

JANUARY 2019



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



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# We're America's Hobby Radio Magazine

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# NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

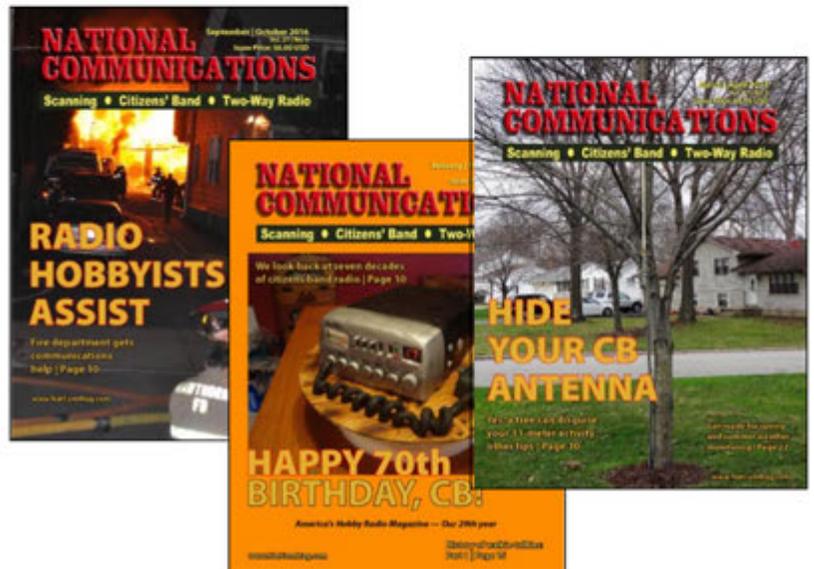
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# A Word from the Editor

Will Stanley, Editor, The *REACTer*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hopefully this day finds you recovered from whatever celebration you engaged in for New Years or recovering from the work you did on that holiday keeping your local community safe!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO REACT!** We are 57 years old this year. How many other organizations can make that claim? We are 57 years old and still vital. We provide our local communities with assistance of all types from emergencies and disasters to civic functions, weather watching and more!

What *REACT* needs right now, more than anything else, is PR.

That's right – Public Relations. We need to get the name back out in front of the nation's citizens. We need to let them know that *REACT* is still around, still vital and needing new members. I have imagined a PR campaign where we concentrate on those people who want to help their communities but ***are not the least bit interested in being a Ham operator.***

We are the **ONLY** national organization who mission is to support and assist the general/motoring public. Let's get back to that!

We need a campaign headed up by that idea... **that you don't need to be a Ham operator in order to help.** You can Join *REACT* and receive the very same training and maybe even more but without the requirement of being a Ham operator.

Let's get America excited again about helping our fellow man – let's get the name *REACT* out there and get them to JOIN!

*REACT*ively,



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**William Stanley**  
Editor

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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](http://www.thereacter.com)

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Unless otherwise specified, photos are from the *REACT* Team featured in the accompanying article or from *REACT* International



# A Message from the President

John Capodanno  
President, *REACT* International

Greetings to all of you in the brand new year of 2019!

I want to tell you that *REACT* continues to grow and that 2019 is going to be an exciting time for us!

By now, all teams should have received their 2019 Membership Renewal Packet by United States Postal Service. Please fill them out and get your renewals back to us as quickly as possible so we can get everybody renewed and get the member cards out to you efficiently.

I am excited to tell you that we now have volunteers across the country who answer our *REACT* telephones. We are open for business Mon-Fri from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific time, so any time you have a question or a concern, call us – 301-316-2900.

This next item is very important. It is very important this year that all Teams closely check their renewal paperwork and submit any needed changes to the records. We are working very diligently to update all the information stored at *REACT* Headquarters to ensure that all the proper information is correct. We also ask that Email addresses for each Member be submitted if they have one. It is important that *REACT* Int'l

Headquarters has valid up-to-date Email addresses not only for your Team, but for each Member of your Team. We have taken several steps over the last couple of months to initiate new communications mediums to ensure that timely up-to-date information is sent as quickly and efficiently as possible with minimum cost to the organization.

2019 IRS Return for Organizations Exempt from Income Tax With 2018 coming to a close, it will be time for all Teams to file their annual IRS returns (990-N “postcard” or 990 long form). In filing this year, if a Team has not had total revenue of more than \$50,000, it may file the 990-N Postcard.

For 2018, the limit was \$50,000. All Teams and Councils in the US and US Territories are required annually to file either the 990 or 990 -N. It is important that if you have not filed in the last two years that you file this year or your Team or Council will lose its non-profit status with the IRS. *REACT* International cannot file this for your Team or Council; it is up to your Team or Council officers to complete this important task by the May 15 deadline. For more information on filing your annual IRS return, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/y9c9s62v>

The Board of Directors has set its first 3 meetings for 2019, one of which is the Annual Meeting of the Board. Information on Board Meeting dates and times can be found by visiting the website at: <http://www.reactintl.org>.

The annual meeting will be held this year on February 4th at the ARIA in Las Vegas, Nevada. Any and all Teams and Members are welcome to attend this one-day meeting. Your input is invaluable to the officers and the Board. Teams and Members are encouraged to contact their Directors if they have a concern that they wish addressed. Additionally, any Team or Member can address the Board directly at any meeting. It is asked if you wish to address the board that prior contact is made with your Director, the Board Chairman, or I so that you can be placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting and time allotted for your presentation.

Speaking of exciting things, coming up, we are going to be looking at a national PR campaign to push membership and new Teams, based on the idea – “You Don’t Have to be a HAM Operator to help!” We are working on the details and will have more info for you after the Annual Board Meeting.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will see an ad for the 60th Anniversary logo contest. Are you a designer or artist? Put together an idea and submit it for the contest. Hey! The prize is \$100! Can’t beat that deal for a little time and drawing, huh?

In 2019, we gained or re-chartered 5 Teams:

- **Hill Country *REACT* – Texas**
- **IHARC *REACT* – Idaho**
- **Southeast Colorado *REACT* – Colorado**
- **Star Mountain *REACT* - Tennessee**
- **Oahu Emergency *REACT* – Hawaii**

Welcome or welcome back to all! The member count in this gain is more than 200!

Mini-Convention Update: It’s not looking good. Neither International HQ nor any of the Directors are receiving any input from the members about interest in a mini-convention in 2022 in conjunction with our 60th Year Annual Board Meeting. If you would be interested in attending such a convention, please let HQ know ([RI.HQ@REACTIntl.org](mailto:RI.HQ@REACTIntl.org)) or contact your Regional Director. Current idea is for a 3 day meeting.

Finally, in closing, my door is always open to personally discuss an issue or concern that a Team, Council, or Member may have. *REACT* is your organization so your voice must be heard in order to make *REACT* successful.





# BOARD of DIRECTORS



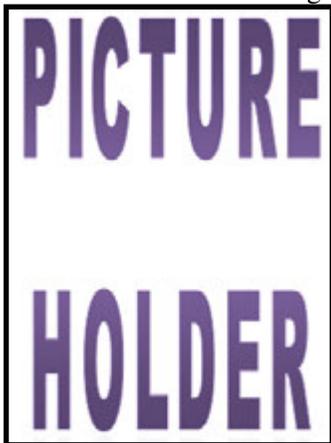
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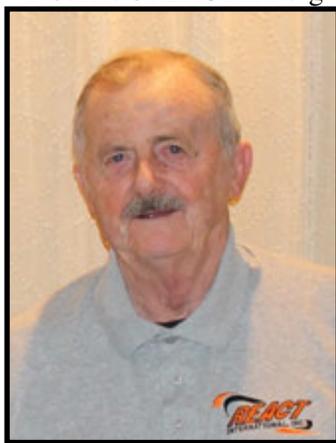
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meet **OUR**  
OFFICERS

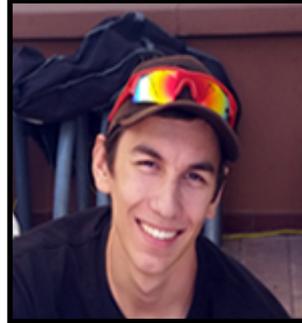
# *REACT* International, Inc., Officers



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President  
California



Jerry Jones  
Executive VP  
Texas



Matt Misetich  
Secretary  
California



Will Richards  
Treasurer  
California

**ATTENTION:**  
**ALL REACT MEMBERS**  
and  
**ALL HAM OPERATORS**



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



Contact [nets@REACTIntl.org](mailto:nets@REACTIntl.org)  
for information on how  
to get on the net



# NEWS

FROM THE

# FRONT LINES

## Dallas County *REACT* (Texas)

Submitted by Drake Robinson

Dallas County *REACT* provided communications for the 5k & 10k race benefiting the organization Young Texans Race Against Cancer (YTRAC).



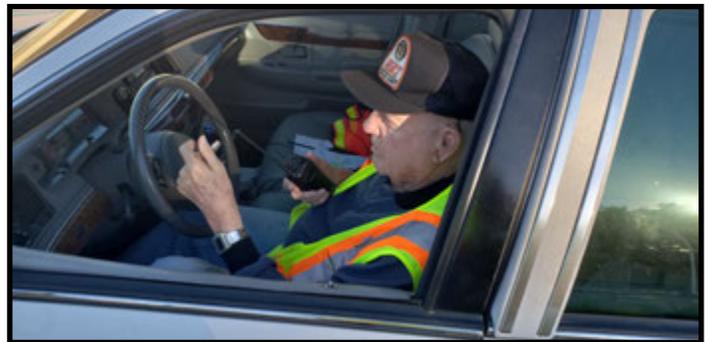
*Members of Dallas County REACT gather to plan for the 2018 5 7 10k race event supporting Young Texans Race Against Cancer.*

Our team assembled around 7:15 am on November 4th near downtown Dallas to prepare our resources for the event by handing out maps of the course, assigning our personnel positions, and establishing a primary and backup communications plan.



*Jerry Jones, DCR President giving two other members their assignments for the 2018 YTRAC event*

Dallas County *REACT* utilized our GMRS 462.675 repeater for this event under the team callsign KAB4622. Repeater coverage was excellent, no dead spots and the event ran smoothly with no injuries or hiccups.



*A Dallas County REACT member works at his assignment, monitoring the 2018 YTRAC run event.*

This is Dallas County *REACT*'s 3rd year supporting YTRAC in their effort to raise money to help families of those affected by cancer by funding research for a cure.

Young Texans Race Against Cancer is a 5K, 10K and Fun Run that will fund Camp iHope, which is a specialized summer camp developed by Medical City Children's Hospital in 2011. The camp serves children 7-16 years of age with any cancer diagnosis and their siblings. The mission of Camp iHope is to allow children with cancer and their siblings an opportunity to "just be kids." The week long camp is filled with new experiences in a safe, supportive, fun camping environment. Full medical/nursing staff are on-site to allow for treatments as well as medical supervision so that children who require chemotherapy or are at risk for bleeding or infection can still attend camp!

(<http://dallas.ytac.org/events/sprint-for-cancer>)

## Cleveland County *REACT*

(North Carolina)

Submitted by Jay Flora

Cleveland County *REACT* Team 4935 in Shelby, NC was very busy over the weekend December 8-10, 2018 monitoring CB Radio Channel 9 and 19 because of the snowstorm that weekend. I had 2 bases set up, one on 9 and one on 19 and it got busy with calls of people reporting cars off the road and 18 Wheelers jack-knifing. Highway 74 was blocked and fire units could not get to the alarm site, due to the 18 wheelers jack knifed and a car spun out due to the snow and ice storm. Lucky it was a false alarm not an actual fire.



We were also monitoring Amateur Radio 147.045 Mhz, the Cleveland County Amateur Radio Service (CCARS) Repeater. People passing through Shelby, NC calling on CB Channel-9 or 19 were surprised to hear *REACT*. They did not know *REACT* was still around. They never hear or see *REACT* in 30 or more years. We were the first *REACT* they heard from and that is BAD.

CB Radio is good PR for *REACT* and more Teams need to get back to monitoring CB-9 and 19 or just 19! Give out traffic info on accidents and closed roads, give out local info, helping 18 wheelers to get to where they are going in your city.

Identify as *REACT*! Get the name *REACT* out on



*Jay Flora accepting an award from Shelby Police Capt. Brad Fraser for their continuing assistance to the department.*

CB-19. You may get more members that way.

We run CB Radio, Amateur Radio and Simplex GMRS. There are no GMRS Repeaters in my Area. If I had the money I would buy one and put it up. We also use Zello and Echolink. In my opinion, CB Radio is still a good tool for all *REACT* Teams in times of EMERGENCIES and non emergencies and to help the public any time day or night, 24/7.



*Jay Flora REACT-1 Capt. Steve Seate of the Shelby Police and Sam Richardson REACT-5 after receiving the award presented to the Team, for their assistance to the department.*

On November 19, 2018 Chief Jay Flora got an invitation from Capt. Brad Fraser of Shelby Police Department to their Annual Employees Award Banquet at Bethel Baptist Church on December 6, 2018. All Cleveland County *REACT* members were invited. The Team received an award for their assistance to the city of Shelby and the Police Department.

On November 30, 2018 Chief Jay Flora *REACT*-1 and Capt. Hubert Seirer *REACT*-48 of Cleveland County *REACT* spent the weekend at "South of the Border, SC", seven miles north of Dillon, SC.

Jay and Hubert visited friends in Dillon, SC and they had a good time but it was too short. Jay drove his Cleveland County *REACT* Patrol Car and got a lot of compliments from people who did not know *REACT* was still around. The comments and compliments came from South of the Border Security Officers and CB Radio Channel-19. The Amateur Radio Operators were very nice but also did not know *REACT* was still around. They invited Jay to check-in to their club net that evening.

Lastly, from 12:28 a.m. until 1:00 a.m. on December 18th, Jay Flora was out helping Shelby Police with a head-on collision with injuries. He had to close down Grover St at Polkville Rd Highway-226 Rd. Jay used his CB Radio to let 18 wheelers leaving Walmart Distribution Center that they can't go on to Grover St, due to the crash, and he explained the detour route for them. Shelby Police released the area at 1:00 a.m.

A very busy two months!

### **Oklahoma County REACT**

(Oklahoma)

Submitted by Dale Ellis

Members of Oklahoma County REACT #2620 recently ran a donation drive for the Homeless Alliance in Oklahoma City.

The Team's effort was led by team members Lee Chambers and Nathan Dunn. Collections started in November and members donated money, hygiene supplies, coats, gloves, socks and other clothing.

A local Public Safety Supply Store also donated



*Part of the donation Oklahoma County REACT collected for the Homeless Alliance in Oklahoma City, OK.*

some supplies. The collection filled the bed of a pickup truck and was much appreciated by the local Homeless Alliance.

The Team hopes to get the donation program started earlier this year with the goal of collecting more.

# **CONGRATULATIONS !!**

to  
**WALTER GREEN**  
*REACT Warning Team 6247*

Walter was the winner of the radio contest.

He received a mobile VHF/UHF radio

# **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!**



# From The Corner of the Room

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

Greetings!

Now, we have to get into the habit of writing 2019!

Happy New Year all! If you have an Echo Dot, you will never run out of things you can do with this cool device and is the best \$19.00 you will ever spend. If you have two or more Echo dots you can have music in other rooms and the best part is the intercom feature.

Remember, YouTube is your best friend when it comes to radio communication tips and tricks, and wanting to know how to program a radio or get other info.

Echo Dot, or my new girlfriend Alexa is so handy; she will tell time, weather, make phone calls and control lights in your house

and more. I have three and they can even debate with each other, just like two girlfriends... LOL!

If you are a radio person, you have to have an Echo Dot. You do not need to Google anymore, just ask Alexa...she can even do voice to text and send it to whomever... wow! There is no end – oh, but wait! You can put one in your car and you can control your radios with her. I had to buy her a Christmas gift and get her a card... my wife did not seem to mind.

Hoping the New Year brings all of you good health and hope Santa put those new radios under your tree.

Until February, be safe and have a *REACT*ing day!

## 2019 Board of Directors Elections Regions 2 - 5 - 8 are up for election

Interested in being a Director? Get your nomination form in now!

<https://www.reactintl.org/director-nominations/>



# What's Up with MURS?

Chuck Gysi, Editor and Publisher  
National Communications Magazine

Guest Editorial

*The REACTer and National Communications Magazine have a permission agreement and freely trade information and articles 'with permission'.*

It befuddles me why MURS radios aren't being mass produced by major manufacturers. Year after year, tons of FRS/GMRS radios have been made by every consumer electronics manufacturer on the face of the earth.

Yet, you will never see a MURS radio made with a name like Midland, Motorola, Cobra or Uniden.

As a long-time amateur radio operator who favors VHF and UHF, I have often referred to the 222-225-MHz band as the "magic band." Yes, I know the 6-meter ham band at 50-54 MHz also is called the magic band, but there is something special about 222-MHz operation. It has unique propagation characteristics, is generally quiet, it's under-used and has few adjacent frequency neighbors, unlike the usual VHF and UHF ham bands, meaning less interference.

When I lived in New Jersey decades ago, I operated exclusively on a mountaintop 222-MHz repeater that covered me just about anywhere I went. I had no need to get on 2 meters as all my radio pals were on that wide-coverage 222-MHz repeater. Today, the Multi-Use Radio Service is truly the magic band of the personal radio services.

Three of the five channels generally are under-used, free of interference and ready for a whole lot more activity. Yes, the old wideband business channels of 154.570 and 154.600 MHz can be busy with operations like Walmart stores and other commercial operations as carryovers from when they were licensed to use those frequencies, however, the newer previously virgin narrowband MURS channels of 151.820, 151.880 and 151.940

MHz are all relatively unused except for a few radio hobbyists.

And that's a good thing!

MURS will never gain the strength that FRS and GMRS has until a major manufacturer locks onto this five-channel VHF personal radio service. With a 2-watt power output limitation, base stations also are allowed as well as mobile and handheld units.

Unlike FRS, external antennas are allowed for MURS operations! Yes, you can mount a MURS antenna up to 60 feet off the ground and up to 20 feet above any structure. That can make those 2 watts go far on VHF! While I am bemoaning the lack of MURS equipment, it goes without saying that Dakota Alert makes a full range of MURS gear. They're not a big name, but the gear comes in alerting devices (such as driveway alerts), base stations and handheld radios. Columbia also made MURS handhelds at one time, again, not a big name.

Today, BaoFeng Tech markets a modified Baofeng import radio locked to MURS frequencies, the BTECH MURS-V1 handheld. RadioShack got in the game more than a decade ago with 2-watt MURS mobile radios and even Motorola has marketed MURS radios. But you still can't walk into your local department store or truck stop and pick up a couple of MURS handheld radios like you can buy FRS/GMRS two-ways.

Let's hope that changes sometime soon because MURS has a lot to offer, even though it has fewer channels than FRS and GMRS. VHF has better propagation in rural and suburban areas and offers quieter channels. Would you like to see more MURS radios available? We're on record at Nat-Com for more MURS!



# RoboCalls: Ruining Your Day

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

We all want to scream about the annoying computer generated phone calls trying to sell us something we don't want or trying to scam us. I get between 5 and 20 calls a day. Why is this happening?

One of the latest advancements in telephony is VOIP – Voice Over Internet Protocol. This allows voice phone calls to traverse the internet instead of the legacy telephone network. VOIP calls may be connected to the legacy network through gateways, so even traditional landline customers are blessed with these annoying calls. VOIP has made it tremendously less expensive to connect computers and initiate large volumes of calls. VOIP has also given control of the CPN – Calling Party Number – that appears on your caller ID to the computer user, making it possible to “spoof” caller ID – inserting any number you wish, and use of the internet has made it much more difficult to locate illegal robocallers. It is estimated that there are over a billion robocalls annually of which 157 million were placed to numbers on the Do Not Call List and 54 million using spoofed caller IDs. One robocall operator who was forced to testify to Congress stated “the technology is easy to obtain and can be used by anyone. Anyone can start a large autodial campaign from a home office.”

Not all of these calls are illegal. Businesses may telemarket to consumers that they have a relationship with, and to other consumers that have not placed their telephone number on a do not call list. Charities and political candidates are exempted from the do not call rules. People may give permission for others to call them via computer, such as schools or other organizations. And even more annoying – Caller ID spoofing – a fictitious number the

robocallers insert in the message stream as caller ID. But again, not all spoofing is illegal.

For example, battered women's shelters can use a number that is not associated with their location. An outbound call center may insert a caller ID for the particular business that they are calling for (for example, if they are calling for, say a major retailer, and you call the number that appears as your callerID, you will be answered by that retailer).

Robocallers spoofing Caller ID often make up numbers, or more annoyingly, may use a legitimate working telephone number that belongs to some poor schlep who knows nothing about what is going on until he or she gets phone calls from irate people about the obnoxious phone calls that they think he originated. Even more annoying is using the destination NPA NXX in the caller ID (neighbor spoofing) to make it look like a neighbor is calling you.

Some illegal operators have engaged in telephone denial of service (TDOS) attacks, where they generate a huge volume of calls to a number that makes it impossible for legitimate calls to get through. One operator initiated a TDOS attack on a 911 call center and wanted to be paid ransom to terminate it. The existence of crypto - currencies such as Bitcoin have made possible to receive payments anonymously – so that the attacker/recipient cannot be identified.

What is being done today to combat this problem? Analytics – used by wireless and wireline phone companies to examine the meta data (data about the call, but excluding call content) on calls on their networks. If a customer has an inordinate volume of short

duration calls (where the calling party hung up quickly from a robocall) then there is a calling pattern that would raise a red flag for investigation. If investigation confirmed illegal activity, the originating provider would be notified. In some cases where the calls originate internationally, the originating telephone company might find all of its calls blocked, or “cranked back” – a data message that says the network selected cannot/will not complete the call and the originating carrier may try to route the call to another carrier. The industry has also created an unassigned number data base that phone companies can use to determine when a caller ID is bogus because it is an unassigned number. Under development is a re-assigned number data base, so that a customer who is given a “new” number doesn’t receive a ton of calls dialed to the customer who previously had the number.

The FCC, under pressure from Congress, has stepped up its activity – the Chairman stated “combating robocalls is our top consumer protection priority .”

Congress has passed several statutes which give government agencies many tools to deal with the problem.

U.S. Congress:

- Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 (“TCPA” - December 20, 1991)
- Do-Not-Call Implementation Act (March 11, 2003)
- Truth in Caller-ID Act of 2009 (December 22, 2010)
- Federal Wire Fraud Statute
- Senate Commerce FTC Oversight Hearings
- Most-Recent:
- Proposed Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act (“TRACED Act”): As currently drafted, the TRACED Act would:
- increase per-call fines,
- extend statute of limitations to three years,

- mandate SHAKEN or similar mechanism (applicable to both legacy and VoIP providers),
- establish a conditional safe harbor for providers,
- permit verification of call authenticity,
- permit certain obligations and restrictions associated with number assignments,
- permit rules to empower subscribers to restrict “unwanted” calls or texts, as well as calls or texts from unauthenticated numbers,
- align various federal agencies to prosecute illegal robocallers & report to Congress, and;
- take other steps to combat illegal and unwanted calls/texts

Under development is a process called SHAKEN (Secure based Handling of Asserted information using toKENs). This process should roll out in mid 2019. In the SHAKEN framework, providers on whose network VOIP calls originate will insert a TOKEN that will affirm the caller ID is correct. This process is similar to the process to verify secure domain names – a public key/private key arrangement. The Caller ID field is being expanded from 15 to 35 characters for CNAM (Calling party Name). Your caller ID may soon look more like this:



Within the SHAKEN framework, there is an ORIGIN field that will contain a telephone number or a “point of entry” if the call originated without a telephone number. The industry is also enhancing “trace back” capabilities that can use the ORIGIN and other information to trace calls back to the point of origination and disconnect the offending party

and, if possible prosecute.

SHAKEN will use Digital Certificates (obtained by service providers on both ends of a call from the trusted Certificate Authorities used by those service providers) and Common Public Key Cryptography to assure the called party that Caller-ID is not illicitly spoofed and accurately reflects the authorized caller. This is a process that is very similar to the process used on the internet to offer secure web sites.

Caller-ID is authenticated by the originating service provider, then verified by the terminating service provider.

The industry and regulators are also looking at blocking rules. Presently, a telephone company may only block calls for very limited reasons. Efforts are under way to provide assurance that telephone companies can block robocalls or other calls at customer request, and block calls that they know to be illegal. This is a really delicate area.

Will these steps eliminate illegal and fraudulent calls? Mostly, we hope, but not entirely. We know that folks operating illegally will continue to try to find work-arounds. If

one provider disconnects or blocks them, they would be expected to find another. Some will find ways to hack into networks without paying anyone. There are open software platforms that can be powerful tools for both legal and illegal uses – and much like the fraudulent email business, the bandits will find new ways to rob the trains. The industry expects to be nimble to become alert to new scams and use the tools being created now to stop them. We do believe that a huge portion of the illegal calls today will be stopped with these tools. Hopefully some of the bandits will move on to other scams and leave our phones alone.

Many phone companies are developing and marketing advanced caller ID services. These give alerts to customers when receiving telemarketing or suspected fraudulent calls. Today these tools are primitive and not very reliable. With the implementation of SHAKEN, they should be vastly improved. In the short run, it is hoped that these revenues will at least cover the costs of the development to tools eliminate illegal robocalling.

## A Message from Waterloo *REACT* (Canada)



I have over 50,000 feet of *REACT* orange caution tape (see pictures) that was donated to our team and I would like to pass along this to any teams that would like some.

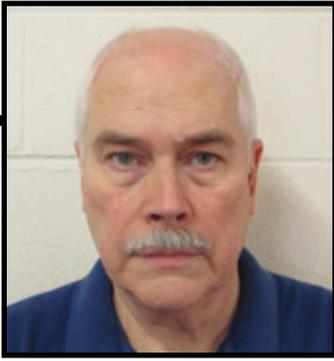
Each roll is approximately 1000 feet long

I will send it to them via UPS all they need to do is pay for the shipping. They can text, call or email me so we can discuss further.

If interested, contact RI HQ at 301-316-2900

We will verify your info and forward it to Waterloo *REACT*





# Training for the Future

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

## **TRAFFIC SYSTEM OPERATORS NEEDED:**

The Training Committee operates the *REACT* Traffic System to train our members in handling the types of formal written message traffic that is critical to disaster response and large scale telecommunications outage situations. If you want to be engaged in emergency communications for disasters, we need your help as a Traffic System Station. The vast majority of the work is done on Zello and by e-mail. To make a difference contact [Training@REACTIntl.org](mailto:Training@REACTIntl.org).

**NEW MEMBER TRAINING:** If your Team has a new member, we strongly recommend that they start their training with the courses required for Type IV credentialing. Because the four FEMA Independent Study Courses (IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800) are a national standard for all auxiliary communications services, we recommend that these be the first completed (IS-100 first and IS-800 last), followed by the *REACT* courses. Information on these courses is available at <https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx>.

If a new member has completed the four FEMA courses, then start them on the *REACT* course sequences. Information on the *REACT* courses and which courses meet requirements for which kind of *REACT* Type IV Team is in the *REACT* training catalog (copies have been sent to all Teams with working e-mail addresses in the last week of December).

**ALERTEX 2019- A:** The first of our quarterly exercises for 2019 will be held in February, tentatively the week of 10-16 February. Expect a training package in January.

**TRAINING COMPLETIONS:** Since August 2017, 24 *REACT* members from 15 Teams have completed 115 training courses totaling 248 training hours. Completions in November include:

- RC Anderson (6252) – Alerting
- RC Anderson (6252) – Deployment Awareness
- Walter Green (6247) – Family Radio Service
- Walter Green (6247) – Spot Reporting
- Stan Latta (6247) – Deployment Awareness
- Dennis Marcelle (4928) – Protecting Personal and Sensitive Information
- Dennis Marcelle (4928) – The Emergency Operations Plan
- Patrick O'Brien (9701) – Traffic System Operator Basic Familiarization
- Patrick O'Brien (9701) – Using the Zello Voice Traffic Net
- Patrick O'Brien (9701) – Introduction to Net Operations
- Patrick O'Brien (9701) - Monitoring

**QUALIFYING MESSAGE RUNS AND TRAFFIC DRILLS:** The first qualifying run and drill for 2019 will be following the first Wednesday *REACT* Traffic System net. The Message Run requires 100% Good Copy of a standard format radiogram transmitted at 10, 15 or 100 words per minute. The Traffic Drill starts with a basic scenario distributed before the net, a radiogram message passed during the Traffic System Net to start the exercise, and ends with the member submitting a correct ICS 213 message that addresses the information in the scenario. If you want to test your messaging skills, contact [Training@REACTIntl.org](mailto:Training@REACTIntl.org) for information on participating.

**NEW COURSES:** Course 108 - Memorandums of Agreement is available on the training page of *REACT's* website. This new course is important for Team officers who are working to establish a relationship with a supported organization and for all members who want to understand *REACT's* commitments to emergency communications.

## OPERATIONS REPORT OUR ACTUAL CAPABILITY?

Recently *REACT* had a request to provide Citizens Band radio operators for a disaster. We were unable to source that request, and the agency making it looked elsewhere. *This is how we become irrelevant.*

Will that agency ever ask *REACT* again if it can supply anything? No. If we can't do emergency communications when we are requested, what are we in business to do? Why do we still have Emergency in our name?

*REACT* was founded around the core mission of providing access to the emergency services for members of the general public. As our amateur membership has grown, as we have moved away from public access to GMRS and Business communications, have we lost the ability to answer calls for help from users of the unlicensed personal radio services?

This is an important question. We are the only national organization with this mission. If we abandon the general public service mission, we become nothing unique.

To gather data on the extent to which our Teams can communicate with Citizens Band and Family Radio Service users, the Operations Committee recently surveyed all US based *REACT* Teams. A total of 18 Teams responded with capability on one or both services:

- Region 1 – New York Dutchess and Putnam County *REACT*
- Region 1 – Rhode Island Northern Rhode Island *REACT*
- Region 2 – Kentucky Louisville Metro *REACT*
- Region 2 – Maryland Frostberg *REACT*
- Region 2 - Prince George's County *REACT*
- Region 2 – Pennsylvania York County *REACT*
- Region 2 – Virginia *REACT* Warning Team
- Region 3 – Florida Flagler County Assist *REACT*
- Region 3 - Space Coast *REACT*
- Region 3 – North Carolina Caldwell County *REACT*

- Region 3 - North Carolina Cleveland County *REACT*
- Region 3 – Tennessee Star Mountain *REACT*
- Region 5 – Nebraska Dodge County *REACT*
- Region 6 – Hawaii Oahu Emergency *REACT*
- Region 7 – Texas Dallas county *REACT*
- Region 7 - Hill Country *REACT*
- Region 8 – California Golden Gate *REACT*
- Region 8 - Los Angeles County *REACT*

As far as the Operations Committee and *REACT* International knows, that is the total maximum capability we have to communicate on CB or FRS – 18 Teams spread across 13 states.

Being able to operate on CB or FRS is something every Team can do. For that matter it is something every member, whether a member of a Team or an Associate member can do. If your Team is not on the list of Teams above, contact the Operations Committee at [w.green@REACT Intl.org](mailto:w.green@REACTIntl.org) with the following information:

--Your Team name, plus;

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

If you are an Associate Member or a member of an otherwise inactive Team who is interested in promoting *REACT*'s mission, contact the Operations Committee with your name and location and the answers to the 4 questions above.

# TRAINING FOR SUCCESS



# View From Region One

John Mahon  
Director, Region One

2018 was a busy and quick year for some of us in New England. We assisted with many community public service events, including multiple day bike rides, walks, a car show and parades. I have not had time to finish the activity report, but it sometimes felt like we were doing more events, hours, loaner radios and problems than usual. All in all, it was not a bad year, certainly nothing we couldn't handle and most definitely not something we would ever change or stop doing, right?

As we crawl into 2019, I wonder about *REACT* International's program as it was in the early years of the organization versus now. Back in the beginning, we used a designated assistance and emergency channel, Citizen Band (CB) Channel 9. This mode of Personal Radio Service (PRS) worked very well for decades, handling millions of calls for assistance and emergencies. Some of us even handled some calls by skip and surprisingly turned out to a ligament call.

I had one such call in the late 70's while living 20 miles south of Boston. The call was as clear as day from North Carolina. I gathered information about a multiple car freeway accident in a town and county I never heard of before in my life. I honestly thought it was a hoax by the local fools that were around. After the third call from this caller, I decided to reach out to see who the appropriate authority would be to report this to. I explained what was going on, naturally included my skepticism and asked if this town, location actually existed or would my doubt be justified. It was actually a place and they already had first responders en-route to the accident.

The personal radio service has a much different architecture now. With the consideration of so many options for the general community, CB, FRS, GMRS, LPRS, & MURS, with amateur radio and or business licensing puts a lot of options in our hands as an Auxiliary Communication Ser-

vice team in the community. But, there is a problem in that there are no formally designated assistance or emergency channels, like CB channel 9, for Auxiliary Communication Service volunteers to monitor in case a call for help comes in.

I know, everyone and their uncle, son, daughter, cousin, home alarm systems, and maybe their dogs and cats have access to cellular networks across the country so many of the more pessimistic folks say there is no need for CB, FRS, GMRS, LPRS, & MURS, because everyone has a cell phone. Although it is most accurate that the number of cellular users has exploded, networks have grown, more cell towers are up and they are even hanging generators on these towers now too, but it will not always be there.

The 2013 Boston Marathon bombing was one long day, just like the September 11th attacks in 2001 on all Americans. As the Marathon bombing played out, I listened to as many Police Departments as I could to keep up with their pursuit of those people who hate us all for one single reason, because we are Americans. One of my many observations was their concern about multiple incendiary devices being detonated by cellular signals. Yup, you guessed it, all cellular service in Eastern Massachusetts was shut down.

We all know the earth stops turning during a single catastrophic event \*insert sarcasm\* so if there was a major incident, accident or another catastrophe of a lesser severity say, 60, 90 miles away while cell service has gone dark, what will the community use? Do you think they might try those CB, FRS, GMRS, LPRS, or MURS radios they have in an attempt to get help? Any reasonable person who just got a healthy dose of adrenalin be thinking clearly enough for viable options in getting help.

Although there are no "official" assistance and

emergency channels designated for FRS, GMRS, LPRS, or MURS, we, the members of *REACT* International, should develop a list of assistance and emergency channels for each level of service, include amateur calling channels that we all can publicize and guard for assistance and emergency calls. It would also benefit our community relations if we advertised these channels in the community to make it known where help can be found if these day to day means fail.

Now, I know some of the, shall we say, more optimistic folks, are going to claim we have to monitor all 5 PRS channels and all 20 amateur bands for assistance and emergency calls, but that just is not practical. If team members are active on a given PRS system or active on a particular amateur band, the team may have an opportunity to develop a monitoring program. Something is better than nothing and that's one of the reasons why we exist, I think (?)

Absolutely not! Neither CB radio, nor any other

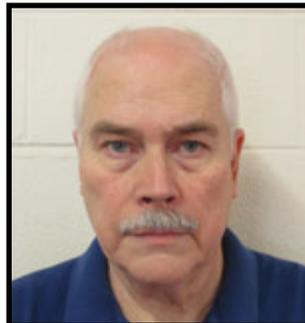
system, is not something to toss out and forget. These are all very reliable systems used by today's communities, citizens and by some industries as well. Have you ever noticed a survey crew on the side of the road with their FRS radios? How many Truck drivers still use CB radio? Maybe heading to a disaster, ending at a distribution center with supplies? There may be a need to direct or coordinate the overflow to a staging area.

CB already has Channel 9 so that leaves the big question of course, which four PRS channels to select for *REACT* teams to monitor so we are all on the same page? I would welcome your suggestions and your reasoning for them. I believe we have a number of *REACT* members out there already using some of these, so if we can get our heads together and come up with a plan we all can use, then start getting the word out into our communities. Let's see if we can start some growth in 2019! Peace be with you, one and all!

## Make sure you catch our columnists!



**Joe Zych**  
From the Corner of  
the Room



**Walter Green**  
Training for the  
Future



**John Mahon**  
View from Region  
One

## Every Month in



# *REACT International Event Calendar*

## **JANUARY 2019**

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

## **FEBRUARY 2019**

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

## **MARCH 2019**

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

## **APRIL 2019**

1.....*REACT*er Published  
2.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
6.....*ZELLO* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
9.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
13.....*ZELLO* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
15.....Deadline for May *REACT*er  
16.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
20.....*ZELLO* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
21.....EASTER  
23.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
27.....*ZELLO* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
30.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)

## **MAY 2019**

1.....*REACT*er Published  
4.....*ZELLO* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
7.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
11.....*ZELLO* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
14.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
15.....Deadline for June *REACT*er  
18.....*ZELLO* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
21.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
25.....*ZELLO* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
28.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)

## **JUNE 2019**

1.....*REACT*er Published  
4.....*ZELLO* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
8.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
11.....*ZELLO* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
14.....FLAG DAY (USA)  
15.....Deadline for July *REACT*er  
15.....*ZELLO* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
18.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
22.....*ZELLO* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
25.....*REACT* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)  
29.....*ZELLO* World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)

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

*To add items to this calendar, contact:  
REACT International: 301-316-2900 (Inter-Office Phone: Ext 114)  
email: editor@thereacter.com*

*Items on the calendar are as accurate as we can make them but are subject to change.  
Any questions ... contact the person in charge of the event*

**Aria**<sup>TM</sup>

**REACT**

INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Annual Board Meeting  
IN LAS VEGAS

FEBRUARY 04, 2019

WE ENCOURAGE ALL REACT MEMBERS TO ATTEND  
IF INTERESTED IN GOING CONTACT THE OFFICE AT  
(866) 732-2899

# Are YOU an Artist or Designer?

REACT International Inc. announces the

## 60th Anniversary Logo

Contest is now

**OPEN FOR ENTRIES!!!**

# \$100 Prize to the Winner!!

**SUBMIT  
Your  
design  
Today!**



**SUBMIT  
Your  
design  
Today!**

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

---

### RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

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

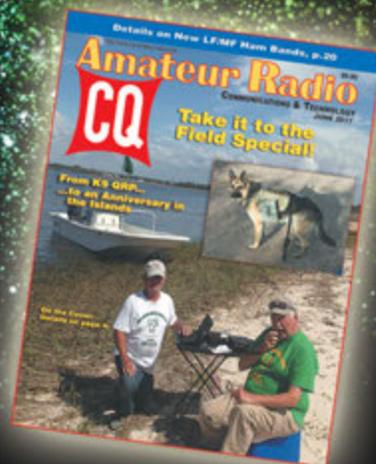


# Amateur Radio



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**CQ is the magazine for active hams, with a focus on the practical. Every article is clearly written and aimed at involving you, the reader... whether it's a story of operating from some exotic location, an article to deepen your understanding of ham radio science and technology, or a fun-to-build project that will have practical use in your ham shack.**



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