



Southwestern REACTer



OCTOBER 2024



SOUTHWESTERN REACT, Inc.

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San Diego, CA 92163-2955

kk6sle@arrl.net

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

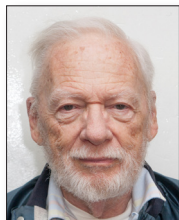
The Southwestern REACT board meeting is held the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Mission Valley iHop restaurant. Any member is welcome to attend. Contact us for the address.

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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Stuff
Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

From Fibber McGee's Closet Of My Mind

Prologue:

Many of you are too young to remember the Old time radio shows we had before television. I do. As a matter of fact, I grew up on them. Many can be heard today on satellite radio or a few radio stations offer a mixture of them, often after hours. One was "Fibber McGee & Molly". My reference above is to his closet which held this accumulated "treasure". For the radio sound man this was his tour-de-force, for whatever reason, Fibber had to fetch a needed item, and with Molly protesting "Don't open the closet", which of course he did, found the sounds (remember, this is radio) ALL variety of junk avalanching and crashing to the floor, usually ending 0 second later in a glass or small bell sound. "Theatre of the mind" always got a big laugh. Sometimes I think my mind is like McGee's closet. This month I put that to the test.

Some Things to consider:

- The September General Meeting was one to remember. Scheduled to be a face-2-face meeting, was hosted by Craig and Cindy Wilcken (SWR's 83 & 82), at their home in Lakeside. We were welcome, and well fed, and the meeting was well attended. Our thanks to the Wilckens for their offer to make this a very special gathering. I feel a good time was had by all as no one was eager to leave. Thanks to all for coming.
- Some of my early radio memories began as a toddle with my grandmother while my parents worked. She loved Soap operas, but when my parents got home, on came the good stuff. But after we moved, we got one of those upright, multi-band (longwave (below

500Kc, broadcast, and shortwave (up to about 30 MHz? maybe). During WW-2 amateurs were silenced for security reasons. I did hear some overseas stations, but never the German Axis Sally or Japans Tokyo Rose propaganda broadcasts. The U.S. had Armed Forces Radio Service (AFRS) for the military overseas. They played the popular radio shows. Sports, and of course, news from home. After the war, shortwave and amateur radio came back. But alas, we moved to San Diego, leaving that great upright radio behind. So how did you get interested in radio or electronics or communications or... Maybe more later, if you're interested.

- By the way, did you know that many of the military radio developments were contributed by both civilian and active military amateurs?
- Amateur radio found an amateur gold mine when war surplus radios became available at cheap cost and a little modification. Many were great starter radios and some were excellent quality. Older amateurs will tell stories of the old "ARC-5" and what they did to perform. They were the CB of the late 40's.
- Looking for subjects for upcoming "Pro's Nest". Suggestions?
- As mentioned before, the weather is really on a rampage. I don't desire to go anywhere near Florida. They say the Eastern Pacific is cooler and hurricanes are less likely, but who know? It's too darn hot everywhere so...?
- What does that have to do with REACT? Well, communications,

radio, disasters, info sharing are all part of the above items. Would be nice to get to know each other better, so what do you suggest?

- Well, it's time to close the old closet door, if possible. Maybe more another time. Hope you found it interesting? Feedback desired. Do you have anything to share? Go for it!

- Short and sweet...That's it for now.

“Nuf said...”

let's GIT'ER DONE!!! ✨

Southwestern REACT Board Meeting, September 12, 2024

June McCollough, SWR 054, Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Roger McCollough at 7:13pm.

Quorum Check – Three (3) Board Members. George Reeves excused. Visitor – Jim Patterson and Heather Wright.

Special Motion – None

Board Meeting Minutes – Motion to accepted and filed; Moved by June McCollough, Seconded by John Wright. Motion carried.

Correspondence List – Reviewed

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

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

Unfinished Business:

TEAM Name Tags – June McCollough still have five to get delivered.

TEAM Go-Box – John Wright moved and June McCollough second to rebuild the Go Kit with existing radio and make smaller kit with purchase of a new Tripod and Mast (Comet Product). Motion carried

New Business:

Digital Radio – Under study for the team. Will discuss at General Meeting.

Post Events:

None.

Upcoming Events:

<http://www.swreact.com/events.html>

Good of the Team:

None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15pm. ✨

Southwestern REACT General Meeting, September 19, 2024

June McCollough, SWR 054, Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Roger McCollough at 7:33 pm.

Quorum Check – 10 members present.

Special Motions - None.

General Meeting Minutes – Motion made to approve August Minutes Moved by Cindy Wilcken and George Reeves; Motion Carried.

Correspondence List – Reviewed

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

REACTer Editor – REACTer was out before Board Meeting. **Webmaster** – Updated.

Unfinished Business

Thank you to Craig/Cindy Wilcken for hosting the September General Meeting at their home.

Team Go-Box – At board meeting we voted to rebuild exacting Go-Kit to make it smaller. Things that are with the current go-kit: solar panel control, long separation, headset with foot pedal that will be available in small box. Items with go-kit to use: Radio FT8800T, Battery, external speakers. Items to replace: Comet Tripod, mast with guide line, terminal block (6).

Moved by Mike Bailey, second by June McCollough to set a budget of \$400.00 for containers, tripod and mast, motion carried.

New Business

Digital Radio – Discussion of DMR vs Fusion. DMR needs code plug where Fusion is programmable by individuals.

Budget Committee -- June McCollough chair; Cindy Wilcken and Per Martin to have report by October General Meeting.

Event Coordinators -- George Reeves has been doing a great job, but we need more to step up and coordinated events.

Mike Bailey will coordinate FITT.

Post Events

San Diego Classic Triathlon – event went well; had enough members to cover it.

Upcoming Events*

<http://www.swreact.com/events.html>

Good of the Team:

None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:41 pm

Submitted by June McCollough Secretary #54 ✍

Communications Report

John Wright, SWR 042, Communications Officer

Team Go-Kit

As noted in the minutes for the September Board meeting, the board decided to cancel the proposed building of a second go-kit and instead concentrate on rebuilding the existing kit into a smaller, lighter form factor.

This project is currently in work, however, it is unlikely the build will be finished before the first of the year. This means the team go-kit will not be available for use at the Silver Strand Distance Classic event coming up on November 10, 2024. If needed, several team members have personal go-kits that can be loaned to the team for the event.

Anyone wishing to participate in the go-kit rebuild is welcome to contact me.

Fiesta Island Time Trials

There has been a noticeable degradation of simplex communications at the last couple of FITT events. It is possible that some of this is due to changes in VHF/UHF propagation because of increased solar flare activity.

At the last FITT event on September 29th, a cross-band repeater with an external mast-mounted antenna was deployed. This helped communications somewhat, but was not ideal.

With the assistance of some of the team members that attended the last event, I put together some path studies for Fiesta Island. These were quite revealing and somewhat surprising.

The path studies were made measuring the path from the cross-band repeater location to each of the other posts manned for the event.

Determinations

1. There is no location on the course that isn't radio shaded from the others. This is due to the berms separating the paved roadway from the interior of the island. These berms range in height ASL (above sea level) from 9.8 feet to 52.5 feet.
2. The cross-band repeater was placed at the lowest location on the course, at 3.3 feet ASL.
3. Net control was at the location with the highest berm at 52.5 feet ASL. (Note that in all the positions the roadway is substantially higher than Sea Level

but not enough to get antenna above the berms.)

4. The path study for the Youth Camp post, which was set up at the roadway intersection slightly West of the Youth camp gate, revealed that location to be 13.2 feet BELOW sea level. Even by shifting the location of the post, it still indicates below sea level. Obviously something is wrong in the path study software as other maps revealed that location to be almost 10 feet ASL.

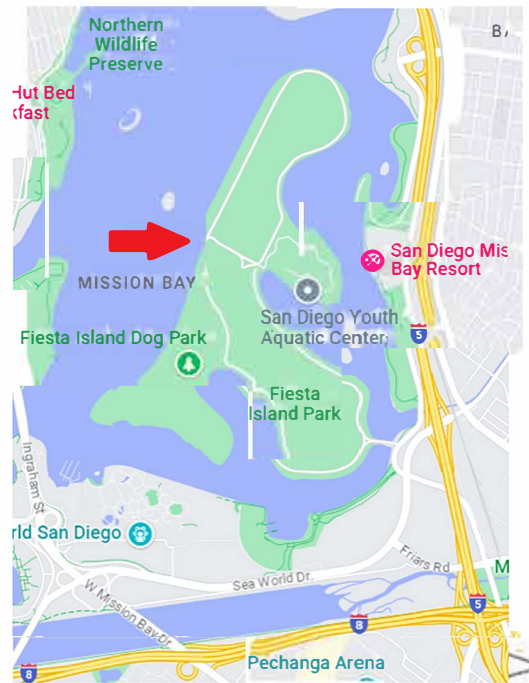
Preliminary Conclusions

1. A cross-band repeater set up on the highest point on the island would measurably improve communications.
2. Net Control and the cross band repeater should be co-located.
3. Team members should refrain from attempting to work this event (or any other event) with only a handheld radio, even when using a mag mount antenna. An HT just doesn't have the power. Obviously, there are situations where use of an HT is unavoidable.
4. More study and experimentation is required. This should include more accurate position and altitude measurements. Researching topographic maps online has proven to be inaccurate.

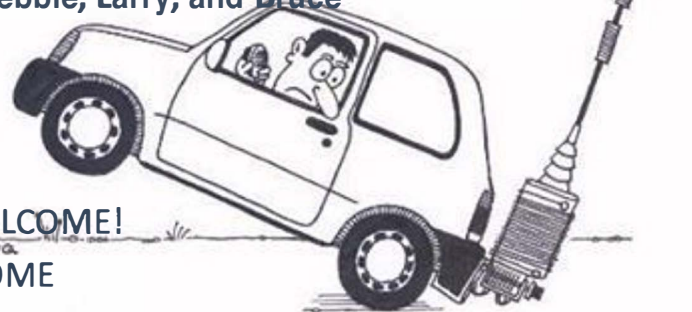
Preliminary recommendations

1. At the next FITT event, place the cross-band repeater with its mast mounted antenna at the Youth Camp location.
2. Co-locate net control at the Youth camp (same operator.)
3. Encourage the use of mobile radios or higher power go-kits for all events and keep HT traffic to necessary traffic only. ⚡

HAMTASTIC TIME AT FIESTA ISLAND



MUSIC BY:
Granddaddy-o's
Debbie, Larry, and Bruce



WHO: EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
HAM CLUBS WELCOME

BRING YOUR OWN BBQ'S AND FOOD, LETS HAVE A GREAT BBQ DAY!

WHEN: SATURDAY, 26TH OCTOBER 07:00-TILL DONE

WHERE: FIESTA ISLAND MISSION BAY

WHAT: RADIOS, HAMS & YOUR OWN BBQ'S

TALK-IN INFO & PARKING

ANALOG: 146.265 + 107.2 PL

DMR: SAN DIEGO DMR TALKGROUP 310014

CAL OES PARTICIPATION



HAM RADIO SHOOT OUT!

BRING YOUR MOBILES W/ PORTABLE ANTENNA SYSTEMS, GO KITS, HT'S, ETC.

ALL BANDS-ALL MODES, SATELITE, WINLINK DEMOS, FT-8, GOTA, T-HUNTS

ALSO: VINTAGE CARS, AND RADIO EQUIPMENT, NO SWAPMEET, NO VENDORS



MESHTASTIC DEMONSTRATIONS & HELP BY KE6VDW (AYBA/THE ALIEN)