



# Southwestern REACTer



SEPTEMBER 2024





## **SOUTHWESTERN REACT, Inc.**

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[www.swreact.com](http://www.swreact.com)

### **OFFICERS**

**President:** Roger McCollough  
SWR 098

**Vice-President:** John Wright  
SWR 042

**Secretary:** Vacant

**Treasurer:** June McCollough  
SWR 054

**Director-At-Large:**  
George Reeves  
SWR 081

SWR's mission is to prepare for communications during emergencies and disasters. This preparation is accomplished through working community events such as: The Lakeside Western Days, and North Park Toyland parades, the Midnight Madness Bicycle Ride and Fiesta Island Time Trials, the Silver Strand Half-Marathon, the San Diego International Triathlon and the Descanso Endurance Horse Ride

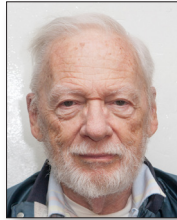
The Southwestern REACT board meeting is held the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Mission Valley iHop restaurant. Any member is welcome to attend. Contact us for the address.

The Southwestern REACT General Meeting is held the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM on the Zoom application. Contact us for the meeting link.

### **Reactive Team Net**

See the website for net information.

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## **Crystal Ball Thoughts**

Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

### **From Historic Trails To The Future?**

#### **Prologue**

The history trail of Southwestern REACT is replete with changes to upgrade our capabilities to serve our community. To, perhaps, foresee the possible future, we might take a moment to review our past development as an emergency and service communications team. Let's begin.

#### **Our Situation and Duty.**

The REACT "Bible" may well start off "in the beginning there was nothing for the motorist public". Well, at that time, the CB radio service was in its infant stage but rapidly growing from base stations to mobiles and hand helds. Soon mobiles were talking to other mobile and base stations. Then "one dark and stormy night" someone in a mobile called a base to report an emergency, and at that moment, REACT was born "Good Buddy".

#### **The March Of Time.**

As stated above, the birth of CB Radio quickly caught the whole nation's attention with personal use radio with low cost and no testing required for a license, just money. Several movies ("Smokey and The Bandit") and TV shows ("Dukes of Hazard") depicted using CB. With all those radios out there, the need to use them for public safety and support. REACT, along with small scattered groups attempted to fill the need. Southwestern REACT was formed with a small group in the South Bay area and grew from there. Hundreds have passed through as members, at one time, having over 100 members, making SWR the largest team in the nation. That was then. Times have changed.

Through the years, realizing we needed to improve our coverage, we added GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service)

which was Class A of the Personal Radio Service (CB is Class D). We continued to support CB through monitoring and communications with those that did not have GMRS, until the public use of cellphones pretty much ended motorist CB traffic. But the GMRS became our main-stay when we got our first repeater on Lyon's Peak, and the ability to connect through the Palomar and Santiago repeaters.

The next change occurred when the FCC changed the rules on group call signs and we lost our team license causing us to use only our personal call signs. Then we lost access to Lyons Peak. That led us to the Amateur Radio Service, where we are now.

#### **Open The Crystal Ball Channel.**

The existing technologies in amateur radio are changing to improve coverage and quality. The promise of digital has created a number of options. Most notable are DMR and C4FM (also known as Fusion). I will discuss these in more detail in an article in "Pro's Nest". At this time, the Board is discussing if we can integrate one or the other in the Team's communication's tool box, in the near future. Here are some positive and negatives we are considering.

#### **Positive And Negatives of DMR & C4FM**

**Advantages:** Both are digital systems, though not compatible, perform with clarity (no noise) where analog may be unreadable under matching conditions. There a number of local repeaters that handle C4FM. DMR systems allow communications with others on other repeaters worldwide. DMR radios are available from many different manufacturers allowing for a lower cost.

**Disadvantages:** C4FM is currently only available in certain Yaesu radios, which

makes them more costly. DMR radios require creating a Code Plug (a configuration data load of for each Talk Group (digital channel) and repeater information). There are fewer local DMR repeaters.

“Nuf said...”

**let's GIT' ER DONE!!!** ✈

### **Your Part In All Of This.**

Your Feedback!

## **COVER IMAGE**

John Wright, SWR 042, Vice-President

Southwestern REACT extends its condolences and sympathies to the San Diego Police Department and the family of Officer Austin Machitar who was killed in the line of duty during a high speed chase in Clairemont on August 26, 2024. Officer Machitar and his partner were responding the chase when the suspect vehicle dtruck their cruiser causing it to burst into flaes. Officer Machitar died at the scene and his partner was trasported to the hospital in critical condition. (That officer is now recovering at home and is expected to make a full recovery.) The 16-year-old driver of the speeding car was also killed in the accident.

<https://www.odmp.org/officer/27125-police-officer-austin-machitar>

## **Southwestern REACT Board Meeting, August 8, 2024**

June McCollough, SWR 054, Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Roger McCollough at 7:06pm.

**Quorum Check** – Four (4) Board Members. Visitor - None

**Special Motion** – None

**Board Meeting Minutes** – Motion to accepted and filed; Moved by John Wright, Seconded by George Reeves. Motion carried.

**Correspondence List** – Reviewed

**Treasurer's Report** – June McCollough reported an ending balance as of July 31, 2024 of \$3,92.80.

**REACT Editor** – Latest issue is out – **Webmaster** – Website is up to date

### **Unfinished Business:**

**TEAM Name Tags** – They will be delivered at next event or general meeting.

### **New Business:**

**September General Meeting** – Cindy and Craig Wilcken offered to hold the meeting at their home in Santee. See Roster for address or contact board member. Please bring finger food to share.

**Training Moment** -- Baker 2 Vegas by Mike Bailey and Travis Colleado, check to see if they are on board to do it.

**Team Go-box** – More discuss on radio and battery – will have quote for it soon.

### **Post Events:**

None.

### **Upcoming Events:**

[See SWReact.com/events](https://www.swreact.com/events)

### **Good of the Team:**

None

**Meeting Adjourned** at 8:28 PM ✈



# Southwestern REACT General Meeting, August 15, 2024

June McCollough, SWR 054, Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Roger McCollough at 6:39 pm.

**Quorum Check** – 10 members present; 2 Visitors.

**Special Motions** - None.

**General Meeting Minutes** – Motion made to approve June Minutes Moved by Tyler Klein and Mike Bailey; Motion Carried.

**Correspondence List** – Reviewed

**Treasurer's Report** – June McCollough reported an ending balance as of July 31, 2024 of \$3,923.80.

**REACTer Editor** – REACTer was out first week of month. **Webmaster** – Pictures of FITT even are added.

## Unfinished Business

**Team name tags** – To be distributed when I see the members.

## New Business

**September General Meeting** - It will be face to face at the Wilcken's home in Santee. Bring snack food to share.

**Go-Box** – Waiting for more information to do quote on cost to get team approval.

**RAT Pac Training Classes** – Added to Website resource page; There is a link on the website – check it out.

**Training Moment** – Mike Bailey & Travis Colleado provided a power-point on Baker to Vegas. There was a lot of useful information.

## Post Events

None

## Upcoming Events\*

\*See [SWReact.com](http://SWReact.com) for complete list

## Good of the Team:

None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:07 pm ✨