



# Southwestern REACTer



November 2016



Michelle Harmon, SWR 064, participated in the Boy Scout's Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) from Kate Sessions Park in La Jolla.  
Daniel McDougal, SWR 063





## **SOUTHWESTERN REACT, Inc.**

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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 Olay).

## **From Your President**

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098

### **Follow Me Boys Part 2: The Response to Your Leader's Message**

In response to last month's message that told of the frustration of seeking response to the team's needs, I was pleasantly surprised by the responses I received. Several were from leaders or active members of other teams and clubs. These people revealed their groups had similar problems in member activity and willingness to serve. I thank them for sharing their thoughts.

WELL! How about that? Still, I hope we want our team to be, and have, the very best. In case you had not noticed, we have modified the general meeting to compress the business portions and expand the Training Moment to a Training Period of one or two lessons/discussions of use or interest to team activities. Of course for this to work, member attendance has to be up to being worth the instructor's effort. This is where everyone must be active. That activity includes sharing your experience and knowledge with others, and of course, being on the training receiving end for your personal growth.

**Bottom Line:** Teamwork makes a team work. (Somebody must have said that before.)

Last month I wrote: *"In just one month you will be asked to select who you want on the ballot that should run our Team into the next year."*

Well that time has come. The nominating door will close at the next General Meeting. No matter who wins the following election, I don't expect protest marching in the streets.

I also wrote: *"I don't think some of you feel I am that person [to lead the Team]."*

Well, the upcoming elections are in your hands. We had a good board this past year and I hope they are considering running again this year. Their discussions about the team's actions and directions were well thought out and moved us forward. As always, there are (and probably always will be) "bumps in the road" that need smoothing; select and elect the best.

And, despite the quote above, I think my efforts for the team are my best; I hope it has been good enough. So, to those that asked, yes, my name will be on the ballot for 2017. You choose.

**Bottom Line:** Please do your best and choose the best.

My background is deeply rooted in communications; communications of all types. We often called it "DC to daylight" and everything in-between. We also noted that many of our co-workers were poor communicators; maybe I might be one of them---Nah! As much as I talk, there must be some information there somewhere. It is your job to communicate your thoughts and concerns. Help us improve by giving the board your thoughts.

**Bottom Line:** You are communicators --- So communicate.

**Final Bottom Line:** Attend the meetings and share.

"Nuf said..." **Let's Git 'Er Done!!!** ►

[pres@southwesternreact.org](mailto:pres@southwesternreact.org)

## American Red Cross Communication Team Report

By June McCollough, SWR 054

The ARCCT meeting was held on November 5. After the usual reports from Jer (AK6QJ), we reviewed the Communications Duty Officer FAQ. This is to give each member an update on what this job involves

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 December 3, 2016 at 9:00 AM at 3950 Calle Fortunada, San Diego CA. 92123. These meetings are open for anyone unless they are discussing confidential ARC business. ►

## ACS (Auxiliary Communications Services)

By June McCollough, SWR 054

The ACS meeting was held on November 7th at the Office of Emergency Service (OES).

ACS participated in the San Diego Fry's Operating Day on November 6th; there was a good turnout of amateurs and non-amateurs alike. There will be a Radio Rodeo Interoperability Exercise November 15th at the Del Mar Fair Grounds.

The next training will be November 19th at OES from 0900 to 1300; we will be learning about Winlink.

ACS has a net every Monday except First Monday or County Holidays at 1930 (7:30 PM). 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 December 5th at 1830 hours (6:30 PM). All are welcome. ►

## Dues Are Due

By June McCollough, SWR 054

Although we did not have a quorum at the last general meeting and the budget was not voted in, the board recommended that the dues for 2017 remain the same as in the past year. REACT International would like renewal by December 2016 so please plan to renew your membership no later than the December General Meeting on December 15th.

Regular Dues are \$35.00, Family/Junior members \$25.00.

Please see Daniel Willan or June McCollough if you have any questions.

Also if you want a new ID Picture, please come to the November meeting ready to have that taken. ►

## Boy Scout JOTA (Jamboree On The air)

By June McCollough, SWR 054

It was a nice day on October 15th, when Roger & I went to the Boy Scouts' Camp Balboa in Balboa Park in the early morning to be a part of JOTA. We arrived at 0700 and were busy setting up the UHF/VHF radio to be able to communicate with Daniel McDougal and Michelle Harmon who set up at Kate Sessions Park in Pacific Beach and George Reeves who set up on Cowles Mountain. Besides us, there were 4 to 5 HF stations set up for the Boy Scouts to use to talk to other places.

We had a very large number of Boy Scouts come by and talk as third party traffic. It was a good experience and I would recommend it to all amateurs ►





June McCollough, SWR 054, assisting a scout with his contact during the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)  
*Roger McCollough, SWR 098*



Another shot of Michelle Harmon, SWR 064, participating in the Jamboree on the Air event. *Daniel McDougal, SWR 063*

## Anderson Powerpoles

By John Wright, SWR 042

Those of you that attended the September meeting had a chance to see my recently completed Go-Kit. You probably noticed I made extensive use of Anderson Powerpoles® to furnish DC power to all the devices I included in the kit.

Because of that I thought it might be prudent to include

a little information about Powerpoles and how they are used. The following information comes from West Mountain Radio, a manufacturer and distributor of power products, including the RIGRunner® distribution panel I used in my Go-Kit. ►

### Powerpole® Connector General Installation Tips

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Assemble the red and black plastic housings together correctly on the first try, they fit snugly and can be difficult to get apart. See the picture below for ARES /RACES standard orientation. Note that you can assemble the red and black insulated housings in other ways for special applications.



Put the connector housings together before putting the connector pins in. This is easier, especially when using heavy paired wire.

Before soldering or crimping the contacts onto heavy paired wire, orient the contacts so that they are both facing the correct direction so that they go in the housings without twisting the wire.

The plastic housings are held together with dovetail joints. Always slide these joints together! They will be damaged if you try to snap them together or apart. They ONLY slide together in one direction. This should be obvious by looking

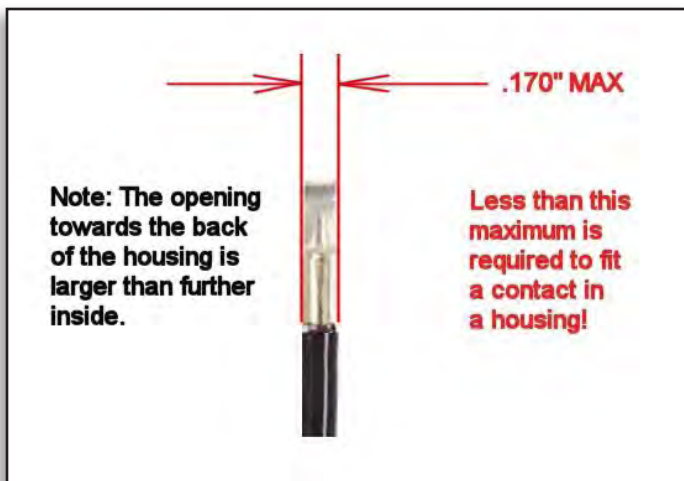
at them carefully.

Do not use roll pins on Powerpoles. Some vendors supply roll pins with Powerpoles. Do not use them, they can and will fall out, and knowing Murphy, right in to your new, radio causing smoke!

Anderson does not supply or recommend roll pins. They supply not roll pins but much more expensive spiral pins, which are better. But even the proper spiral pins will fall out. If the pair of heavy wires are squeezed together near the back of the connector, like you might do when you pull the connector out, it will spread the bodies apart slightly and out falls the pin.

Anderson recommends using a cyanoacrylate glue, like Crazy Glue, to hold the connector bodies permanently together. They do not recommend their spiral pins for critical applications. Normally the dovetail joints in the housings hold well. If you find it necessary, glue them, don't use pins. Make sure you have them assembled correctly BEFORE you glue, as they will be permanently bonded together with a cyanoacrylate. All it takes is a very small drop of cyanoacrylate glue in the seam between the red and black bodies. N9EF suggests a bit of silicon glue injected in to the hole between the red and black housings. He says it holds them together quite well but they can be separated if needed.

The contacts go in the housings in only one way. Insert the contacts with their sharp edge down against the flat spring in the housing. They should slide in and click. If you do not hear a click or they are not fully seated, fix them. When they are inserted fully you should notice that the contact and it's wire "floats" slightly inside it's housing. If it feels tight it may not be snapped in fully or you have made the contact wider than it originally was during crimping or soldering.



***You will not be able to insert the contacts into the housings if they are too wide after soldering or crimping!***

Tug slightly on the assembled connector to make sure the contacts are locked in place. If you have trouble getting the contact to lock in to the housing you may have squashed the contact wider or deformed it somehow. Look at the side profile of the contacts before and after crimping, you may have to bend it back straight before inserting it in to the housing.

When soldering the contact pins, be careful not to use too much solder. Keep the solder inside, where the wire goes. If

a blob of solder gets on the outside of the connector body you may have trouble putting the contact into the housing. If you get solder on the contact surface area you will not make a good contact.

When crimping the contact pins use a crimp that contains the wire completely inside the pin and doesn't spread the connector apart. A good crimp is one where the dimensions of the crimped portion are no more than an uncrimped pin. If the crimp is flattened out you will not be able to easily push the pin in to the body. If you bend the contact blade in relation to the crimp area you should straighten it before putting it in to the body.

It is possible to use larger or smaller gauge wire with the 30 and 45 amp connectors. The 30 amp connector pins will work—with difficulty—with #10 wire if you cut the end cleanly and carefully put each and every strand of that wire in to the pin. It may be easier to use 45 amp connectors on #10 wire. Using 16 gauge or smaller wire in a 30 amp contact requires that you double or triple up the wire to fill the crimp receptacle of the contact to get a good crimp.

A properly crimped contact should have a minimum hold on the wire of more than 25 pounds. A pair of connectors should snap together with 6 to 8 pounds force. Last but not least, MAKE SURE you have the polarity correct before plugging in you equipment.

“Measure twice, cut once” as the saying goes. ►



Cutaway view of a Powerpole connector.

Note that the contact must fit through the gap between the housing and the spring and that the contact is snapped over the end of the spring.



**CORRECT!**

The contacts are in proper alignment and ready to push in. Listen for a click on each one to make sure they are fully inserted.



Molded-in dovetails lock modules into multipole units

If broken under load arcing is confined to tip, a non-conducting area

Detent keeps connectors mated and provides quick break snap action upon disconnect

Stainless steel leaf spring provides constant contact pressure



Rugged lightweight polycarbonate housing

Wiping action on make and break keeps conducting surfaces clear

Low resistance silver-plated copper contacts

**WRONG!**

Contacts are up side down in relation to the housings and the colors are backwards.

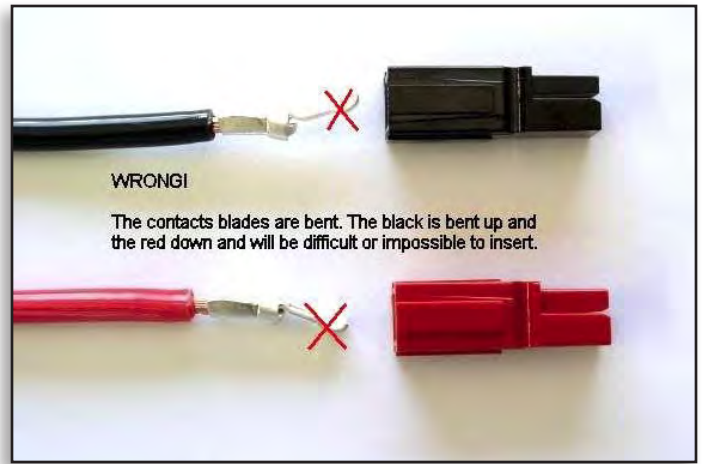
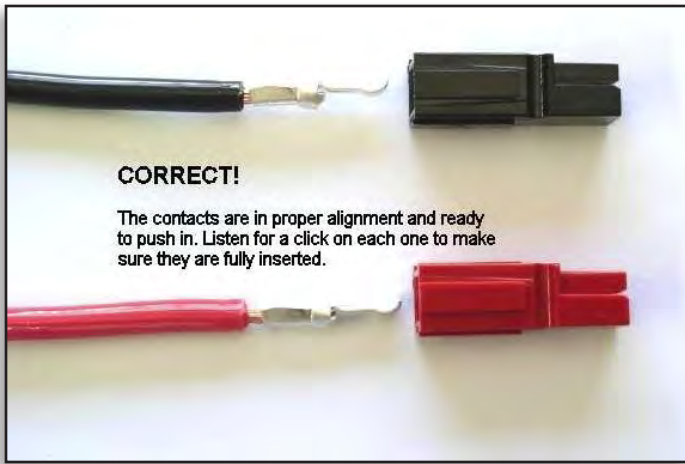


**WRONG!**

Contacts are at an angle and will be difficult or impossible to insert.







## Fry's Operating Day, Nov 6, 2016

Photos by Walter Wallenborn, SWR 089

