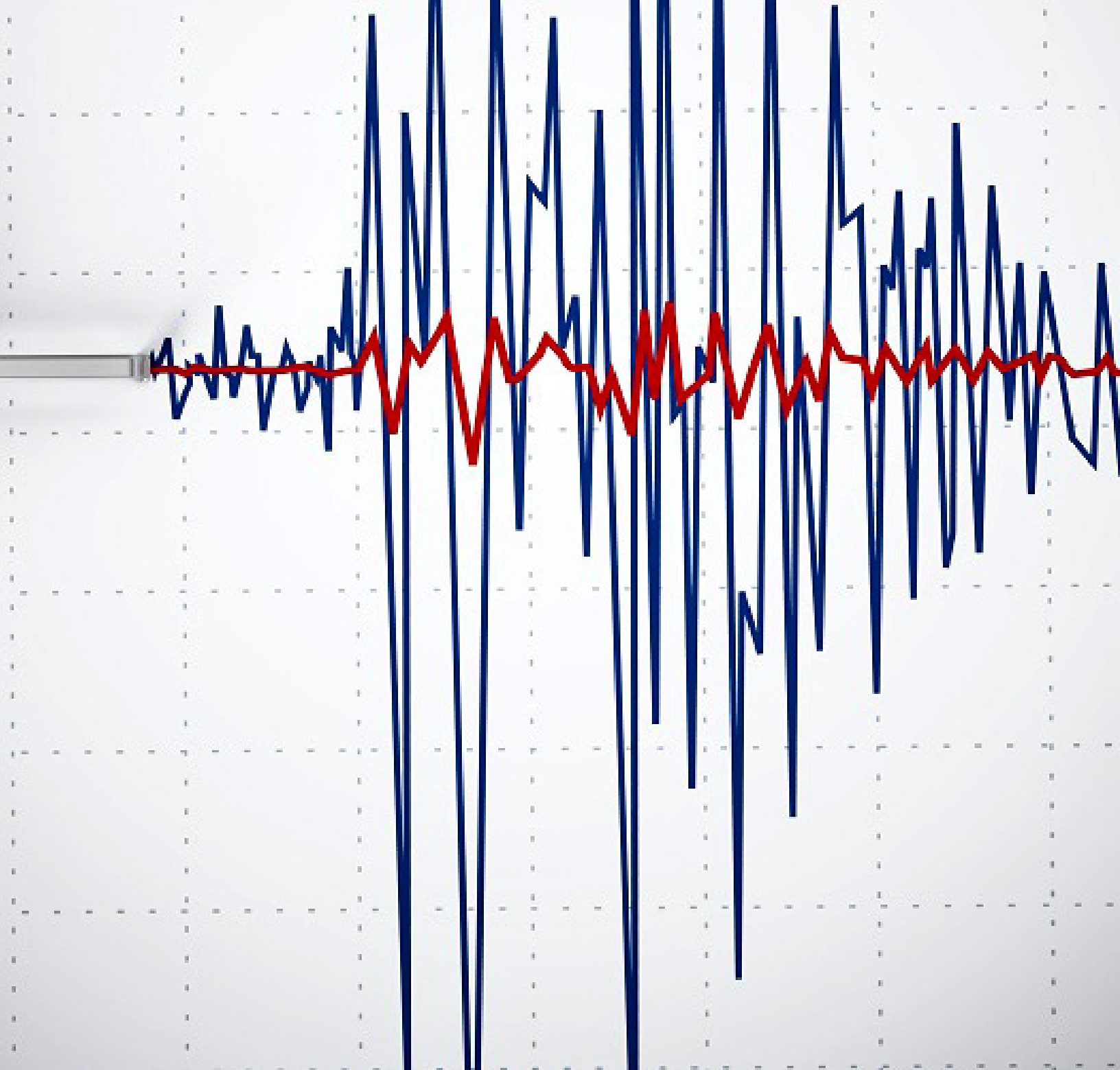




Southwestern REACTer



JULY 2019





**SOUTHWESTERN
REACT, Inc.**

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OFFICERS

President: Roger McCollough
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Treasurer: June McCollough
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Director-At-Large:
Jim Patterson
SWR 151

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 General Meeting is held the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at: 2650 Melbourne Drive, San Diego, CA

Reactive Team Net

The Team net is held on the first and fourth Thursdays of the month at 8:00 PM on the 449.060 REACT/ARES Repeater with a negative offset and a PL tone of 88.5 (Mt. Otay)

"Be Prepared, It Is Going To Happen"

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

(On a Serious Note)

IT? What is IT?

It could be a kind of a dumb question, (except there are no dumb questions) at least for the mission that we're preparing for? Let's be clear. It is any time or place that, through our efforts we can create a feeling of safety while protecting life and or property using our individual talents and communication skills and equipment. You probably can say it better, but the meaning is the same.

This is What IT Can be (Just one small example)

The Fourth of July got off to a 6.4 big bang start. No, not the usual fireworks, not yet anyway, but at 10:33 AM, the town of Ridgecrest moved a little further north, as the earth slipped along a local fault line!. Ah-Ha! Was that part of the "Big One?" No, as we have come to learn, there was a bigger one yet to occur, when, at 8:19 PM the area was struck by a 7.1 test of the people of Ridgecrest nerves, shelving, and building code. But have no fear, help is on the way.

Fortunately, all this chaos occurred beyond our usual service range. Isolated reports came in throughout Southern California and Nevada; damage reports were limited to the area between North-western Mohave Desert to the southern Owens Valley, at South Eastern tip of the Sierra Mountains. Most of you are familiar with the area, and the national media describes it as northeast of L.A. during their national coverage. Over the past 100 years many of the western movies have been shot within 100 miles of Ridgecrest. To put it another way, it's pretty barren out there, so property damage is limited to the small towns in the area, and as luck would have it, Ridgecrest is one of those small towns.

Supplies damaged or destroyed, utilities

damaged or destroyed, people living in tents, afraid or unable to live in their damaged homes, fires, transportation disrupted, hundreds of ongoing aftershocks and the list goes on. Then comes the question, how long will it take to restore the small town to normal life? So then comes the big question, what are you prepared to do if this IT occurred 480 miles further south?

Preparing For Our IT

There are more than 28,000 people living in 21 square miles of Ridgecrest. There are over 2.3 million people spread out over the 43,000 square miles of San Diego County. Of the approximately 8000 licensed amateurs in San Diego County, how many are able or capable in assisting in San Diego's recovery? ARES can barely staff all of the medical facilities, some ACS/RACES members supporting other response groups, and all are limited to the amount of time they can assist in recovery. Although our team is small, it is well trained and experienced in varying degrees. The usefulness of any radio operator will be judged by his current experience. There is no time for training in the midst of a disaster.

Which of the many IT's is Next, and When?

There are many other IT's likely in our area. In the past we have seen wild-fires, floods, extremes of weather, just to name a few. We've talked in the past about the need to remain current in team activities and events. If you are needed, this is your wake-up call to be ready.

"Nuf said..."

let's GIT' ER DONE!!!

Giro di San Diego

Article and Photos By Jay Pistolias, SWR 046

Southwestern REACT/San Diego took part in the Annual Giro di San Diego Bicycle Marathon which covered 105 miles of city and mountain biking.

Once again, Southwestern REACT kept our riders safe with our team members posted along the bike route at various water and rest stops. The Giro di San Diego is one of the largest cycling marathons in the country

Our team got to the Start/Finish line early to set up our portable repeater and assign our team members to various checkpoints. Each member was to relay messages of any medical emergencies, water and food needs, and field questions from participants. Cell phone service was

either spotty or non-existent, so we used ham radio on one of the wide area UHF Repeaters which provided excellent coverage throughout.

June McCollough was our Net Control operator with George Reeves, Patrick Gooden, Roger McCollough, and Jim Patterson at the various water stops. I was roving the course and escorting riders at the start, with assistance from the California Highway Patrol. Of the over 700 cyclists, only a few minor injuries were reported and dehydration was common. After 10 hours, we were tired but happy to report that the team did a great job and every rider got back safely!



One of the rest areas along the course.



Jay Pistolias, SWR 046 and George Reeves, SWR 081.



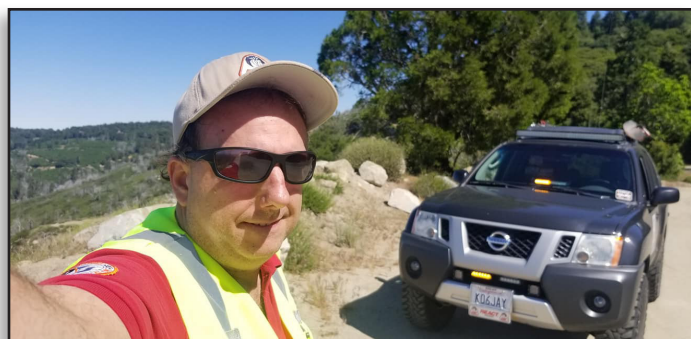
California highway Patrol escorting the riders out of the Start-Finish area.



Another rest area along the course.



George Reeves, SWR 081 and Roger McCollough, SWR 098 at Kit Carson Park Start-Finish area.



Jay Pistolias, SWR 046 somewhere out on the course.

Upcoming Events		
Event	Date	Status
Touch-A-Truck	09/22/2019	Approved
Silver Strand Half Marathon	11/10/2019 (Sun)	Approved

San Diego International Triathlon Pictures

Photos by Jay Pistolias, SWR 046

(No event report was submitted.)

