



Southwestern REACTer



JULY 2021





**SOUTHWESTERN
REACT, Inc.**

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OFFICERS

President: Roger McCollough
SWR 098

Vice-President: John Wright
SWR 042

Secretary: Jay Pistiolas
SWR 046

Treasurer: June McCollough
SWR 054

Director-At-Large:
George Reeves
SWR 081

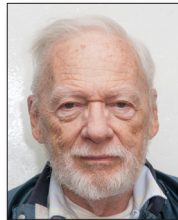
SWR's mission is to prepare for communications during emergencies and disasters. This preparation is accomplished through working community events such as: The Lakeside Western Days, and North Park Toyland parades, the Midnight Madness Bicycle Ride and Fiesta Island Time Trials, the Silver Strand Half-Marathon,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

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

The Team net is currently on hiatus.



Here We Are(Soon), Gathered Together Like A Family

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

Prologue

16 months ago (March, 2020), the activity door was slammed in our faces throughout the nation. I can't recall whenever we have had to tread water, waiting for a request of our Team's support. For us, here in California, the possibility of upcoming events now seems open to us. However it depends upon how quickly the various charities and civic groups, that we have supported, can regroup. It may take a while for them to forecast and prepare the when and where their next event can happen. Their leadership may have changed and the people that we have worked with may not have left documentation to guide the current leadership on preparation of an event. That could mean they do not know how to contact us or even know the part we take in the safety and welfare of the event, its leadership, and participants.

The Board has been "shaking the bushes" of several past requesters, reminding them that we stand ready to continue our support for their events. That just leaves a reminder to each of you to be on the lookout for additional events that can use our skills. We need your help to keep the ball rolling.

Finally, with restrictions lifting, the next board meeting will return this month, to the Mission Valley I-Hop, starting this month (July). Hopefully the August General Meeting will return to our normal meeting site at Mission Village Christian Fellowship Church, 2650 Melbourne Dr. Please plan to attend. It's time for a real get-together, the old fashion way, face to face. If possible, we will try to create a Zoom or maybe a streaming video of the meeting. Stay tuned.

And now to this month's short message...

Captain's Log: Stardate 2020308/E-0

At last check the Team has no cheerleaders, yet cheers are in order as California has finally lifted most of the restrictions that have limited our ability to function (see Prologue above). In the past I have asked you to stay Tuned-in on local events and radio activities.

- Have you tried the new React repeaters, and determined their coverage?
- Do you have lists of all the frequencies in the channels of each of your radios? Radio manuals?
- Are you prepared to set up a remote station if needed? Suggested items might include a camping chair and table, external antenna, something for shade, external backup power source, power and coax cables, water and snacks, needed medications, first-aid supplies, and the list goes on.
- Have you refreshed and/or replaced your Go-bag contents?
- If something urgent or an emergency were to happen, do you know where all of your response equipment can be found?
- How about your uniform and ID, can you lay your hands on them now?

This is not an all inclusive list of items or preparations you need to make. I hope it is not necessary for me (again) to remind you of the Team's need for your participation. If the simple attendance using Zoom is any indication of interest and preparedness, and the lack of response to my requests for ideas from myself and the Board to add more life and interest, someone might question our abilities. **PLEASE DON'T LET THAT HAPPEN!** ⚡

Follow-Up

By John Wright, SWR 042, Vice-President

As a follow-up to the President's article, I thought I'd add the following observations.

How long has it been since you've checked your devices that are powered by plain old alkaline AA or AAA batteries? Those devices may be working fine, but it's very possible the batteries have started to leak.

In recent years, a lot of battery manufacturing has been moved overseas and as a result, the quality of the batteries has declined. That combined with the fact few of us observe "expiration" dates on batteries can lead to problems.

Recently, I discovered a large portion of the AAA batteries I had in storage were leaking. I took steps to clean up the mess, but then I started checking devices that had the batteries installed. Virtually all had the same problem.

I removed the batteries from each device, discarded them and cleaned up each device with a little squirt of

white vinegar to neutralize the alkaline, then a water rinse. Once the devices were thoroughly dry, they were put back into service with fresh batteries. I purchased a quantity of rechargeable NiMh batteries for just this purpose. In at least one of the devices, the leakage was so bad the battery contacts were corroded. A little work with a small file alleviated this problem.

Note: Virtually all electronic devices can be cleaned with water as long as they are allowed to dry *thoroughly* before being powered up again.

I discovered that the bulk of the leaking batteries had a 2017 date on them, although a few were dated 2025.

This procedure should be a part of your regular equipment maintenance routine. ✍

Southwestern REACT Board Meeting, June 10, 2021

Submitted By Jay Pistolas, SWR 046, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Roger McCollough at 19:07

Quorum Check – Four (4) Board Members present, absent George Reeves

Visitors – Jim Patterson

Special Motion - None

General Meeting Minutes – Approved and accepted for filing

Correspondence List – None to review

Treasurer's Report – June McCollough reports an ending balance of \$5769.69 on 5/31

REACT Editor – June issue is out and posted to website

Webmaster – Website is up to date and domain names have been renewed

Unfinished Business – No Unfinished Business to discuss

New Business – Future meeting plans, Zoom, in person, combo of both?

Public information, promotion, Public Information Officer

Seeking future events

Nets, training, drills

Website domain names, alt sites.

Post Events – None

Upcoming Events – Lakeside Western Days Parade, 8/28 – Saturday

(All other events are TBA depending on State reopening plans and guidelines)

Meeting adjourned at 20:36. ✍

Southwestern React General Meeting Minutes, June 17, 2021

Submitted By Jay Pistolias, SWR 046, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Roger McCollough at 18:48

Quorum Check – Five (5) Board members & Four (4) General members

General Meeting Minutes – No quorum

Correspondence List – Reviewed

Treasurer's Report – June McCollough reports an ending balance of \$5769.69 as of 5/31

REACT Editor – Latest issue is out and posted to website

Webmaster – Updated

Unfinished Business – No new business at this time

New Business – Future face to face meetings, possible church meetings in July?

Future events

Training and drills

Website domains and renewal/expiration of domains

ICS courses

Post Events - None

Upcoming Events – Lakeside Western Days Parade, 8/28 Saturday
(all other events TBA)

Good Of The Team – Check in on County nets, ICS classes

Meeting adjourned at 19:56. ⚡

