





A Word from the Editor

Will Stanley, Editor, The *REACT*er

A friend of mine posted this on Facebook and it says what I was about to say in a different editorial better than I could so, here we go:



"I don't understand what the big deal is...

If you are Jewish, tell me **HAPPY HANUKKAH**; If you are Christian, tell me **MERRY CHRISTMAS**; If you are African American, tell me **JOYOUS KWANZAA**.

I will not be offended, I will be thankful you took the time to say something nice to me!"

So, whatever you call your particular holiday, THE *REACT*ER wishes you the best of the season!

(A last note: I did not include a Table of Contents due to the Christmas cover. it will be back next month.)



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William Stanley Editor

DEADLINE: 15th of the Month prior to publication(i.e: July 15th for August issue, etc)

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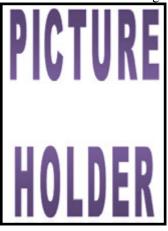








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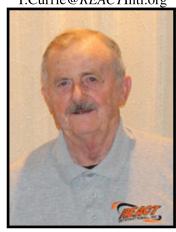
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View From Region One

John Mahon Director, Region One

Greeting from the Northeast

Well, it's that time of year again; the year-end holidays are just about upon us. Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday celebrated on various dates in Canada, the United States, some of the Caribbean islands, and Liberia. It began as a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year. Similarly named festival holidays occur in Germany and Japan.

We celebrate with Parades and football games, some with a large feast that started some 200 years ago after the Pilgrims had the first feast with the Indians. George Washington introduced Thanksgiving as a holiday in 1789. Thanksgiving has become a tradition in many homes, to include the oh- so familiar Turkey, pumpkin pies, cranberry everything from sauces to breads, and most importantly, to pay homage to all those things you have come to respect and appreciate over the past year.

I hope that all members of the Board of Directors join me in giving thanks to you. All the unaffiliated members who beat the educational drum in the community sharing our goals, ideals and the benefits of Family preparedness, communications and safety. To all those who keep their teams active in the community assisting Government agencies, local and National charities as well as the local clubs and town committees with parades, walk- a- thons, bike treks, and the many, many emergency and disaster response support undertaken by the teams of *REACT* International globally. Thank you!

Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. The celebratory customs associated in various countries with Christmas have a mix of pre-Christian, Christian, and secular themes and origins.

Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. The celebratory customs associated in various countries with Christmas have a mix of pre-Christian, Christian, and secular themes and origins. Popular modern customs of the holiday follow many family traditions, include gift giving, Christmas music and caroling, lighting a candle, exchanging Christmas cards, church services, a special meal and the display of various Christmas decorations, Christmas trees, Christmas lights, garlands, wreaths, mistletoe, and holly.

Christmas is like Saint Patrick's Day in that it is celebrated by many people, not limited to just the obvious cultural and religious followers of the holiday. Many other religions use Christmas to celebrate and pay respect to their ancestors beliefs with their traditions. Biblically, the meaning of Christmas is love, John 3:16-17. Although we are a diverse Nation of many cultures and religions that may not always share the same beliefs, our ideals and goals, to share a common respect for one another as human beings is what brings us together. In the United States, this is what makes us the underdog, who always finds their way to the goal line.

Similarly, *REACT* Teams across the world come from different Cultures, beliefs, practices and traditions. We all come together to achieve a common goal, to help others in our communities, advance our Auxiliary Communications Service and education of the benefits of the personal radio service to local clubs and civic groups.

The Board of Directors has approved authorizing team use of some the corporate frequencies for simplex only use by approval of the *REACT* International application process only. This is another tool in your Auxiliary Communication Service toolbox. It allows you, our team members, to

move operational two- way radio traffic off the personal radio service frequencies you may be using. These channels do not have the general public on them and all that goes with that, but may have other licensees in the area and that's why the committee must try to coordinate the best frequencies for local use. I am personally very thankful that this has finally come fruition, after seven years, being able to offer them to the teams as another tool. This is especially helpful for those who cannot afford to purchase the expensive radio equipment and the accessories that go with it.

The Board of Directors will be looking forward to strategic planning for the corporation, working through the five stages of the process, (goalsetting, analysis, formation, implementation and monitoring) hopefully, we can develop solid steps to move us all towards a stronger, well-trained and proficient Auxiliary Communication Service. We will continue to look for ways to improve our financial responsibilities, marketing and supporting the local team efforts.

This is an effort that must include each team and their members, or it will not help grow the organization. The Board of Directors can plan, write policy and secure grants, I hope, but it is not going to do any good without true and accurate feedback from the Teams and members. Many teams are not in compliance with the By-Laws and or Charter agreement, so we do not have an

accurate accounting of team activities. If they are in good standing with their state, the IRS filing or 501(c)3 compliance, if your By- Laws pass the dual test or if your articles of incorporation are still valid.

I hope you join me in thanking the office volunteers, the *REACT* International officers who are not getting paid. They are dealing with some folks who are downright ornery and disrespectful for some reason. They get yelled at more than they should, for unpaid volunteers. We do not have the luxury of paying staff to answer the calls all day long, so please leave a message if you get the voice mail. It is not necessary to keep calling until someone answers.

I look forward to the Las Vegas winter board meeting in February, 2019 and meeting everyone in person, taking care of Business and maybe get some sightseeing in. This will be my first trip to the region so it should be an adventure, I can't wait.

I sincerely hope you all enjoy the Parades, caroling and decorations. It is a very special time of year to give thanks to whomever you believe in, for all those things you are grateful to have and share. Thank you for sharing your good fortune with less fortunate children this year. This really is their time of year. I would like to wish each and every one you a very happy holiday season, and for me, a very Merry Christmas.





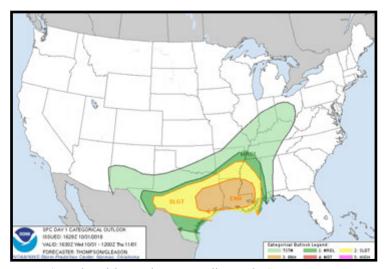
EDITOR'S NOTE:

When posting something on Facebook, please keep in mind that people reading your posts don't always know the people in the pictures or the area. PUT IN DETAILS. It only take a few extra minutes to add details to your post. The *REACT*er sometimes gets Team News from Facebook.

Thank You

Southeast Louisiana REACT

(Louisiana) Submitted by Joe Glorioso



NWS graphic of the weather system affecting the SE Louisiana area.

On Tuesday October 31,2018, the Southeast Louisiana *REACT* & The Crescent City Amateur Radio Group was notified that the National Weather Service Office in New Orleans was requesting Skywarn Spotter activation due to severe weather / severe thunderstorms moving in early

Thursday morning.

These types of storms can produce wind gusts up to 60 mph, 3-5 inches of rain, dangerous lightning and street flooding.

The Southeast Louisiana *REACT* & the C.C.A.R.G. joined forces to activate a Skywarn net on the 146.82 repeater in New Orleans and on the Southeast Louisiana Emergency Com channel on Zello. We ran the net for 4 hours and had some reports of minor damages on buildings, power outages, and minor street flooding. Trees were reported down on homes and there were 2 minor injuries. Overall we believe that our region made out very well under the circumstances.

Cleveland County REACT

(North Carolina) Submitted by Jay Flora



Members of Cleveland County *REACT* had a good time on Halloween night 2018, helping Shelby Police Officer Gemes work the Trunk Or Treat Fest at Zoar Baptist Church in Shelby, NC.

We worked the crosswalk on South Lafayette St., helping ghosts 'n goblins cross the street to the Church. We worked from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. We had 1 Shelby Police Explorer Scout helping us. We do this every year. Some kids gave us candy - the good stuff! I was dressed in my Star Trek uniform and had my phaser on stun. Yes, I was carrying my phaser and communicator. All involved had a good evening.

Beam me up!

The *REACT*er

Page 9

December 2018

Caldwell County REACT

(North Carolina) Submitted by Shirley Kanode

Our volunteers are committed to our mission which is to assist the community during disasters, educate our residents about disaster preparedness, and support our first responders. 2018 has been a challenge as we have been called into service for all these duties.



Curt Hiller, Maria Hiller, moulage make-up for role-playing as victims in an Active Shooter Drill at an elementary school

We have donated almost 1,000 hours assisting our community during Hurri-Florence. cane searching for a missing elderly man, and setting up a shelter Collettesville for flooding victims. We staffed 3 aid stations during Cycle Serve, a county-wide bike rally. We serve on the LEPC, Local Emergency Planning

Committee.

We have educated our residents in various ways. We taught 2 classes at the Caldwell Senior Center, 2 classes at the LDS church, and administered/taught

three Basic **CERT** classes. We added nine new members from these classes to Caldwell County REACT. We presented programs to the Lenoir



Disaster Preparedness class at the LDS Church

Amateur Radio Club and a neighborhood watch group; taught 50 homeschooled students and their parents about disaster preparedness; and presented a class to Caldwell Insight, a group of 15 blind/visually- impaired individuals. We have met the community and passed out educational material at festivals. We spoke at the NC State CERT Conference as one of two featured county programs.

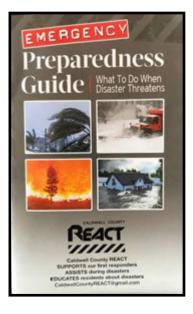
We supported our first responders. Our volunteers directed traffic at Broyhill Center for a firefighter's funeral; we provided moulage artistry on our members to perform as victims in an Active Shooter exercise at a local elementary school; we staffed a relief tent for two days and nights for searchers during a search and recovery; we assisted at the Little River Fire/Rescue Pumpkin Bash Festival; and assisted Caldwell County Emergency Medical Services during their annual Christmas Toy Drive on December 1st.



Dale Woodruff and Dick Blumenstein directing traffic during a firefighter's funeral

Caldwell County *REACT* is proud to serve our community when needed and appreciate our partners in Emergency Services, Lenoir Amateur Radio Club, Red Cross, and the other organizations that make up the VOAD, the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

Our Emergency Preparedness Guide that we distribute





Editor's Note: I received this article from Tom Currie, Region 2 Director and was going to include it in a follow up article in the November issue but managed to lose it. I just found it now and am running it along with another update.

First the Baofeng issue:

The FCC didn't actually say the Baofeng radios were illegal, just that they were being sold illegally by that seller. The seller was advertising the radios for use on frequencies where they are not authorized.

However this does highlight the fact that the FCC is starting to wake up again and starting to enforce long- standing rules about equipment needing to be properly certified for the services where it is used.

The Baofeng UV-5R is a particularly odd case. This radio has never met the technical requirements for Part 90, but the company filed an application for certification that simply said the radio met the requirements. Without doing any checking at all, the FCC approved that application. Thus the Baofeng UV-5R is on the official list of

radios that are authorized for use under Part 90. But it gets even a bit more complicated, because to be authorized for use under Part 90, the radio needs to be approved (it is) AND it needs to have the manufacturer's certification label on it (almost none of the UV-5R radios have this label).

Next a short update about the new First Net discount on cellphone service. This new discount is available for *REACT*Members. Check with the *REACT* office for more details and terms of the discount.



Christmas in the Northwest

written by Tom Jenkins, Region 6 Director



As we approach that very special time of the year known as Christmas, there are some of us who have thoughts of the loved ones who are not going to be here with us whether it be because of deployments or jobs taking them elsewhere or who have passed on. Christmas is not just about the commercialized aspect of Black Friday or all the special sales.

Growing up, Christmas was always special for me because of the family environment; sitting around making decorations while mom was baking, the smells of the

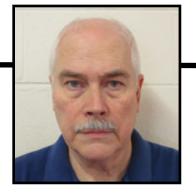
fresh cut tree and the laughter.

Those are the things that a lot of us remember - when we had the snowball battles or making Frosty the Snowman with Cousins and Aunts and Uncles. The Carolers' singing the festive songs and waking up Christmas morning, watching the gleam in everyone's eyes.

Some of the most memorable things to me was being part of the radio community to track the Jolly old fellow in the Red Suit from the North Pole along his journey on Christmas Eve and being able to portray Santa at the hospitals for the ones having to be there.

Wishing everyone a very memorable and Festive Christmas and a Great New Year in 2019, please be safe and spread the joy of PEACE.





Training for the Future

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

TRAINING COMPLETIONS: Since August 2017, 23 *REACT* members from 15 Teams have completed 102 training courses totaling 228 training hours. Completions in November include:

Michael Finch (6244) – Emergency Communications

Michael Finch (6244) – Introduction to Land Search and Rescue

Albert "Frank" Gordon (6241) – Basics of Drills and Exercises

Walter Green (6247) – Deployment Awareness

QUALIFYING MESSAGE RUNS AND TRAFFIC DRILLS: Every month following the first Wednesday *REACT* Traffic System net, we conduct two proficiency tests open to all *REACT* members. 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. Information on both drill and run is in the current training catalog. The November Qualifying performances are:

November Message Run (10 words per minute):

Stan Latta (6247)

Donald Darcy (6247)

November Traffic Drill:

Stan Latta (6247)

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.

NEW COURSES: Courses 110 Deployment Awareness and 117 Spot Reporting are available on the training page of *REACT*'s website. Deployment Awareness is required for Communications Team Type IV credentialing, and Spot Reporting is required for the new Reporting Station specialty (see the current training cata-

log, available from Training@REACTintl.org).

DO YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE?



In 2011 the Board approved a credentialing program that brings *REACT* into compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency standard practices for volunteer organizations. This year we have built the training framework for Type IV, the lowest level of capability that is credentialed. In 2019 we will start credentialing for Type III.

So far, a total of 4 members in all of *REACT* have met the training requirements for Type IV. If you are serious about being a trained and credentialed emergency communicator, if you want your Team to be able to respond, and if you want *REACT* to be taken seriously as an emergency communications organization, it is past time to focus on meeting Type IV requirements.

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.

NOVEMBER OPS NOTES

DO WE GET TIRED OF ASKING FOR HELP?

No, we don't. Somewhere out there is a *REACT* member who wants to make a difference. Are you looking for a way to volunteer to help *REACT*'s disaster response emergency communications mission? The Operations Committee is looking for members willing to work to improve *REACT*'s capabilities for disaster response. Over the past 20 years many new organizations have emerged to do disaster volunteer work, making *REACT* less and less relevant as a resource for communities and states. We are committed to reversing that trend. And if you want to work on disasters, we need volunteers to serve on a virtual incident management team to help run our alerting, warning, and response coordination efforts.

Contact w.green@reactintl.org and be part of the solution.

LESSON LEARNED. This summer's hurricanes and the ongoing series of California wildland interface fires have presented a valuable lesson. When your part of the world is being hammered by a major disaster, your Team is not the solution. Your job becomes to take care of your family, your business, etc. and survive. Someone else has to provide the solution. No *REACT* Team is large enough or capable enough to absorb a major disaster and be the solution. If *REACT* is going to be part of the solution, we have to be able to mobilize volunteers from Teams outside the impact area. This is what every other major volunteer organization does.

After action reports from volunteer communications response to the Florida Panhandle after Hurricane Michael highlighted other important lessons. Be organized for response – in the case of one Amateur radio team they had been preparing for an exercise for a month, and that made response a lot easier. Volunteers from established communications organizations were required to be able to document that they had background checks in order to be allowed into any shelter or emergency operations center. Training is vital; not training in how to put up an antenna or key the microphone, but rather training in how the disaster system works. It is vital

to know who to talk to about what when.

And remember that we started out as an organization to provide emergency assistance to the public. There is still a need for *REACT* members who can man a radio and work as a Citizens Band Channel 9 monitor or a Family Radio Service Channel 1 monitor in a disaster. Serving the public to gather information and respond to requests for assistance is a niche that only *REACT* has decades of experience doing.

OPERATIONS TIPS. We are now posting tips from the Operations Committee every week to 10 days on the Facebook pages of *REACT* International and *REACT* Members and on both the Facebook and Twitter pages of the *REACT* Warning Team. They are practical things that you can do to improve your response either by yourself or in a Team meeting as group project.

NETS YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN

Submitted by Jay Flora, Cleveland County (NC) REACT

Tonight and every Sunday night at 9 p.m. EST is the Red Cross net on Echolink DCF-ARC Conference Server node 336037 and IRLP 9257. This net is Good PR for *REACT*. ID as a *REACT* Member with Your Team name on all Nets.

I would like to Invite all *REACT* Members and all Amateur Radio Operators to Check-in to the Cleveland County Amateur Radio Service (CCARS) Repeater Net Monday night 11-19-2018 at 9 p.m. EST on the 147.045 MHz tone 127.3 and Echolink node 706882 the NA4CC Repeater in Shelby NC. This net is Open to all Amateurs and Good PR for REACT to get our name out there.

Don't forget the World Wide *REACT* net every Tuesday night at 9 p.m. EST on the *REACT* Conference Server node 109779 and the DCF-ARC Conference Server node 336037 and IRLP 9257.

Also, I would like to Invite all *REACT* Members and Amateurs to Check-in to the Cleveland County *REACT* Rag Chew and Information Net every Saturday night at 9 p.m. ESTon 147.045 MHz tone 127.3 and Echolink node 706882 the NA4CC Repeater in Shelby, NC. And 5 Minutes after the Red Cross net is the Disaster Communicators Form (DCF) Net.

REACT INTERNATIONAL WORLDWIDE ZELLO NET

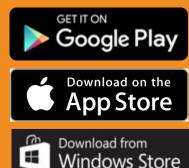
Please join us every Saturday night at 9 pm EST (8 pm during Daylight Savings Time) on the

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

Good December all!

Well, the door is now open and we have had 17 degrees already in Tennessee. Southeast Florida reported 49 degrees! It's that time of year to be in Australia!

Here's wishing all the *REACT* members and their families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year as well as the staff at *REACT* International office. They put in many hours around the clock.

Well this time of year, when you get in your 60 plus years, there isn't too much you want anymore but good health and less doctor visits. But... that new Google Home Hub has caught my attention for home automation because I am all about anything with voice command. Echo dot runs the house along with the smart phone apps but there is always room for a new toy, no matter how old we get.

Let's all plan to increase our teams in 2019! We can do this; it just takes a little effort. The more team members you have, the easier it is on your team!

Well, we will keep it short this month, stay warm and be safe, and you never know, you could find a box under the tree with a new radio in it.....

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Tennessee mountains. 73



REACT International Event Calendar

DECEMBER 2018 2	16ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET) 19REACT World Wide Ham Net (9 p.m. ET) 23ZELLO World Wide Net (9 pm.m ET) 26REACT World Wide Ham Net (9 p.m. ET) MARCH 2019 1
2ZELLO World Wide Net (9 p.m. ET)	

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

Items on the calendar are as accurate as we can make them but are subject to change.

Any questions ... contact the person in charge of the event

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Check out NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS MAGAZINE!

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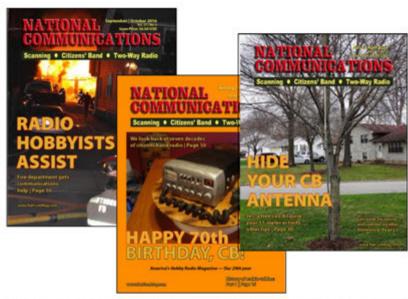
Scanning ● Citizens' Band ● Two-Way Radio

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

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