache no one can heal;

LOVE...

leaves a memory no can steal.



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?

So Easy, even a caveman could do it! (sorry, Geico, I couldn't resist)



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!**



Amateur Radio



CQ the Active Ham's Magazine

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