



Southwestern REACTer



APRIL 2024





**SOUTHWESTERN
REACT, Inc.**

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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

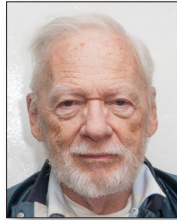
SWR's mission is to prepare for communications during emergencies and disasters. This preparation is accomplished through working community events such as: The Lakeside Western Days, and North Park Toyland parades, the Midnight Madness Bicycle Ride and Fiesta Island Time Trials, the Silver Strand Half-Marathon,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



April Showers Bring ...
Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

...Who knows?

Prologue

It is hard to miss that nature (earth tectonics - ie: earthquakes, and the weather) are revolting against the peace and quiet of the World. Locally the most disaster was the South Bay community's flooding, last January 22, still in recovery. For the time being, our county has escaped the need for our call to rally our troops. So, with that in mind, what is in store in the remaining year?

**So Let's Look Forward,
Based upon The Past**

Its spring now and maybe the weather impact will ease-off and those events we support will not be endangered by its hazardous threat. Your Team has covered weather extremes of heat and cold, including snow, and nature including attacks by ducks, and working near a beached dead whale. Some may say "You've seen it all", but probably not. Our success lies, in part to our member's to adapt to the situation, and act in the best interest of ALL.

What ever we do in life, it is for some purpose. Food for energy, sleep and rest to reset the mind and body, communication to update the mind, and actions to achieve a goal. We are human and emotion play a part in each of the actions we choose. Break your mother's favorite vase while messing around in the house, you, perhaps, fear of punishment, sadness for your mother's loss, lower esteem for being so stupid or careless, or...

On the other hand, we get a real burst of pleasure and joy when you get an "A+" on a school project you have many late hours to get right, or you get a \$bonus\$ and a transfer to a job assignment you have wanted for a long time.

So we get together after a difficult event,

and celebrate the success, I sense that you are getting a rush from that success. We learn from each other problems encountered and how they were able to overcome. Doesn't it feel good when you can say "I love it when a plan comes together?"

So Let's Look Forward

Well we have posted on our website all of the known upcoming events. Through the magic of our webmaster, it is now easy to volunteer to work any event. It makes it easy for you or any willing amateur to sign-up. It includes a brief event description and the specifics of this current event. If you haven't been there yet, check it out. It won't bite.

A Short, But Important Message

In sports, it can be a real handicap if you have to play one or two members short. What we do IS NOT A GAME! But the game must be played. Our Webmaster has created an activity/event spreadsheet to track who has signed-up for each opportunity; not to point a finger at anyone, for if anyone can't work an event in their schedule; so be it. It does point out who we can depend on; those that enjoy the "rush" of a job well done.

To be clear: I appreciate any and all that are members. I really miss you that I have not seen for too long a period of time and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

A Short, But Important Message

Those of you that read this far may say this is just another "Rah, Rah", from the head cheerleader; I guess you missed the point. Sorry for your time.

"Nuf said..."

LET'S GIT' ER DONE!!! ✈

Southwestern REACT Board Meeting, March 16, 2024

June McCollough, SWR 054, Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Roger McCollough at 7:08 pm.

Quorum Check – Four (4) Board Members; Visitor – Jim Patterson & Heather Wright.

Special Motion – None

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

Correspondence List – Reviewed

Treasurer's Report – June McCollough reported an ending balance as of Feb 29, 2024 of \$4,026.70

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

Unfinished Business:

Team ID Cards – 7 ID cards left to be delivered.

VOAD meetings are still ongoing Roger attends as he can.

Bylaw change – John gave to the board to review and will forward to the membership, before General meeting.

Team Property – moved to notify Eric Williams that if he doesn't pick up **Tower** soon we will have it sold for scrap.

Yaesu Repeater – has been sold to SOBARS and we will have access when it is on the air.

New Business:

Board meeting location will be at Denny's 10430 Friars Rd. San Diego CA 92120

March General Meeting – in person with more antennae stuff.

Post Events:

FITT – 2/25/24 Event went well; had a good turnout of members. Use of outside antennae for North 1 helped with communication.

Touch-A-Truck – 3/3/24 Event went well; we did get rain and wind but kids seem to have a good time.

Upcoming Events:

See SWReact.com/events

Good of the Team:

General Meeting 3/21/2024 will be face to face with more antennae talk from John Wright.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 pm ✨

Southwestern React General Meeting, March 21, 2024

June McCollough, SWR 054, Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Roger McCollough at 6:45 pm.

Quorum Check – Four (4) Board Members; Three (3) General Members.

General Meeting Minutes – No vote as no Quorum

Correspondence List – Reviewed

Treasurer's Report – June McCollough reported an ending balance as of Feb. 29, 2024 of \$4,026.70

REACT Editor – Latest issue is out – **Webmaster** – Website is updated. International REACT will be removed until we get a current issue.

Unfinished Business

Team ID Cards -- 7 cards not delivered – will send email to them if they would like them to send a stamp self-addressed envelope to PO Box.

VOAD – Roger attending zoom meeting on flood status. VOAD will be doing a group event on adding communication for other events.

Status Report from Committees - By-laws and Policies and Procedures: Board has agreed to send copy to team for vote at the April General Meeting.

Team Property – Tower still pending pickup.
Yaesu Repeater – Sold to SOBARS, we will have access to it when it is on the air.

New Business

Location of Board Meeting- Board meeting will be at Denny’s at 10430 Friars Rd., San Diego CA
Discussion of other team equipment - Small trailer (cart) -- this was a cart used to for Thunder Boats; we have not used it. We will put an ad in Reacter for anyone that wants it to make an offer. **Solar Panel** – this is for use with the Go Kit for long term event. We have not used it very often.

Post Events

FITT (Fiesta Island Time Trials) Sun 02/25/2024 Outside antennae made hearing all stages on the island.
Touch-A-Truck Sun 03/03/2024 It was wet and windy but kids seem to still have fun.

Upcoming Events*

Future Events	Event Date	Status	Coord
FITT (Fiesta Island Time Trials)	Sat 04/13/2024	Approved	#081
Campagnolo San Diego Granfondo	Sun 04/21/2024	Approved	#092
Lakeside Western Days Parade	Sat 04/27/2024	Approved	#067

***See SWReact.com for complete list**

Good of the Team:

More Antenna training – by John Wright about use of External antennae for use to reach repeater in large events.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm ⚡

Touch-A-Truck Pictures



SW REACT Vice-President hard at work.
Seeking another cup of coffee...
Walter Wallenborn



Mike Bailey and George Reeves directing traffic?
Walter Wallenborn



Larry Bierma and George Reeves and a really, really big truck.
Mike Bailey



Get 'em, George!
Mike Bailey

Wires Crossed! Radios To Be Banned

April 1, 2024 — RadioNews.com

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has banned the sale, importation, and use of Baofeng Radio in the United States.

An extensive investigation has found that these radios have been used for illegal purposes, including eavesdropping on sensitive communications, a potential national security risk, the agency has claimed.

It was found that Baofeng radios are equipped with listening devices that can be used to transmit conversations, radio users data and location back to foreign agencies.

It has been revealed that the high altitude balloon that flew across North American airspace before being shot down off the coast of South Carolina in January 2023 was actually a high powered repeater station tuned to the popular UV-5R models 3rd harmonic after which the originating signals would be relayed out of the country.

A senate inquiry has also been started into these devices, considering there are almost 800,000 hams in the United States alone, many of whom own a Baofeng radio.

This poses a significant security risk, as these devices could be used to eavesdrop on sensitive communications. Ham radio operators regularly broadcast information related to their personal medical situation, which “understandably needs to be safeguarded,” the FCC has said.

The recommendation from government officials is that if you possess a Baofeng radio, discontinue its use immediately. The FCC will continue to investigate and take action against any devices that pose a security risk. ✎

A Modest Proposal.....

Mike Bailey, SWR 092

April 1, 2024

The NATO phonetic alphabet that we use to supplement our radio communications has a history that goes back nearly a century. Technically, the phonetic alphabet is a radiotelephonic spelling alphabet in which each Roman letter is represented by a specific word. Using a distinct recognizable word helped identify letters when static, low volume or interference made recognition of spoken letters difficult. This concept was adopted by the International Telecommunications Union in 1927. The idea was further expanded through aviation when the International Civil Aviation Organization modified the ITU alphabet. This modification was the standard up until World War II.

Both British and American Defense Forces developed and modified their own unique phonetic alphabets from WWI through WWII. Different branches of the U.S. and British armed forces had their own version of phonetic alphabets which made coordination and interoperability difficult. The U.S. adopted the Army/Navy phonetic alphabet in 1941 to standardize all branches of the armed forces. This alphabet was known as the “Alpha Baker” for the words for letters “A” and “B”. In 1956, NATO adopted and modified the ICAO phonetic alphabet setting a standard for armed forces of the free world.

While the NATO phonetic alphabet is the most frequently used spelling alphabet in the world, it is not universal and there remain other spelling alphabets that are regional or industry-specific. Examples of these are the Los Angeles Police Department phonetic alphabet popularized by the TV series, “Adam-12” or the lesser known U.S. Financial industry alphabet.

In dealing with various call centers, many have unique or idiosyncratic words to represent letters which make interactions slower or confusing. A notable exception is USAA, a U.S. insurance company started and run by ex-military personnel who consistently utilize the NATO phonetic alphabet when relaying information over the phone.

Despite its near universal use, the NATO phonetic alphabet is rather antiquated and dated. Two of the phonetics describe dance styles dating back to the early 20th century (Foxtrot) or even the mid-19th century (Tango).

Perhaps Southwestern REACT should consider the development of our own unique phonetic alphabet.

A recent interaction with Disneyland personnel when I made reservations over the phone illustrated this point. When a confirmation number was read to me, I was surprised and delighted by the Disney references and characters that were used as phonetics. It is hard not to smile when hearing terms such as “pixie dust”, “magic” and “Mickey.” With Disney’s acquisition of the Star Wars franchise, a number of new terms and characters have emerged that add more options for phonetics.

Think of how much fun it would be to hear Per referred to as Aladdin Jasmine Six Pinocchio Jasmine or Roger as Kristoff Fantasy Six Happy Bambi Ursula.

Consider these potential options:

From This...	To This...
Alpha	Aladdin
Bravo	Bambi
Charlie	Castle
Delta	Disney
Echo	EPCOT
Foxtrot	Fantasmic
Golf	Goofy
Hotel	Happy

India	Incredibles
Juliet	Jasmine
Kilo	Kristoff
Lima	Lumiere
Mike	Mickey
November	Neverland
Oscar	Olaf
Papa	Pinocchio
Quebec	Queen
Romeo	Rapunzel
Sierra	Stormtrooper
Tango	Tinkerbell
Uniform	Ursula
Victor	Villain
Whiskey	Walt
X-Ray	X-wing
Yankee	Yoda
Zulu	Zorro

While it will take some time and practice for these phonetics to roll off the tongue, I have faith in the ability of our team members to adopt this new system. ⚡



While AI is relatively new on the scene, there are occasions where it comes very close to reality. (See Page 4.)