



Southwestern REACTer



MAY 2017



Team Member John Wright, SWR 042, in position at the lakeside Western Days Parade. Report on Page 3.

Walter Wallenborn, SWR 089



**SOUTHWESTERN
REACT, Inc.**

PO Box 632955
San Diego, CA 92163-2955
619-309-4299

board@southwesternreact.org
www.swreact.com

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:
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 7:00 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 449.440 Community based Repeater with a negative offset and a PL tone of 107.2 (Mt. Otay)

Looking Forward To The Light

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

Smart Communications Ahead

A Very Brief History

I spent 47 years working in a wide variety of electronic communications types (D.C. to light – really) and maybe 10 years before that in the basic stuff. End of brief history.

The Foundation of Our Tools

I said I had seen changes in communications technology equipment and method, as have most of you. Take, for example, the bare wire stretched between poles. The telegraph was the first to use that method. With the inventions of the telephone, a new technology made use of old equipment. Open (bare) wire gave way to paired wire, then to cable, to RF, to visible then invisible light. The technology also grew to telegraph code, to methods leaping through the air, both RF and light (the oldest method, going back in time to the Roman legions and Alexander, the Great's soldiers were flashing code using the sunlight with mirrors or shiny shields). Technology moved from code to analog, and now to digital. With growth, quality improved from various AM types to FM types and now to digital. All these changes kept coming faster and faster.

A Time to Forecast

Today all of these methods still exist but only a few, perhaps the best, are currently popular. We are in the communications business and our selection of equipment and features are subject to what we need and can afford; so we must be selective how we grow as a Team. History shows we grew from the early days of CB to GMRS to FM amateur. It is likely, at some time, we will incorporate some variety of digital. Currently there three digital schemes: Yaesu System Fusion C4FM, Icom's D-STAR, and Motorola's Mototurbo or DMR. Like the system selections in

the past (such as VHS vs Beta in the video recording war) one method MAY rise to the top. Yaesu's C4FM made a strong leap forward when they made cheaper repeaters available that could work either digital or FM and VHF or UHF. The Yaesu repeater we purchased was one of these repeaters. The Rattlesnake repeater we used for the Lakeside Western Days Parade is the Yaesu repeater. While testing coverage (on FM), I switched mine and June's radios to our 555 SX frequency in digital mode. The results were strong and VERY clear with coverage throughout ALL of Lakeside; no break-ups. I don't have any clear reports on DMR but users are still testing and learning its operation. D-STAR has been around a while and works well but the sound quality is more what we are used to but somewhat mechanical. All three methods can direct their calls to selected operators or stations or repeaters via the internet.

So What Should We Do?

The simple answer is to perhaps learn from others experience with the various systems, consider the costs and can every one afford to add this to their "shack or toolbox?" At the present time the three digital formats are not compatible, one to another except through computer devices. New versions of radios that can offer more than one of the three digital modes are on the way, but those will be costly for a while. I feel strongly that each of our people will select a system they can enjoy the most. Again, our newest repeater is Yaesu and supports C4FM. Let's work together and set a common course for the next, most reliable, and useful system.

"Nuf said..."

Let's Git' Er Done!!! ▶

pres@southwesternreact.org

American Red Cross Communication Team Report

By June McCollough, SWR 054, Secretary

The ARCCT meeting was held on May 4th. There was discussion on seasonal update; equipment & facilities update. We did a deployment exercise to see if we could make contact with the Radio room and pass messages to remote locations both on simplex and repeaters.

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 June 3, 2017 at 9:00 AM at 3950 Calle Fortunada, San Diego CA 92123. These are open meetings for anyone unless they are discussing confidential ARC business. ►

ACS (Auxiliary Communications Services)

By June McCollough, SWR 054, Secretary

The ACS meeting was held on May 1, 2017 at the Office of Emergency Service (OES).

We had an overview of Training Resources available online. They are the FEMA ICS Training classes <https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/icsresources>. The following classes are recommended for each ACS member: 100b, 200b, 700a and 800b; There is also ICTAP Public Safety Tools <http://www.publicsafetytools.info> and Public Safety Map Book <http://arcg.is/2dCxhOI>

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.

Upcoming events and training:

- Fry's Operating Day May 7, 2017 (postponed because of weather.)
- Poway Safety Fair on May 13, 2017 0900 to 1300 (approximately)
- Training May 27th (0900-1300) – Message handling and documentation during ICS incident.
- Training July 22nd (1300-1700) – Exercise: Message handling & documentation.

The next meeting will be on June 5, 2017 at 1830 hours (6:30 PM). All are welcome. ►

ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service)

By John Wright, SWR 042, Editor

The monthly ARES meeting was held May 13, 2017 at Scripps Memorial hospital, La Jolla.

Training on the HICS 213 Message Form and basic message handling skills was presented by Don Dodson, KI6GZK. The HICS 213 is an adaptation of the standard ICS 213 message form for hospital use.

A brief After Action Report of the recent SET (Simulated Emergency Test) drill was given by Rob Freeburn, K6RJR. The drill, conducted April 22, 2017 was somewhat abbreviated due to a conflict with the Visalia DX Convention taking place the same weekend.

The meeting was followed by the Gateway Communicator Training Class. ►

Lakeside Western Days Parade

By John Wright, SWR 042, Editor

The annual Lakeside Western Days Parade took place Sunday, April 29th, 2017. Southwestern REACT assisted with communications. Team Members attending were Roger McCollough, SWR 098, June McCollough, SWR 054, John Wright, SWR 042, Daniel McDougal, SWR

063, Carl Jensen, SWR 067, (Co-Coordinator) Marilyn Jensen, SWR 068, George Reeves, SWR 081, (Co-Coordinator) and Jason Pistiolas, SWR 46T.

The team met at 0700 at the Lakeside Cafe where the

members had breakfast, coffee and received their job assignments.

All team members were on station well before the start of the parade and communications checks were conducted. The N6SIX repeater on Rattlesnake Mountain worked flawlessly during the parade and communications were excellent all day.

The parade came off without a hitch and all the parade volunteers were treated to a delicious BBQ lunch afterwards.

Another fun Lakeside event, Touch-a-Truck, is coming up on June 11, 2017. ▶



Team member Marilyn Jensen, Ø68, posed for a picture with Parade Grand Marshal San Diego County Sheriff Bill Gore.

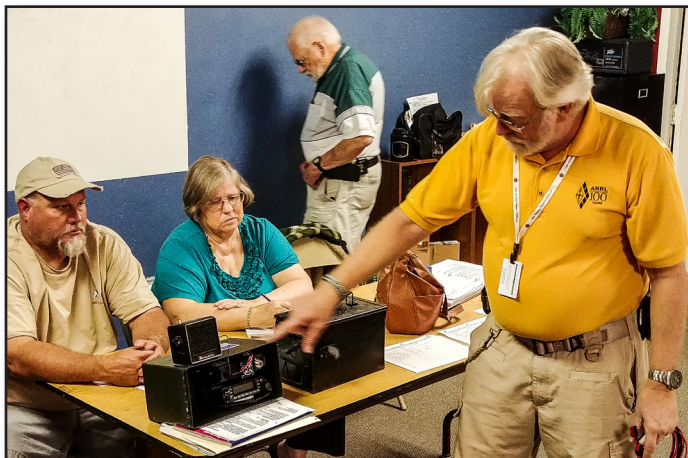
Walter Wallenborn, SWR Ø89

Another Go-Kit

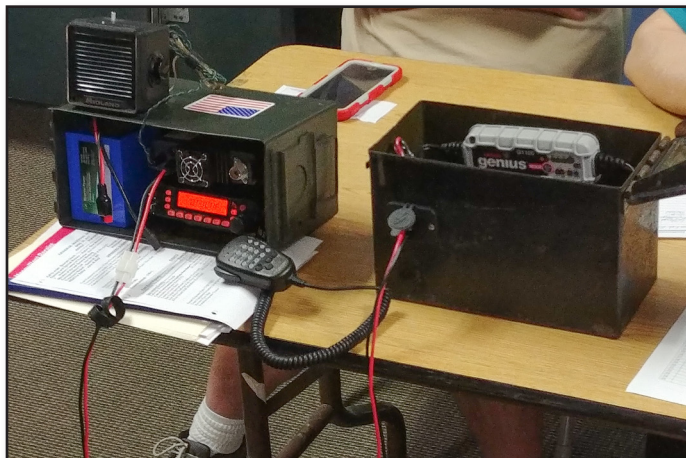
By John Wright, SWR Ø42, Editor

Photos by Dan Willan, SWR Ø61

At the regular April meeting, I had the opportunity to demonstrate the “Mini-Go-Kit” I am constructing in a couple of military surplus metal ammo cans. At the time of the meeting, the kit was functional but still a work in progress. Look for a write-up of the construction (with photographs) in an upcoming issue of the REACTER. ▶



Pointing out some of the features of the installation and how they were made.



The layout of the basic kit in two ammo cans, radio box on the left and the battery box on the right.