

## Come to Fabulous Las Vegas January 22, 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.

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

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## A Word from the Editor

Will Stanley

Ah yes.... November.

The trees have turned, there's a bit of crispness in the air and my favorite holiday - Thanksgiving!

This month's issue is coming soon on the heels of October, as we are moving the publication date to the first of each month, beginning with this issue. Deadlines for submissions will be the 15th of the previous month. Look for each issue of The *REACT*er to be out on or about the 1st of each month from now on.



I would like to take this opportunity to say something that very seldom gets said, and certainly not often enough!

John Capodanno, our President and Chairman, works his rear off for us! International's office in California is, most of the time, a one-man show and that one man is John.

For the past several years, he is the person who has been keeping RI going. I honestly believe that if it were not for John, this organization would have folded long ago.

So... John, this is for you -- HOORAH! Job well done!



I am in the process of looking for people who like to take photographs and can produce good quality shots of topics that could be considered for the covers beginning with January of 2018.

Are you a good photographer? Do you 'have the knack'? Send me some shots and maybe you'll find yourself on The *REACT*er's front cover!



Those of us at the *REACT*er want to wish a fine and Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours. We hope this holiday season finds you surrounded by family, friends and food!

Have a safe holiday season! REACTively,



The REACTer November 2017 Page 3



### From the Corner of the Room

Joe Zych, REACT Worldwide Net Coordinator

Greetings all REACT members! Well, Turkey Day is on the way!

You know, the best thing about Fall is that the leaves fall off the trees and this greatly improves radio communication. Radio signals travel so much better. The sap in leaves, especially pine trees, acts like a lead wall that blocks and deflects our communications. Remember line-of-sight is the UHF and VHF path.

In our weekly net each Saturday, we keep records of temperatures and conditions and during fall and winter we can talk to places we can't during the summer.

Try an experiment, after a good rain you will see improved audio and crisp clear communication. There is an old trick that guys used to do: turn on the garden hose at the base of your tower by the ground rod (you do have a ground rod, I hope!)

The improvement of the potential ground completes the circuit and a good ground in radio is as important as the antenna. Ground everything! It keeps a safe station.

If you go to the builder's supply store buy a long copper clad ground rod and place it as close as you can to your tower base. Buy a heavy copper welding cable about 2 feet or less and attach that cable ground from the rod to the tower. Braided wire carries more electrons than solid wire. Electrons travel on the outside of the wire, thus braided

wire has a lot more surface area than a solid piece of wire and is so much more flexible.

The old story always holds true, if you use good quality hardware and do a neat job, this equals good performance. In communications you want everything working in your favor because we are dealing with changing weather conditions that we do not have control of so the use of good grounding and good quality coax is important.

We constantly experiment with different antennas and positioning to improve the gain for maximum performance.

Last but not least, go to Google Earth and get the exact location of your antenna and also get the elevation. Get the elevation of the other stations around and map it - draw a line between stations. We have found that just by raising an antenna another 5 feet made a difference between night and day!

In closing, make sure all your Team members have up to date email addresses on file or you will miss out on the good job Will does each month on the *REACT*er....also - renew your team, invite friends, sign them up, and don't forget, we need more junior members!

Until next time have a Turkey month!





### Caldwell County REACT

(North Carolina)
Submitted by Shirley Kanode

Earlier this year our members were trained on the deployment of the county's new M.E.R.T. (Multiple Event Response Trailer) to manage traffic and pedestrian traffic during events or disasters. The trailer is stocked with various



traffic control equipment including cones, dragons teeth that can be filled with water, barricades, and directional signs.

We put this training into practice October 7, 2017, when we assisted the Lenoir Rotary Club with the collection of used tires from the community. Our *REACT* members arrived before

7 am to set up the traffic flow and two drop-off lanes for vehicles.

Throughout the morning we managed traffic and kept the lanes running smoothly.

A semi-load of



used tires was collected in four hours. As one resident stated, by getting rid of the pick-up load of tires out of his yard would reduce the mosquito population significantly. It also reduces illegal dumping.



Maria HIller at Belk

In recognition of September as National

Preparedness Month, Caldwell County *REACT* conducted a class for its members and the public on what to include in various types of emergency kits. Three of our

members, Mark Barrera, Shirley Kanode, and

Rosemary Hall demonstrated several kits, and discussed principles of disaster preparedness. Because effects of Hurricane Irma were expected to hit our county within a couple of days, the local newspaper sent a reporter. We had a large photo on the front page and a comprehensive article.

Our fundraising committee is spearheading a



Shirley Kanode at the Rotary Club meeting

local fundraiser provided for local charities by Belk Department Stores. The stores have a semi-annual Charity Day Sale, a private sale for ticket-holders only. The \$5 tickets are sold by the approved non-profits who get to keep the money. The customers redeem their tickets on the day of the sale for a \$5 discount on their first purchase in addition to significant discounts on brands and items not typically discounted. We sell tickets to friends and family, but also have *REACT* members in the store one day a week selling tickets to Belk customers. Our revenues so far have made this event well worth our time. We appreciate Maria Hiller's efforts in organizing this.

REACT member Shirley Kanode spoke this month to the Caldwell Rotary Club who meet at 6:44 am, the earliest Rotary Club meeting in the country! Shirley spoke about REACT, our CERT



training, and emergency preparedness.

The members responded enthusiastically and requested that she return. The Lenoir Rotary Club has also approached us to provide a speaker at one of their meetings. Shirley's picture with a Rotarian and a description of her presentation was published in the local newspaper.

Hurricane Irma was predicted to cause significant wind and rainfall in Caldwell County. Officials feared potential flooding and power outages declaring a state of emergency. Our Emergency Management Coordinator deployed the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and requested assistance from two of our REACT members and the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club. We were on duty for 9 hours. REACT members attended briefings with county officials, monitored emergency communications from the radio and computer keeping the official EOC log of all calls and actions. Other REACT members assisted with records organization and filing.

At the July *REACT* meeting, we had a class on firefighter rehab including assisting with FF gear, blood pressure monitoring, blood glucose levels, hydration, cooling (or heating), etc. Among our *REACT* members, we have EMTs, a paramedic, and volunteer firefighters who assisted with the class.

### **Delaware County REACT**

(Pennsylvania) Submitted by Lisa Zacker



One of our members, Dave, does a lot of parades and festivals in the area,

working with the POW group.

The POW truck is owned by gentleman who uses it to honor our local Prisoners Of War in local events.



We also help with

a lot of truck crashes in the area as there are a lot of bad highways and some truckers do things they shouldn't be doing!

Dave also helps out at the local truck plaza, unlocking cars for people and helping with travel directions.

### Dallas County *REACT*

(Texas)

Submitted by Drake Robinson

The Team just completed another successful event. Dallas County REACT went southwestern Dallas County to Cedar Hill, Tex., to do a 5K event benefiting Texas Central

Hemophilia.

far As as radio goes, utilized we our **MotoTRBO** 

repeater and only had one user on GMRS, who was in a low spot where

**DMR** the

(ham) Repeater wouldn't cover but oddly enough GMRS would.

It was my first time being CP and trying out a new way of logging radio traffic.

We had a couple of members who were unable to attend because of problems with their motorcycle and another two who had to go to work, so we were a bit short-handed but made it work.

Overall it went great and the Team did very well!

### **Cleveland County REACT**

(North Carolina) Submitted by Jay Flora

On October 14, 2017, from 7:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., Jay Flora REACT R-1 and Sam Richardson REACT R-5 helped the Cleveland County Health Department by working the parking lot to show cars where to go to get the Free Vaccinations for Humans and for Animals. The Cleveland County Emergency Preparedness Response Unit was used for giving vaccinations for humans in the back parking lot. Animals were done on the south side of the



Cleveland County member R5, Sam

building.

At 11:15 a.m., Shelby Police relieved Jay and Sam. This was a last minute call for the Team to help and some members had plans but they were able to help for a little while. It was a busy day for the Shelby Police and they were very grateful that Sam and Jay were able to assist.

The lady in charge of the event said she may call on REACT next year but will call in advance.

Cleveland County REACT got the call the day before



### Hammin' It Up

Ronald McCracken LM 52 Lake Simco, Canada *REACT* 

Has your Team at least one ham radio operator?

If not, you should become that one and get the ball rolling. If yes, you should become a ham also, to deepen and broaden the radio capabilities of your Team. You will be a real blessing to your Team-mates, and thus to your community too.

Any *REACT*er can become a ham. I did, so that means you sure can too. Your knowledge of CB alone is almost enough to let you pass the exam. I recall being 'shanghai-ed' as I walked down a corridor at a *REACT* convention. Ham tests were being held and they needed another candidate, so I was it.

With no preparation whatever, I passed one part of the test. And, almost passed the second. I amazed myself. At a later convention, I did pass, and even earned my code endorsement

while there, thanks to Pat Besing's help and encouragement. Now do you believe that anyone can do it?

By becoming a ham, you can be a key radio link between your Team, hams, and emergency officials in your community during a disaster. The greater range ham offers can be vitally

important to your Team's success in an Irma catastrophe.

### **Pick Their Brains**

Have you attended a ham club meeting? Get to know some of those folk. They are great! They will help you in your mission to become one of them. You can create a helpful liaison between your Team and the ham group. Your Team, and your community, will be the beneficiaries.

Your public library likely has the ham study guide. Just ask. It contains the question bank you will meet later on your test. The questions are multiple-choice, as you will see. The answers are often common-sense to an experienced *REACT*er. Ham clubs red to offer courses and conduct the FCC

tests. Check with your local club for the next ones and you will get lots of help.

Code is invaluable too, especially in major disasters like Irma. Code will punch through in bad radio conditions where voice simply cannot. Gaining skill in Morse Code will only increase further your value to your Team. It is optional, but you will always be glad if you take the opportunity to learn it.

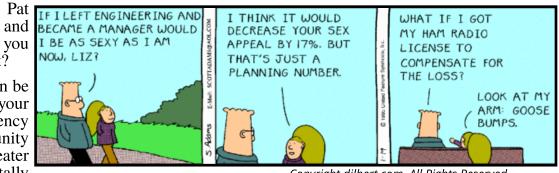
Several websites offer you help to master code. Check them out. They are terrific. You can set the speed, and you can even choose specific groups of

letters you wish to practice. Search online. You will be as amazed as I was. As you practice, you will actually be doing 'dry runs' of the code test.

### **Boosting Resources**

How does ham actually benefit *REACT* efforts in disasters? Our *REACT* Team participated in a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) with other regional/county assets. The simulation was planned by our Emergency Management Office (EMO).

REACT Lake Simcoe was assigned to conduct a damage assessment operation following a major storm scenario. Only radio communications were available. Our Team had no hams at the time, so one ham was assigned to us as a relay. (Our Team has



two ham Copyright dilbert.com. All Rights Reserved members

now, as a result of what we learned from this exercise.)

We established a Command Post, with the solo ham located there. The Command Post was located at a *REACT*er's home, which was on a hill about 20 miles from the EMO office. Our region is about 40 miles in length.

REACTers then fanned out to assess property damage in the community as instructed. Six REACTers were assigned specific areas. As they completed their visual damage assessment of each street, they radioed the figures back to the

Command Post using CB.

In short order, the figures were tabulated and compiled at the *REACT* Command Post. Our one 'ham on loan' then relayed the tabulations to the EOC via 2m radio. Thus, the EOC had a complete, instant, running account of the damage situation in our community.

Additional tasks, new assignments, or questions could be radioed to our *REACT* Team using the single ham link. It was a fine blend of the two radio services and personnel. It gave results that greatly pleased the EOC as we learned in the debriefing that followed the SET.

### All about Relationships



Take the initiative. Learn the time and location of your local ham club's meetings and be there. Get to know them so they will be familiar to you when it hits the fan. It is nice to know the people who "have your back."

We are not competitors. *REACT*ers and hams each bring skills and tools to the table. Together, we can do more to help in emergencies than we can do

alone. Recent hurricanes and other disasters have sadly demonstrated how urgently every asset can be needed, and for how long.

Your new ham qualifications and abilities can also make you a valued resource to other *REACT* Teams across the continent or beyond. A *REACT* Net takes place every Sunday evening. *REACT* ers far and near 'check in' to share information. Invitations are frequently extended on the *REACT* List so watch for them and join in.

It is great practice while all is quiet for the day when you may need that Net desperately. Check out The *REACT*er for reports on roles that it may have played in the recent string of major disasters. You want to get to know the folk on that Net very well now, since you may have to depend on them for your own life and others' at any time.

Are you up to the challenge? With a minimum of personal effort you can easily become the ham your Team needs. Ham radio may really 'hook' you, too. Help your Team, and have great fun doing it.

That sounds like a win-win proposition, right? Enjoy.

## Does Your Team or Council publish a Newsletter?

Does your Team or Council publish a newsletter for your members and/or local law enforcement or emergency services people?

Send a copy to The *REACT*er. We might find information in your publication that we will want to put in the national book.

Plus... IF we ever hold a *REACT* convention, you will want to submit your product to the Newsletter Contest!

You can send electronic copies of your book to:

### editor@thereacter.com

If you have only a paper issue, send it to:

The *REACT*er 5939 West Friendly Ave., #26-J Greensboro, NC 27410

Also send a copy to:

REACT International, Inc. Post Office Box 21064 Glendale, CA 91221-5164

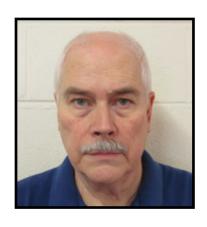
### The Nation's Tallest Flagpole!

Thanks to Bob H. (twintrees@juno.com) of Dallas County REACT for this heads up about an article

talking about the tallest flagpole in America.

It is located on the grounds of Acuity Insurance Company along Interstate 43





## Training For The Future

Walter Green Lt. Col. USAF, ret

1019 on the morning of 19 October, the drill encouraged you to take immediate actions for your personal safety, followed by testing plans and procedures and doing earthquake education. A well done to the three *REACT* Teams that participated this year: Los Angeles County 6192, *REACT* Warning 6247, and Trinidad and Tobago 2496.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:** The following *REACT* members who have completed *REACT* training classes:

Nancy Collins (6247) – Using the Traffic System Message Bulletin Board

**Thomas Currie** (C158) – Emergency Communications

**Stan Latta** (6247) – Emergency Communications

**Stan Latta** (6247) – Introduction to Land Search and Rescue

**Stan Latta** (6247) – Using the Traffic System Message Bulletin Board

**Michelle Snyder** (6247) - Using the Traffic System Message Bulletin Board

ALERTING EXERCISE: Building on lessons learned from Hurricanes Irma and Jose, Training is planning to conduct a *REACT* International disaster alerting exercise for a global level emergency on 18 November. The participation by Teams is simple, just reply to acknowledge an e-mail alerting message anytime during the day on the 18th. Every Team will receive a copy of the exercise instructions by e-mail by 10 November – if your team has not, please immediately contact training@*REACT*Intl.org.

THE GREAT SHAKE OUT: We were late getting notice of this year's Great Shake Out out to Teams this year – but make sure you mark your training calendar for this event in October next year. The Great Shake Out is an international earthquake exercise – this year approximately 26,000,000 participants from 46 countries, including 2,444 members of volunteer radio groups, registered for the exercise. Starting at

**NEW COURSES:** The original REACT Monitoring course has been revised and updated to identify areas in which monitoring is still a vital communications function and to highlight changes in the monitoring environment in the last 20 years.

We have a new course, Protecting Personal and Sensitive Information. Anyone who uses a radio can inadvertently expose personal information about victims or sensitive information about ongoing emergency response actions. This course identifies the types of information that should be protected and provides guidance on how best to do that while still communicating needed data in an emergency.

**TRANSCRIPTS:** *REACT* training may be useful for employment or educational purposes. Traditionally employers in the emergency services have recognized training as an emergency volunteer as a plus. Colleges are increasingly awarding credit for documented experiential learning in areas that are addressed in their academic courses. If you need a formal transcript of *REACT* training received after 1 August 2017, we will be happy to supply you with one or mail an official copy to an address you supply.

FORMIDABLE FOOTPRINT: The Formidable Footprint Exercise series (http://www.drc-group.com/project/footprint.html) provides disaster scenarios for community group participation in a 3 hour tabletop exercise monthly. These exercises are ideal training events for your *REACT* Team because they focus on getting to know the roles and capabilities of the various resources in your community. Put the schedule of upcoming exercises on your training calendar:

27 January – Wildfire

24 February – Zombie Apocalypse (Pandemic)

31 March – tornado

28 April - earthquake

#### FEMA INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSES.

This month I am highlighting the Emergency Management Institute's Independent Study course IS-700a, National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction. Available online at

### http://tinyurl.com/ybz2yuuj

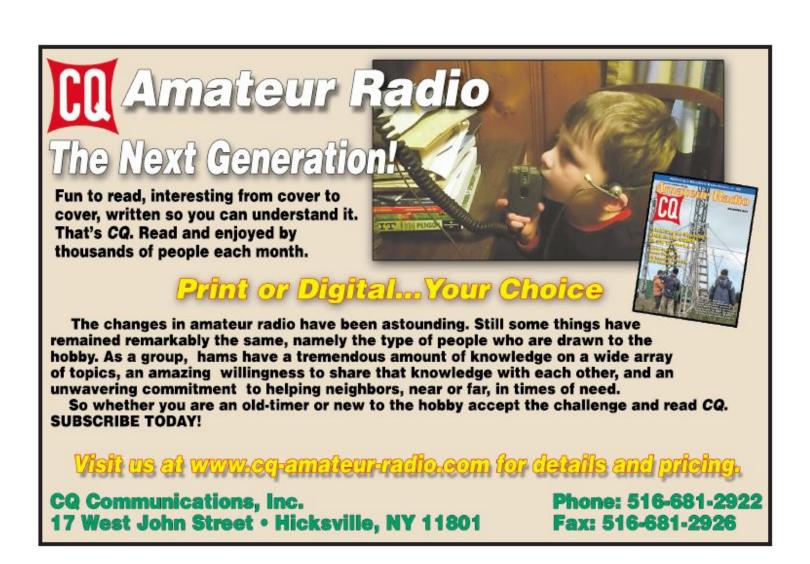
the cost is free, and it takes approximately 3 hours to complete.

NIMS? Why do we need to learn about NIMS for — we already learned about ICS in IS-100? The simple answer is that NIMS is the broader framework of doctrine, terminology, and processes

within which the Incident Command System fits. NIMS provides the framework for incident management organizational at all governmental levels, regardless of the size and complexity of the event. The course addresses the NIMS components: Preparedness, key Communications and Information Management, Management, and Command Resource Management. So, to understand ICS you really need to understand the bigger picture – NIMS.

Anyone who does disaster response needs to have completed this course; it is a basic professional qualification recognized and required by most agencies. And *REACT's* resource typing system (see: http://tinyurl.com/ybx4hoda) requires completion of IS-700 for identification as a Type V resource or higher.

## TRAINING FOR SUCCESS





### Great ShakeOut

Earthquake Drills

LOS ANGELES. Oct. 16, 2017 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills, regionally organized campaigns linked together as a worldwide preparedness movement spanning countries, are involving more than 52 million people (and counting) in earthquake safety activities throughout 2017. Most participants practice how to "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" though many choose to do much more. ShakeOut organizers recommend people follow the Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety to get fully prepared to survive and recover from the next damaging earthquake.

While earthquake drills held any day of the year can be registered at ShakeOut.org, many will participate on International ShakeOut Day (Thursday, October 19).

More than 19.5 million people around the world are expected to participate, including more than 18 million within the people United States and its territories. Registration is ongoing and these numbers will increase; check ShakeOut.org for current totals.

loss. Additionally, these earthquakes highlight how difficult recovery is, and that it is not just the shaking we have to be worried but our quality of life afterward. Hurricanes and wildfires in recent months also indicate that natural disasters are something that we must continue to deal with together and improve our efforts.

"ShakeOut encourages cross-sector, whole community conversation and action about earthquake preparedness, inspiring people to make better decisions for how they can prepare to survive and recover," said Mark Benthien, Global ShakeOut Coordinator and Outreach Director for the Southern California Earthquake Center at the University of Southern California. "Social science research

shows that when people see others take action, they are more likely to take action too."

Recommended actions for a variety of special situations (in a theater, in a car, etc.) and for people with disabilities are described at



Significant earthquakes in 2017 that serve as devastating reminders for the importance of improving earthquake safety include the two large Mexico earthquakes of September, both of which caused many casualties and property

www.EarthquakeCountry.org/step5 in the form of text, graphics, and videos, for a variety of learners.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Brock Long encourages

everyone to participate. "Practicing these protective actions can better prepare you in case of an earthquake. A true culture of preparedness requires the effort of the whole community to understand the hazards, then develop and practice the proper protective actions."

#### **KEY MEDIA RESOURCES:**

ShakeOut.org/media – guidance for promoting and reporting on ShakeOut, lists of ShakeOut media venues, recent releases and contacts

ShakeOut.org/messaging – B-Roll, still graphics, and animated GIFs to aid reporting on general preparedness and ShakeOut

#### **CONTACT:**

Jason Ballmann

Southern California Earthquake Center

Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills

213.740.1560

ballmann@usc.edu

ShakeOut.org, is managed by the Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) at the University of Southern California, with funding from the National Science Foundation, United States Geological Survey, and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

SOURCE Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills

Related Links

http://www.ShakeOut.org

The *REACT*er has been notified by Los Angeles County (Calif.) *REACT* and by Metro Louisville (Ky.) *REACT* that they both participated in the drill and were awarded certificates for their participation.

Even if you are not in an area where earthquakes are common, knowing what to do during one could someday save your life or the life of someone else.

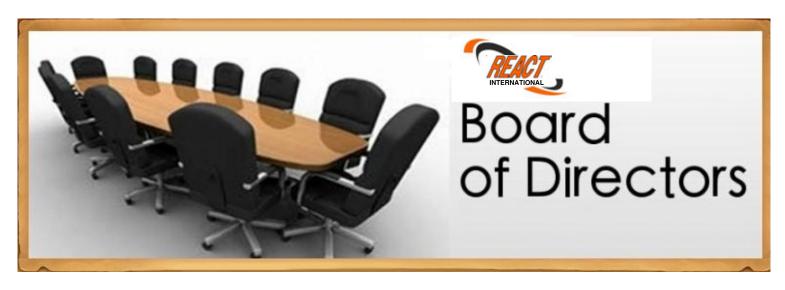
Editor's note here: I have been in an earthquake. I didn't realize what it was at the time. I was living in Hannibal, Mo., and at or about 4:30 a.m. or so, I was awakened by a feeling that I was unable to identify. (I even asked the cat if he was dancing on the bed! Of course, all he did was just look at me).

When I got to work later that morning, I found out it had been a 4.3 earthquake that was epicentered in northern Illinois and had rumbled through Hannibal about 4:30 in the morning.











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### REACT International Event Calendar

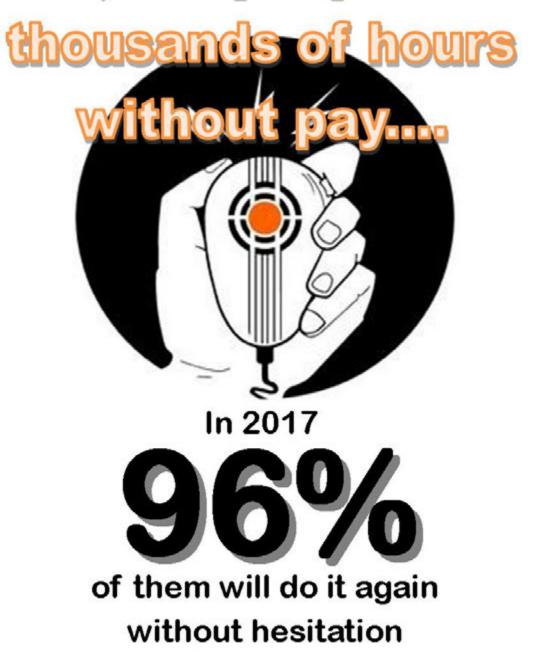
NOVEMBER  1	15Deadline for February <i>REACT</i> er 16 <i>REACT</i> World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 20ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 22 <i>REACT</i> Int'l ABM( Las Vegas) 23 <i>REACT</i> World Wide Net 9 p.m. ET) 27ZELLO Worldwide Net (9 p.m. ET) 30 <i>REACT</i> World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET).  FEBRUARY 2018  1
28	6
19	1

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

## In 2016, our people worked



Find out why! Contact REACT International at 301-316-2900 or find us on the web at http://www.reactintl.org or Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/REACTInternational



### 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!

Check out NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS MAGAZINE!

## NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

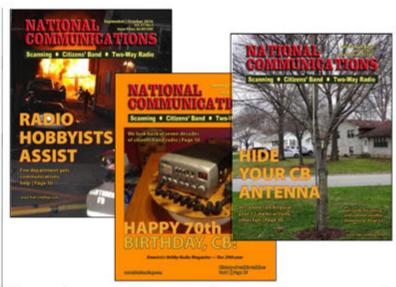
### Scanning ● Citizens' Band ● Two-Way Radio

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

NatCom covers listening to the scanning bands so you get the most out of your scanner, how to get more out of your CB equipment and how to use the MURS, GMRS and FRS bands. No other magazine covers ALL these hobby radio topics!

NatCom is only available online and online access account holders are given access to the current issue as well as every issue back to 1988. We're **America's Hobby Radio Magazine**, the oldest continually published communications magazine!

Join the NatCom family today and order your online access account. One year of online access costs **only \$25**, while we are offering for a limited time two-year online access accounts for \$48 (a \$2 savings) and three-year online access accounts for \$70 (a \$5 savings).



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