

The Official Publication of REACT International, Inc.
September 2017

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NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

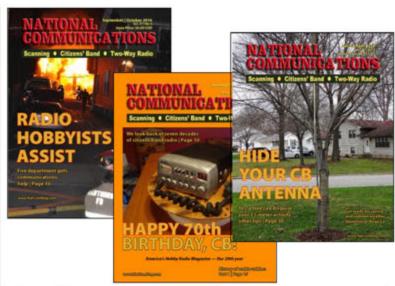
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The *REACT*er (ISSN 1055-9167) is the official publication of *REACT* International, Inc., a non-profit public service corporation.

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Proofreading and Correction

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

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A Word from the Editor Will Stanley

September... ah, yes.. the beginning of my favorite season - Fall. I love the leaves changing colors, the beautiful weather - not too cold, not too hot and sometimes with just a bite of chill in the evening air. Taking a walk in the early evening then coming home to a cup of hot cocoa. No other other time in the year like it!

Usually I try to say something inspiring here or maybe just an opinion or two but this month all I really want to say is welcome to the first year anniversary of YOUR All-New *REACT*er!

Yes, it has been a year since I took over the reins of this magazine. I like to think I have made some positive changes. I hear from people all the time that The *REACT*er is the best one they've seen in years and I appreciate hearing that.

You know, excellence is not a destination, it is a journey. Perfection is the destination and we're not there just yet. I don't know that we ever will be, but I will be trying my best to deliver a quality magazine to you each and every month!



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From the Corner of the Room

Joe Zych REACT World Wide Net Controller

Greetings! As you read this, the hurricane has passed by and the damage has been done. What a mess!

I contacted as many of the teams in my Region 3 as possible. Tampa Bay area was in the bad spot and a target. The mechanics of this hurricane were very interesting and the bay was sucked dry from the pulling force of the storm and then the water returned.

The teams on the east coast of Florida I made contact with were ready in place and did some great planning, They have been there before. The power outages are still in the high numbers and this also takes out most cell phone sites so CB radio is a great too, as it was in Hurricane Matthew.

REACT International started with CB radios and we still use them today, but not near as many are in use.

Being a REACT
Team, you are
required to
monitor and use
CB radio. When



your team fills out your paperwork each year you have to check a box that states you monitor CB radio this is what gives us our 501(c)3 status.

The Star Mountain *REACT* team in Tennessee has a CB channel 3 net each and every

Saturday at 6:30 p.m, then at 7:00 p.m each Saturday we have our regular club net using one of the *REACT* International assigned radio frequencies.

Communication and practicing with your team each week or even two times a month is vital, so when an emergency comes up you are seasoned in the proper way to communicate using a radio net format.

Amateur radio and Zello are also great tools for communication, but Zello needs a cell signal and if there isn't one, it does not work. Citizen Band radios can be found for \$5.00 at a yard sale or flea market. Get one for your car, get one for your home.

The 18 wheeler's are your best friend during an emergency they are traveling the major highways and you can relay information and if you need help for a medical emergency they can get the message through.

In closing......if you are reading this article then you have a good email address. We have more than half of the *REACT* membership with old, changed or outdated email addresses. Please check with your team members and ask them if they are getting this beautiful informational *REACT* er monthly publication.

REACT is an emergency radio communication group, if we cannot get in touch with our own membership, we have failed the purpose of the organization and failed the communities we are supposed to help during emergencies.

Until next time have a REACTING DAY!





Cleveland County REACT

(North Carolina)
Submitted by Jay Flora

On 8/05/2017 Chief Jay Flora and Sam Richardson of Cleveland County *REACT* in Shelby, NC went to help Shelby Police Department Park Cars at the 5th Annual 7th Inning Stretch Festival Staring Charlie Daniels.

Officer David Gemes of the Shelby Police Department put Jay and Sam in charge of the Shelby Police Explorers. Jay had a group of Explorers working handicap parking at the Home Trust Bank parking Lot and Sam had a group of Explorers working the Wells Fargo Bank handicap parking Lot.



The Shelby Police Explorers and REACT work very well together. Officer Danielle Brown stopped by to say Hi. Photo by Jay Flora

We worked parking from 3:00 p.m. until 8:45 p.m. and then all but Sam went to the Shelby Police Command Post to watch Charlie Daniels play. Sam had a long day helping, so he went home to rest.



Madison Finger, A.J. Jones, Cesareo Chaves, Officer David Gemes, Justin Clary Shelby Police Explorers, Jay Flora and Sam Richardson of Cleveland County REACT. Photo by Jay Flora



Front row L to R Jay Flora Cleveland County REACT, and Justin Clary, Cesareo Chavez, Madison Finger all of the Shelby Police Explorers. Lower row L to R Officer David Gemes, A.J. Jones all of the Shelby Police Explorers, Sam Richardson Cleveland County REACT. Photo by Jay Flora

Jay stayed until it was finished; around 11:30 p.m. The Shelby Police Chief and all the officers thanked Jay and Sam for coming out to help.



Country star Charlie Daniels performing at the 2017 7th Inning Stretch in Shelby, NC. Photo by Jay Flora.

Cleveland County *REACT* will be Helping Shelby Police with Parking at the 2017 Cleveland County Fair Sep-28 to Oct-8th 2017, also will be assisting with the 2017 Shelby Christmas Parade.

Cleveland County *REACT* in Shelby, NC stays busy helping Shelby Police all year long with a variety of functions, including assisting with traffic at accidents, fires, parades, and the county fair. The Team basically assists Shelby Police wherever needed to free up officers to stay in service for calls.

City officials tell us Cleveland County *REACT* is a big help to the City of Shelby Police Department and to the Community at large. We are happy to be of service!

Southwestern *REACT*

(California)

Submitted by Michael Bailey

As *REACT* Team members, we are expert communicators and share those skills with community and government organizations to support special events.



SW REACT members participating in a practice drill

With terrorist attacks, accidents, and natural disasters that can occur with the blink of an eye, we may be called up to be first responders.

Because we carry radios and wear a uniform, people will automatically turn to us for aid, assistance, and information. We may have to pivot from radio operator to first responder in the first moments of a crisis.

You are more than a communications expert, you can be a lifesaver!!

Flagler County Assist REACT

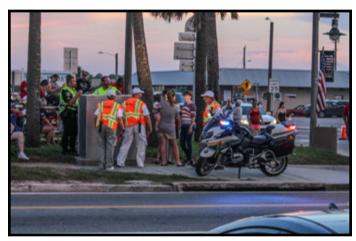
(Florida)

Submitted by Howard Pepper

While most Americans were waking up to begin their Fourth of July festivities, the members of *REACT* team 4800 in Flagler County Florida were just getting started on what would be a very long day for them.



Team 4800 has been assisting the Flagler Beach police department, in one way or another, with the "Fabulous Fourth" event since 1986.



This event consists of a parade in the morning, followed by a fireworks display in the evening. The team's current involvement includes assisting with the parade line-up, starting before 8:00 AM, followed by crowd and traffic assistance during and after the parade.





Beginning around 6:00 PM, team members rove around Flagler Beach, enforcement assisting law bγ providing a visible presence around the town, and reporting problems (overly beveraged revelers, fights, etc...), ensuring the majority of

attendees have a good experience.

Just before the fireworks start, the team members arrive at their assigned posts to provide crowd and traffic



assistance after the fireworks show is over, to protect the pedestrians making their way on and off the beach, and around town, and to control the flow the traffic out of Flagler Beach as smoothly as possible.

By the time traffic resumes its normal flow, it is well past 11:00 PM. After a quick debrief, the tired, sore, and sunburned team members finally depart, another "Fabulous Fourth" completed event safely

successfully.

Magic Valley REACT

(Idaho)

Submitted by Tom Jenkins

Since the last time we posted the Magic Valley *REACT* Team has been very busy.

Beginning with July 1st, Doug Griffith and Tom Goodman assisted with a fireworks display in Jerome, Idaho. Then for the Fourth of July fireworks display in Buhl, Idaho, the Team provided security around the display area. The next busy item was during the Sprint boat Races done in Burley, Idaho, on the 15th of July when the Team helped with security and traffic control around the perimeter of

the racing area. This event is provided by Warp Racing go to their web site. (warpracing.net)

On August 5th, they had another Sprint Boat Race where Tom Jenkins assistant Region 6 Director for REACT Intl. Inc., came up and assisted The Team. Tom spoke with Steve Noriyuki, and Steven Noriyuki Jr., who said they were very



Steve Noriyuki Jr.

for the assistance the Magic Valley

Tom was able to enter the pit area where he spoke with Kyle Patrick and Amanda



Kyle Patrick and Amanda Vestal, Pilot and navigator of Sprint Boat #151

Vestal, the driver and navigator of the fastest boat, #151 called PSYCHO.



Darrin Swindahl **Bandit Racing**

The driver of the yellow boat from Bandit Racing was Darrin

Swindahl. Tom was able to sit behind the wheel of that boat.

August 5th was a day for dual events. Besides doing the Boat race, the Team also went to Castleford, Idaho and

WORLDWIDE REACT INTERNATIONAL ZELLO NET

PLEASE JOIN US

EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT AT

9PM EST (DURING DAYLIGHT SAVINGS)

ON THE

REACT MEMBERS

ZELLO CHANNEL

ALL COMMUNICATORS ARE WELCOME

NO LICENSE IS REQUIRED.
USE YOUR INTERNET-CONNECTED COMPUTER OR SMARTPHONE.

Zello is available from http://zello.com











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

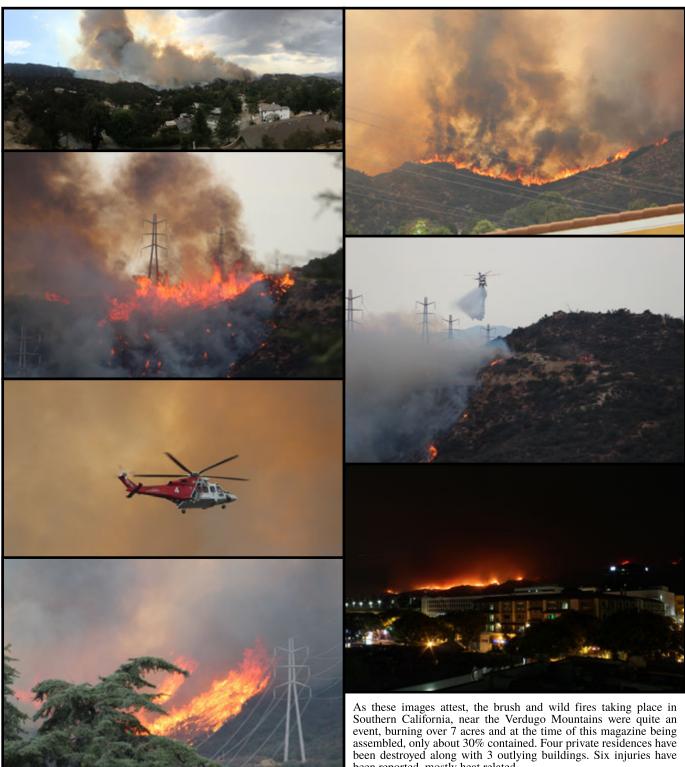
Press the Push-to-Talk button to transmit.

Hurricane Harvey Strikes Texas and Louisiana Coasts

Volunteers from all over the country swarm to area to help



Los Angeles County California **Faces Down Wildfires**



August/September 2017
Photographs by Will Richards and Matt Misetich

been reported, mostly heat related.

These fires are still burning as of publication time. Some of the fires got close to REACT International headquarters in Glendale. Businesses and residents in that area were put on alert with instructions to be ready to evacuate if necessary.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

REACTer to change Publication Dates

Deadline and publication dates will be changing for The *REACTer*, starting with the November issue.

The October issue will remain with a deadline of October 8th and a publication date of October 15th, but the deadline date for the November issue will be October 23rd, for a publication date of November 1st.

The reason for the change is so that the *REACT*er can start being published on the first of each month. Being published on the 15th of each month meant that some information in the magazine might be out of date (such as National *REACT* Month info) by the time the magazine is published online.

All other details of the magazine will remain the same.

Letters to the Editor
Send your letters to the editor to
editor@thereacter.com



Hi Will,

Really nice to receive this newsletter from *REACT*. It's been a long time. I had forgotten about the web page and I look forward to reading some of the past issues. Here in Tucson we had a pretty active *REACT* Team in the mid 1980's. I want to say it was C-178 or something like that but I don't recall for sure. Some place on an old hard drive I probably have a scan of my old ID card HA HA. Back then I was working nights so I was one of the few late night monitors.

The advent of the cellphone has really altered the public's perception of emergency communications. It used to be an auto-patch on HAM radio was a thing of amazement. Now everyone has a computer in their shirt pocket and think noting of it until it fails them for some reason. I was a member of RACES for almost 20 years as well.

Stuart KSN-8742 & KA7FNQ Tucson AZ

Good to hear from you, Stuart! Thanks for the good words, and I hope you do set up again. If you want to start a team down there, contact R.I. and they can get

you the paperwork. It's easy!

Will

Dear Editor,

How about an article listing new teams?

Norman Kaplan Federal City *REACT*

Great idea, Norm! We ran a small piece in my first issue back in September. I think it's time for another one!

Will

Dear Editor,

I just recently started reading the *REACT*er again after several years. What a nice surprise! I pretty much gave up on the *REACT*er several years ago when it seemed like it was only being published when someone had a few minutes to sit down and type something up.

The *REACT*er, when I first joined back in the late 80's, was supposed to be published every two months. It then went to every three months and then started being published basically whenever. I gave up on it. There were so many other places where I could get *REACT* news and information that I just didn't see a need to wait for a magazine that was going to contain months old news when I finally got it.

Congratulations on bringing the *REACT*er back to a magazine that we, as members, can find useful again!

Wayne KAMN3919

Hello Wayne!

Thanks for the good words! You are right, the *REACT*er went through some tough times in the past three years or so. Finding someone who wanted to invest the necessary time to produce a useful publication was a full time chore for the Board. While the people that were doing the job did good work, the sporadic nature of the publishing schedule ran a bunch of members off. Like you, they got tired of getting a magazine in which the information and news was months old at best and sometimes older.

That's why I decided right at the beginning that we were going to be a monthly magazine and if teams, members, Councils, etc. sent in material, it would be published!

I hope to continue doing the job the members appreciate and, indeed, making it even better!

Will



Training is essential

Walter Green Lt. Col., USAF, ret

Walter Green is a former President of High Country REACT (Colorado) and the Colorado Council, is former chair of the R.I. CB/Amateur radio Committee, retired from the US Air Force after 24 years as Lieutenant Colonel, Master Air Weapons Controller and Airborne Battle Management Director. He retired from Commonwealth of Virginia as Director of Emergency Operations, Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services, and retired from the University of Richmond as Associate Professor of Emergency Management and chair of the undergraduate and graduate emergency Management and Disaster Science degree programs, was a graduate in the first class of FEMA's Master Trainer program. He now runs a fencing school training elite athletes.

Let's talk about training!

- (1) We have updated and reissued the old Search Teams course as Introduction to Land Search and Rescue. The course text is now on the website under the Training pull down.
- Testing (2) for both **Emergency** Communications and Introduction to Land Search and Rescue is now online. When you are ready to test. contact Training@REACT intl.org for the specific URL for your test and the test pass code. When you finish the test you will receive immediate feedback with your score and the correct answers to all questions for your review. An appropriate certificate will follow.
- (3) We are now awarding Continuing Education Units (CEU) for all of our online training. CEUs are a national standard way

of documenting adult professional learning that is conducted outside the traditional college environment.

MESSAGES: remember You Ron may McCracken's comments on messages in emergencies in the June issue. Starting this month we are developing a training program to familiarize our members with formal message traffic. This will include both the American Radio Relay League/International Amateur Radio Union and the Incident Command System ICS Form 213 message (and its Canadian equivalent). The first steps are:

- ... development of a bulletin board system to train in preparation of messages and their delivery – this is complete and ready for use.
- ... publication of an online training package on the use of the bulletin board system complete and ready for your study on the *REACT* website as Using the Traffic System Message Bulletin Board.
- ... an online exercise in alerting and reporting messages scheduled for November.

If you are interested in participating in this training to improve our message handling skill sets, please send an email to Training@REACTintl.org as soon as possible.

FEMA TRAINING: Each column I am going to highlight a training opportunity available to through our members the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Institute's Study Independent Program (https://training.fema.gov/is/). These courses are online professional emergency management training available to United States citizens at no cost. They typically are focused on one area of emergency management work, do take some time to complete, and do require that you learn the material. The advantage to us, as emergency communicators, is that we learn how the greater system works, learn the language of the people we support, and gain fresh perspectives on how to better respond to bad events.

If you are not a US citizen, contact *REACT* International headquarters for information on how to take FEMA independent study courses. Some Canadian provinces do provide similar training - Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario all offer a small number of online courses.

This month I want to highlight IS-144 "Telecommunicators Emergency Response Taskforce (TERT) Basic Course". This course is designed for dispatchers and call takers who operate Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) and who plan to volunteer to deploy in disasters to help staff PSAPs in the disaster zone. However, it is absolutely volunteer applicable emergency to communicators because it provides thorough coverage of what you need to have to support yourself in the disasters and on how to operate under the stress of disaster conditions. What it describes is absolutely consistent with my own disaster experiences as a responder and as the manager of a state wide emergency medical task force response system. The course takes approximately 3 hours to complete and awards 0.3 CEU.



James Hogadone 1940-2017

James "Hogie" Hogadone, LM # 151 recently of Southgate (CA) *REACT* passed away on July 25th, 2017 in Pahrump, Nevada.

"Hogie" was active in his Team, helping all the time and assisting other Teams in the area wherever needed.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Phyllis, a son, David, who resides in New Jersey and a daughter, Michelle, who is an emergency room nurse and resides in California.

Rest In Peace, Hogie, you will be missed!

FCC Finalizes Revised Part 95 Rules



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a comprehensive reorganization of and update to the rules governing the Personal Radio Services (PRS). PRS provides for a wide variety of wireless devices that are used by the general public for personal communication uses, which include applications like walkie-talkies, radio controlled model toys, Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs), medical implant devices and other uses. In addition to the comprehensive review and update of the rules to reflect modern practices, the Commission enhanced the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) to allow new digital applications, allot additional interstitial channels and extend the license term from five to ten years. It also allotted additional channels to the Family Radio Service (FRS) and increased the power on certain FRS channels from 0.5 Watts to two Watts. It also updated the CB Radio Service to allow hands-free headsets, removed a restriction on communicating over long distances and removed other requirements. These changes and others outlined below will update PRS rules to be more in line with current public demands for the services and will make the rules easier to read and find information, while also removing outdated requirements and removing unnecessary rules.

To read the entire Federal Register post, go to: http://tinyurl.com/y7cdhaz2



Silent Mic



We are saddened to announce to the REACT family the passing of this member

James E. (Yogi) Bear 1932-2016

James E. "Yogi" Bear, 82, of Manor Township, passed away on Friday, December 23, 2016 at Hospice & Community Care, Mount Joy. He was the loving husband of Evelyn L. (Leachey) Bear, to whom he was married for sixty-two years.

Born January 19, 1934, in Lancaster, he was the thirteenth child of the late Harry D. Connor Sr., M. and Sally (Shirk) Connor. lim was the adopted son of the late Col. Fred S. and Etta M. (Frankhouser) Bear. He was a member of First Reformed United Church downtown of Christ, Lancaster for forty-eight years.

Jim was a 1952 graduate

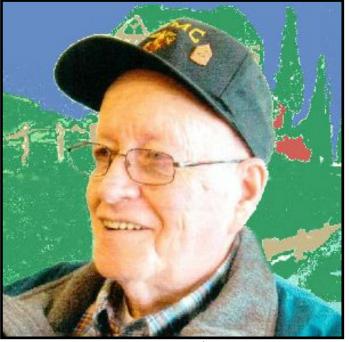
of J. P. McCaskey High School and attended Penn State. A proud Veteran, he served for 20 years and was discharged as a First Sargent E8 with the Fleet Marine Force Atlantic in Force Recon, and a short tour on the U.S.S. Sea Lion ASSP-315. He graduated from military Radio School and the U.S. Naval Disciplinary Barracks, and twice was awarded Marksman Awards firing 248/250 and 249/250. He was a "HAM" radio operator, WB3FQY, Extra Class,

and an FCC accredited examiner.

Jim was active in *REACT* for many years, serving as a Regional Director and as President of the organization, as well as Chairman of many committees. He was one of the pioneers of the organization, having joined in 1965 and

remaining active for more than 20 years. He was Life Member #9 and was a recipient of REACT International's highest award, the Eugene Goebel Award.

In addition to his wife, Evelyn; Yogi is also survived by a son, Rick A. Bear married to Gayle, a daughter; Sharon L. Race, a sister; Miriam Moore,



lames E. "Yogi" bear

five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two sons; Kenneth E. Bear and Kevin L. Bear.

Rest In Peace, Yogi.



The Communications Model – The Key to Improving Message Accuracy (Part 2)

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

In the August REACTer, we presented the communications model (Fig. 1), its components and their importance toward improved message accuracy. In this issue, we present Part 2 with suggestions on some of the ways – techniques and tips – that if intentionally considered and applied, can contribute positively toward improving message handling and increased communications effectiveness.

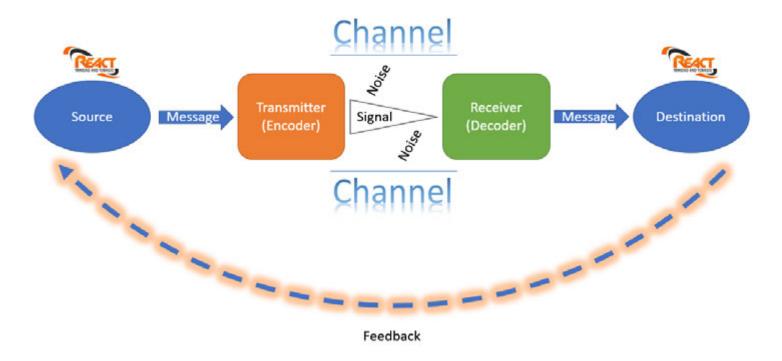


Fig. 1 – The Communications Model – Adapted from Shannon (1948)

The suggested techniques stem from the barriers to effective communications and can form part of a Team's strategy, including the ideas in standard operating procedures and shared during training sessions. The focus will necessarily be towards message handling when using two-way radio, although the tips can generically be applied to any form of communications.

- **Tip#1** *Listen attentively*. Often, we tend to be eager to reply, and may miss the essence of a message.
- **Tip#2** <u>Utilize feedback</u>. Having the recipient read back the message to the originator, can highlight any errors incurred during transmission or interpretation.
- **Tip#3** <u>Be brief</u>. Apart from taking up valuable air-time for which other communicators may have urgent traffic, short messages can ensure the focus is maintained by expressing one main idea at a time.
- **Tip#4** <u>Avoid jargon</u>. Especially in emergencies, use plain language (English). Codes while efficient, can become a liability when interfacing with other multi-agency stakeholders, such as when unified command is established in an incident.
- **Tip#5** <u>Speak at a reasonable pace and with clarity</u>. Emergencies tend to cause communicators to have a rushed speech pattern. Be mindful that going too fast may result in the message having to be repeated which wastes valuable time.

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Tip#6 – <u>Utilize the most appropriate channel</u>. Issues such as protocol, convenience, cost, speed, etc., come in to play when deciding whether to use a radio channel/frequency/talk-group, cell phone or satellite phone to pass a message. A communications plan (which is hopefully tested and updated regularly) usually determines how and when a channel is chosen.

Tip#7 – <u>Avoid noisy areas and/or use headphones</u>. Over the ear headphones can be particularly effective. Always be careful to check the volume level when using headphones to ensure it is not to loud (and not too low).

Tip#8 – <u>Spell out easily misunderstood words</u>. This can be achieved using the Phonetic Alphabet (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta,...)

These are but a few suggestions and there are many more. How about writing to the Editor giving your favourite tip. It will be great to hear from you. I am sure it will be published.

Happy communicating!







REACT International, Inc., Officers



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President
California



Jerry Jones Executive VP Texas

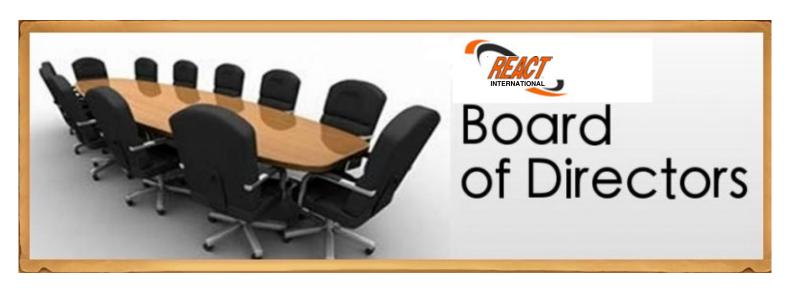


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Treasurer
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REACT International Event Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 5REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 8Deadline for September REACTer 9ZELLO Worldwide Net (p.m. ET) 12REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 15REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 16ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 19REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 23ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 26REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 30ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) OCTOBER 3REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 7ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 8Deadline for October REACTer 10REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 14ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)	18ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 21REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 23Thanksgiving Day (US) 25ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 28REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) DECEMBER 2ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 5REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 8Deadline for December REACTer 9ZELLO Worldwide Net (p.m. ET) 12REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 15REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 16ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 17REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 18ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 29ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 20ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 21REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 22ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 23ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 24REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 25REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 26REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 27REACT World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 28REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 29REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 20REACT Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET)
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To add items to this calendar, contact REACT International: 301-316-2900 or Editor direct - 336-897-0641 (office/home) - 480-758-7722 (cell) 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

Come to Fabulous Las Vegas January 22nd, 2018



For *REACT* International's Annual Board Meeting January 22, 2018

All *REACT* members are invited to attend the meeting, see how your Board works, visit Fabulous Las Vegas, and see the sights!

(Who knows, maybe you'll even win some money at the tables or the slot machines!)

RSVP to REACT International if you plan to attend. Call or email.