



Southwestern REACTer



JANUARY 2020

*happy
new
year!*

The text "happy new year!" is written in a large, pink, cursive font. It is decorated with green and purple dots, green and purple streamers, and two green megaphones. One megaphone is on the left, pointing towards the bottom left, and the other is on the right, pointing towards the top right. The year "2015" is written in a purple, sans-serif font inside the right megaphone.



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OFFICERS

President: Roger McCollough
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Vice-President: John Wright
SWR 042

Secretary: Jay Pistolas
SWR 046

Treasurer: June McCollough
SWR 054

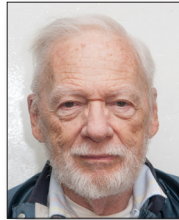
Director-At-Large:
Jim Patterson
SWR 151

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 7:00 PM on the 449.060 REACT/ARES Repeater with a negative offset and a PL tone of 88.5 (Mt. Otay)



Someone, Somewhere

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

Not To Relax Our Guard

**New Year And Time
For A Profound(?)
Message; You
Be The Judge.**

Here we are well, and at the start of another new year, and the effects of winter have begun. I find myself sitting in my little cozy office with the realization that the snow is piled up high (someplace else); that cold winter winds are blowing across the countryside, chilling people to the bone (someplace else); rivers are rising and the landscape is flooding (someplace else); and the sun is shining and the air is warm and people are in shirtsleeves; not someplace else, but right here.

At the places mentioned above, First-Responders are calling upon their training, experience, and equipment, to aid their communities, and hopefully save lives. These responders are effective because they have those three life-saving elements of training, experience, and equipment. I feel certain that these elements give them almost superpowers to perform when duty calls. It would be foolish to think that their training would not continue or evolve, or that experiences would not be shared among the teams and agencies, or that all the equipment would be packed up and stored untouched and unmaintained until the next demand for their use. Of course we must recognize many of these locations need to respond frequently and often close together; a plus for their preparedness. When called to duty, both professional and volunteers work together, each knowing the others have their back.

**But what if that someplace
is not someplace else?**

So what are the chances of something happening in our area that we see happening someplace else? Floods and fires

seem to be our lot in this corner of the world. Any of those were to happen here, they could reach disaster proportions. Also on the list of potential disaster sources would be earthquakes and tsunamis. Those last two, should they happen, could endanger a large proportion of the population with little or no warning. What are the chances it would affect you, or your neighborhood, or close friends and co-workers, maybe everyone? Past events show that agencies limited resources would soon be tapped out, leaving the bulk of the population without aid or assistance or resources. Things don't happen without information to direct recovery. That information comes with established communications and their trained operators. So our best hope to assist the recovery is our training, experience, and our prepared equipment. There is one other element to strengthen our efforts. We need people, trained and qualified to meet the needs as they arise.

Sadly, I must report that several valued and experienced members did not renew this year. They will be missed. In the past, members of come and gone, and we are always looking for new members to strengthen our response capabilities. So that when that someplace is here, Southwestern REACT will be there

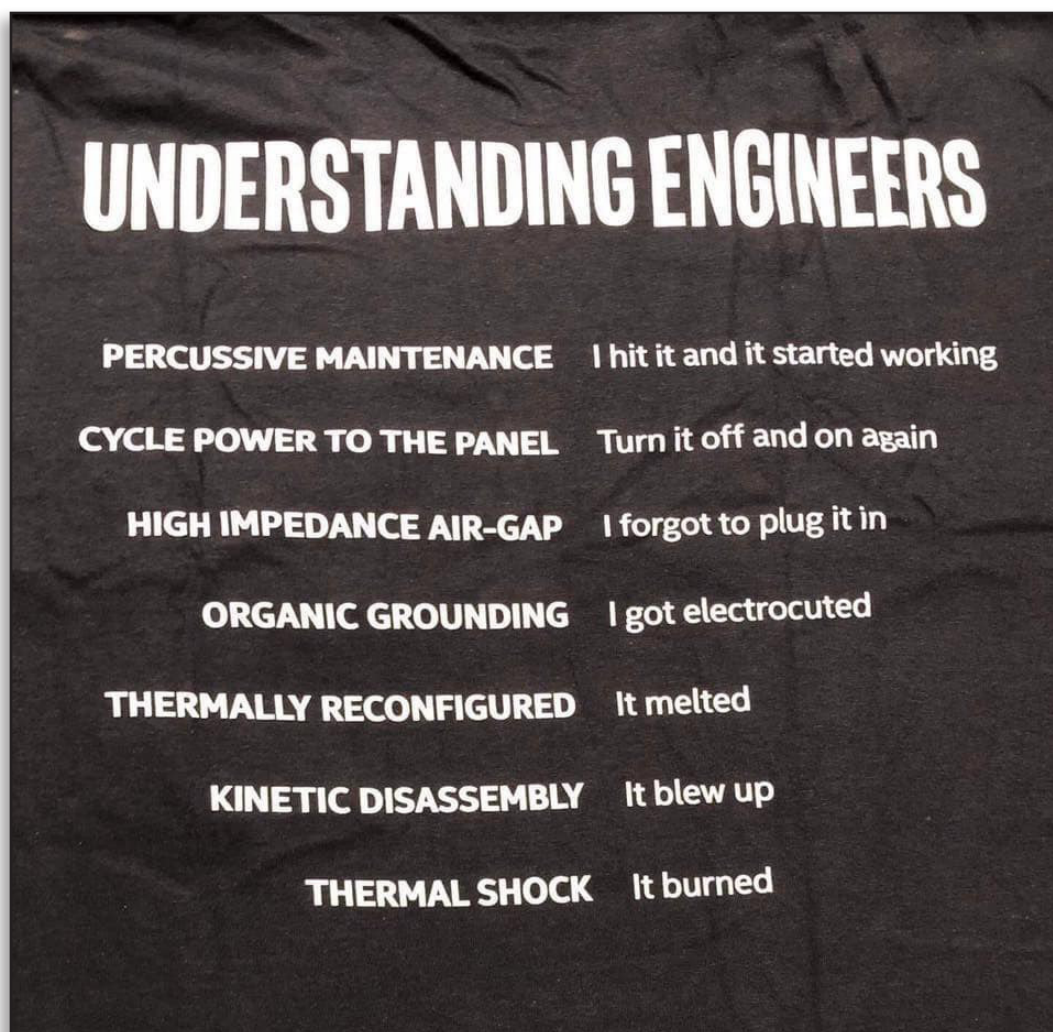
"Nuf said..."

LET'S GIT' ER DONE!!! ✈

Upcoming Events			
Event	Date	Status	Coordinator
Encinitas Half Marathon	3/29/2020 (Sun)	Approved	Pending
Campagnolo GranFondo (San Diego)	4/5/2020 (Sun)	Request Pending	
Lakeside Western Days Parade	4/25/2020 (Sat)	Approved	Pending
ARES Hospital Drill	4/29/2020 (Wed)	Information Only	
Giro Di San Diego (Escondido)	6/13/2020 (Sat)	Request Pending	
Trail of Terror	10/23 & 24, 30 & 31/2020	Request Rec'd	
Silver Strand Half Marathon	11/8/2020 (Sun)	Request Pending	

This list of Upcoming Events represents our anticipated event schedule for 2020. So far, only two events have been approved. We need Coordinators for both the Encinitas Half Marathon, March 29th, and the Lakeside Western Days Parade, April 25th. Anyone interested in coordinating either of these events, contact Vice-President John Wright, SWR 042, at k6cpo@cox.net

In other team business, it's time for our annual financial audit. Per Article XI, Section 10 of the Southwestern REACT By-Laws, three active members appointed by the President are required to audit the Treasurer's accounts and submit a report to the board at the February board meeting and to the membership at the February general meeting. Normally, the audit can be accomplished in one evening. Anyone wishing to assist with the audit please contact one of the board members.



Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

“Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler” is a quote attributed to Albert Einstein (<https://quotationcelebration.wordpress.com/2017/01/07/everything-should-be-made-as-simple-as-possible-but-not-simpler-albert-einstein/comment-page-1/>). Here’s one way to apply this principle in amateur radio, specifically to code practice oscillators.

A week ago, my friend, Paul emailed me:

“I am planning on teaching a two-hour introduction to Morse code to 14 girls ages 8 to 9 [[Paul’s granddaughter is a Girl Scout.]]. I plan on having the girls build a code practice device. I need your help in selecting a low cost buzzer and battery holder. Please take a look around and see would you can find. I would like to limit the power to one or two AA batteries.”

I replied that I’d be happy to help him with the demonstration, and offered the following advice:

“A while back, I built the QRPGuys’ K7QO Code Practice Oscillator (<https://qrpguys.com/k7qo-code-practice-oscillator>). It uses a CR2032 coin battery.

“Unfortunately, they don’t sell it anymore, but the assembly manual is still online (https://qrpguys.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cpo_assy_012616.pdf). The assembly manual doesn’t call out specific parts, but here are some Amazon SKUs:

- *BooJ4BKoNS, Black 3V Electromagnetic Type Piezo Buzzer, 20 pcs/\$6.58*
- *Bo6XF3K4NP, Coin Cell Button Battery Holder, 30 pcs/\$9*
- *Boo8SNZUYC, 3 Pin PCB Mount Female 3.5mm Stereo Jack, 10 pcs/\$5.40*
- *Bo71RMD6FD, 1/8” 3.5mm Stereo Male Connector, 10 pcs/\$7*

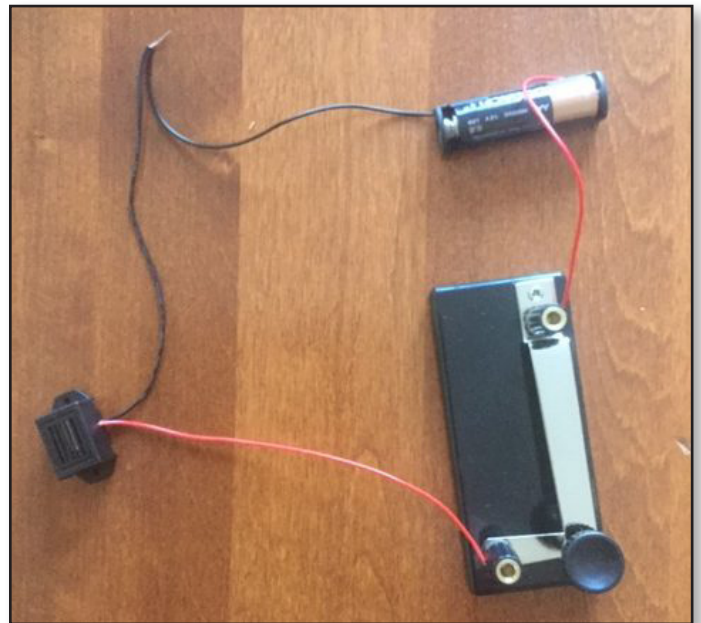
“Batteries are available at the dollar store for about 30 cents each. So, you could do the whole thing for less than \$5 for sure, even with a printed circuit board, which I would suggest that we do. Heck, if you ask nicely, the QRPGuys might even give us the artwork, or even better, have some boards still in stock. Even if they have neither, you should be able to get the boards in plenty of time.”

Later that day, Paul replied:

Thanks, Dan, for the information and making yourself available to help. I am just going to use a buzzer, key, and battery. The buzzer has a frequency of 400 Hz.

- <https://www.xump.com/science/Buzzer-Leads15V.cfm>
- <https://www.xump.com/science/Contact-KeySwitch.cfm>
- <https://www.xump.com/science/Single-AA-Battery-Holder.cfm>

And this morning, he sent me this photo, noting, “FYI. Also sounds great.”



I think that this is as good an example of “Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler” as there can be. I’ve volunteered to help Paul with his class. That will be fun, too. ✨

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he’s not trying to keep things as simple as possible, but not simpler, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.