



Southwestern REACTer



AUGUST 2016

From The Editor

John Wright, SWR, 042

Another month has gone by and Summer is just about gone. It won't be long before we'll be putting away the shorts and flip-flops, at least for some of us.

I'm still looking for more contributions to the REACTer. I'd particularly like to get photographs of Team activities. If you are out working an event and happen to have your camera along, take some pictures. I'll try to include them in a future issue. Please note, that despite what the manufacturers may say, a cell phone is not a camera and many time pictures taken with a smart phone do not reproduce well in print.

I would also like to get articles from Team members. The article does not specifically have to be about what the Team might be doing, but since we are all licensed amateur radio operators, it could be of a more general interest. Articles about other phases of ham radio will be welcomed.

If there is anything that anyone would like to see in the REACTer, don't hesitate to let me know. The editor e-mail is editor@southwesternreact.org or contact me at one of our general meetings.



REACT Team Member, Mike Corum, SWR 093, observes the table top hospital drill exercise at the August 2016 ARES Meeting at Scripps La Jolla Hospital. The monthly ARES Report can be found on Page 3.

John Wright, SWR 042

How To Improve The Team

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

Lessons In Purpose To Be Learned

Each month I write this article with the hope of creating something of interest and value. My writing skills are sometimes questionable, and my subjects may address a problem that some may not want to hear. More often I write about items of Team knowledge, successes, and improvement. I have asked for ideas to build upon, with limited response. One area that was brought to my attention was shortening the meetings.

Also mentioned were items of training. Let's see how that worked.

In a past article I said that the next several months were quiet so we would shorten the Team business and expand the Training Moments. So at the July meeting all discussion of agenda items was compressed, followed by two 20 minute Training Moment presentations that used the bulk of the meeting time. So what



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SWR's mission is to prepare for communications during emergencies and disasters. This preparation is accomplished through working community events such as: The Mother Goose (El Cajon) and North Park Holiday Parades, Descanso Endurance Horse Ride, San Diego International Triathlon, Fiesta Island Time Trials, the Silver Strand Half Marathon and CalFire Volunteers In Prevention Red Flag Patrol .

OFFICERS

President: Roger McCollough
SWR 098

Vice-President: Daniel McDougal
SWR 063

Secretary: June McCollough
SWR 054

Treasurer:
Daniel Willan
SWR 061

Director-At-Large:
Wayne Oliver
SWR 142

The Southwestern REACT General Meeting is held the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at 2650 Melbourne Drive San Diego, CA

REACTIVE TEAM NET

The Team Net is held monthly on the first and fourth Thursdays at 8:00 PM on the 449.440 Mhz Community Based Repeater with a Negative offset of 5Mhz and a PL tone of 107.2 Hz (Mt Otay).

did we cover?

- Don Dodson prepared a presentation on an Overview of "Working in the Incident Command System; Part 1 & 2. Don will continue to expand on this subject in the future.
- George Reeves introduced the value and use of a GPS. He plans to expand team knowledge in map reading and other location finding methods that the Team would find useful.

Thanks fellows, you both did an outstanding job with your subject. The disappointing thing is that, with prior notice of the requested meeting modification, only 11 were in attendance (two instructors, four board members, and **FIVE general members**). Some of you may already be up-to-date on these subjects, but if not, how do you catch-up? The Board and I want all of you to be more than just a member, but be the best member you can be; your fellow members expect it for their success.

The Board is looking for future subjects the Team can use. Suggested to date are:

- Setting up the Team equipment (repeater(s), Go-box remote radio [under construction], etc.)

- How repeaters work [including cross-banding]
- Terms used in radio set-up menus and their meaning
- Antennas (types, connector types and attaching, set-up, etc.)
- Power (supply types [commercial and mobile], connectors [Anderson & ...]
- Policies and Procedures Review [ongoing]
- Radio Procedures [update & review]
- Additional coverage on ICS and map navigation [as used by the Team]

I look forward to **your** discussion on how we can make this happen. Everyone knows these are lessons that we need to learn to be at the top of our game. We are a Team performing using teamwork, not a social club. To make this happen, **you must take part.**

"Nuf said..."

LET'S GIT' ER DONE!!!

pres@southwesternreact.org

REACT General Meeting Team Training Moment

Submitted By Dee Osargent, SWR 058

Don Dodson will present ICS, Part 2 at the general meeting, August 18, 2016.

American Red Cross Communication Team Report

By June McCollough, SWR 054

The ARCCT meeting was held on August 6, 2016. Roger & I were out of town and did not attend.

ARCCT has a net every Tuesday night at 2000 hours (8:00 PM) on the ACS Frequency: 147.195; all amateur radio operators are welcome to check-in.

The next meeting will be on September 10th due to Labor Day weekend at 9:00 AM at 3950 Calle Fortunada, San Diego CA. 92123. These are open meeting for anyone unless they are discussing confidential ARC business.

Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS)

By June McCollough, SWR 054

The ACS meeting was held on August 1, 2016 at the Office of Emergency Service (OES). There was discussion of ACS Organizational Chart and need for Deputy Staff Officers. The next training will be September 10th at 1300-1700; we will discuss Earthquake Preparedness and ACS Response.

The Miramar Air Show will be September 23-25th and ACS participation is yet to be determined. ACS will participate in the Great California Shakeout on October 20th at 1020. There will also be a Radio Rodeo Interoperability Exercise November 15th, time and place to be determined.

We have a net every Monday except First Monday or County Holidays at 1930 (7:30PM). It starts on frequency 147.195 and then moves to 223.800, 52.600 and 448.78 (not necessarily in that order). If you would like to check it out, please feel free to check-in as visitor when requested at the end of the formal part of the Net.

The next meeting will be on September 12th at 1830 hours (6:30PM). All are welcome.

SANDARC

By June McCollough, SWR 054

The SANDARC meeting was held on July 28th. Gayle Olson K6GO did a PowerPoint presentation about providing scholarships to young Amateurs in the local area to not

only help that but make the community away of Amateur Radio in our area. The PowerPoint is available either from SANDARC or I have a copy. SANDARC is looking for clubs

to participate and would like feedback before the next meeting in October.

Team Members Needed

By June McCollough, SWR, 054

As discussed at the last Team meeting we are going to salvage the team trailer and sell what we don't need and store what we do need. We will be doing this on August 20th from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will meet at Daniel McDougal's home and this go to where the trailer is stored. Please contact Daniel McDougal if you can help and need his address. It probably won't take that long but we want to do it in the cool of the day. Please come help with this project.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

By John Wright, SWR 042

The monthly ARES meeting was held Saturday, August 13, 2013 at Scripps La Jolla. Topics discussed included preparation for the Miramar Air Show taking place September 23-25 this year. ARES will have an expanded role this year so more volunteers will be needed. All REACT members are invited to participate.

Also continuing is the process of

credentialing ARES members. The first group is almost completed.

The main event of the meeting was a "table-top" emergency communications drill put together by Jim Brauer, N6DAR. The exercise simulated a full ARES deployment and communications that would take place after the various hospitals were staffed. Four hospitals were

simulated.

The exercise materials will be available on the ARES website in the near future.

As always, the meeting was followed by the Gateway Communicator Workshop.



ARES members participate in a table-top emergency communications exercise at the August ARES meeting at Scripps La Jolla Hospital.
John Wright, SWR 042.



REACT President Roger McCollough, SWR 098, standing, and Don Dodson, SWR 055 confer with Red Cross Representative Danny Briggs, KD6OKR, and Crest EC Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ, at the August ARES meeting.
John Wright, SWR 042

Where is the Team Going?

By John Wright, SWR, 042, R

Opinion

Note: The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Southwestern REACT, its members or officers.

Southwestern REACT is at a crossroads. We are in the unfortunate position of having to determine whether we will continue to exist as a Team, evolve into something else or close up shop completely.

The first indication of this crisis came in the form of declining participation in events we have worked for years. Team involvement has dropped off to the point where even simple events such as the Fiesta Island Time Trials are understaffed.

This has been followed by a decline in membership. When I joined the team last year, there were 31 members on the roster. Now there are 25 with about 15 being active members. We even saw the resignation of a board member and REACT editor in recent months.

We have some questions we must ask ourselves, the most important being “What are we going to do about this?” Are we going to let the Team drift into obscurity or endeavor to continue as a viable entity in Emergency Communications in San Diego County?

First and foremost (and perhaps most importantly), we need to grow our membership. How do we do this? I will be the first to admit that there are many aspects of amateur radio and emergency/event communications isn't always the primary interest of hams. Some like DXing, others work satellites or are into high speed data networking. The possibilities are endless.

The only way we are going to grow our membership is to actively recruit other hams, both those who are brand new and those that have been licensed for a while. When you talk to other amateur radio operators that are not members of REACT, you can get several reactions, from “Who are they?” to “Aren't those the CB guys?” REACT is not well known among a lot of hams and in some cases, highly disliked.

We need to dispel those notions as best we can. How do we go about doing that? The best way is to get out among other amateurs and show them we are not what they perceive us to be. To that end, here are some questions for you:

1. How many of you have attended a meeting of another ham radio group in San Diego County? Have you ever checked into one of their nets? Have you ever checked into our own twice-monthly REACT net?

There are fifteen amateur radio clubs or groups, including REACT, listed on the SANDARC website. These cover all parts of the county from Carlsbad to Chula Vista and east to Campo. There is also ACS and ARES. Each club has one or more repeaters on the air and they conduct periodic nets on these repeaters. Checking into one of these nets, even as a guest is a good way to get known among the amateur radio community in San Diego.

And the REACT net, conducted twice a month, is conducted on the 449.44 community repeater that has a very wide coverage. Almost anyone on the team should be able to check into it.

2. How many of you have thought about upgrading your license above your current level?

The amateur radio license examination question pools are published in full and there are many on-line resources to help one study for the exams. There are also license classes conducted in the county on a regular basis. In addition, SANDARC conducts testing in all parts of the county on almost all weekends.

3. How many of you that do hold higher licenses engage in other amateur communications, such as HF?

Can't afford a new HF radio? There are a lot of perfectly good used radios out there and if this is still out of reach, it's a simple matter to find someone who might be will to give you an opportunity to operate their radio.

4. How many of you have ever attended Field Day?

The annual ARRL Field Day event is an excellent opportunity to get out and see how other amateurs work HF and perhaps even be able to operate under the guidance of a control operator. Remember those from your license exam?

5. Have you ever participated in a non-REACT event?

Here is the perfect opportunity to get out and see how other facets of amateur radio function and show others how excellent REACT members can be at event communications.

To that end, I would encourage all REACT members to consider volunteering to assist ARES with communications at this year's Miramar Air Show, September 23-25. ARES (and amateur radio) is going to have a larger role in the air show this year, beyond the previous "lost child/parent" function. The details have not been disseminated but what is known is that many more volunteers will be needed this year. I have worked this event in the past and it's a lot of fun. You get to walk around, mix with the people and look at all the exhibits while performing your duties.

6. Have you ever "Elmered" a new ham?

Elmering (mentoring) new hams is a traditional part of amateur radio; one of the foundations on which it was founded. There are any number of way to help mentor new hams. One of the best is by becoming an instructor at the Gateway Communicator Workshops conducted at Scripps La Jolla immediately following the monthly ARES meeting. This could be a good way to encourage new hams to become REACT members.

These are just a few of the ways we could attract new members to REACT and also help to dispel the misconception that we are a bunch of "CB jerks" and that we are actually competent, skillful and experienced emergency communications operators.

Give it a try. You have nothing to lose.

Events/Meetings/Nets

- August 18th REACT General Meeting
- August 25th REACTIVE Net
- Sept 1st REACTIVE Net
- Sept 8th REACT Board Meeting
- Sept 15th REACT General Meeting
- Sept 18th Lakeside Touch-A-Truck
- Sept 23-25 Miramar Air Show (ARES event—REACT has been invited to participate.)
- Sept 25th Fiesta Island Time Trails #5 of 6
- Nov 6th Fiesta Island Time Trails #6 of 6

If you would like to help with these events, please contact a board member at board@southwesternreact.org.