



Southwestern REACTer



DECEMBER 2016



McKenzie Jackson, a Friend of REACT, keeps watch as the first participants come into water stop 4 during the Silver Strand Distance Classic, November 13, 2016. After Action Report on Page 4.

John Wright, SWR 042





SOUTHWESTERN REACT, Inc.

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SWR's mission is to prepare for communications during emergencies and disasters. This preparation is accomplished through working community events such as: The Mother Goose (El Cajon) and North Park Holiday Parades, Descanso Endurance Horse Ride, San Diego International Triathlon, Fiesta Island Time Trials, the Silver Strand Half Marathon and CalFire Volunteers In Prevention Red Flag Patrol.

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:
Wayne Oliver
SWR 142

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 monthly on the first and fourth Thursdays at 8:00 PM on the 449.440 Mhz Community Based Repeater with a Negative offset of 5Mhz and a PL tone of 107.2 Hz (Mt Olay).

From Your President

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098

Communications has been and will be the key to success

Forzibit cramlob J misimubob. What did that tell you? In all likelihood nothing, yet it could be a form of communication if the “words” had understandable meaning to us. Then there is <_____, which represents silence, or the complete absence of communications. OK, silence can indicate that there is nothing to communicate; so much for Communications 101.

Moving on to the next classroom we engage in Information 101. Here is a definition you can chew on. “Information is what answers or resolves an unknown.” So information is of no use unless it can be or is communicated. Now back to the real and everyday world.

How does this apply to our world? Let me suggest an unknown that needs some information. Why has attendance at the General Meeting dropped? We have shortened the Business portion and expanded the training. We have asked this in past issues of the REACTER, asked at meetings, and other opportunities. What can be done to increase the interest and desire to demonstrate our ability to be top grade communicators? You must realize what your feelings are, so we need you to communicate and resolve the unknown.

There should be no question the purpose and need for REACT as a community disaster communications resource. To exist, it needs trained and experienced communicators able to use their experience, training, and teamwork to fill the need.

Now, to open the knowledge drawer and reveal what tidbits of useful stuff needed to round out your abilities. ARES currently offers their Gateway training. After each monthly meeting, they open another room to guide new hams in how their HT works. The course lasts about 2 hours or less and provides a workbook to lead them through the basics. The “new kids” gather in groups depending on the HT they own, usually groups of 2-4 persons, each with their HT and its manual as a guide. Each group is led by an “Elmer” (instructor), to guide them. Anybody can attend and return as often as they need.

In our Team we have a stockpile of knowledge (information), not necessarily shared by everyone. To get this information shared to all, PLEASE consider sharing some of this knowledge with your fellow team members. If you have a better plan, let's discuss it with a Board member.

Well Team, that is my story. What's yours? Communicate! ►

My communication to all – MERRY CHRISTMAS!

“Nuf said...”

Let's Git' Er Done!!!

pres@southwesternreact.org

American Red Cross Communication Team Report

By June McCollough, SWR 054

The ARCCT meeting was held on December 3rd. I did not attend due to a commitment to work the North Park Toyland Parade.

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 on January 7, 2017 at 9:00 AM at 3950 Calle Fortunada, San Diego CA. 92123. These are open meeting for anyone unless they are discussing confidential ARC business. ►

ACS (Auxiliary Communications Services)

By June McCollough, SWR 054

The ACS meeting was held on December 5th at the Office of Emergency Service (OES).

ACS reviewed activities for the month since last meeting - November 19th at OES from 0900 to 1300; was Win-link training; November 15th was the Radio Rodeo and December 3rd was the Encinitas Holiday Parade.

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.

Tentative training dates are January 21st (0900-1300); March 18th (1300-1700); and May 18th (0900-1300). Subjects are to be determined but announced prior to date.

Programs and plans for 2017: Start a Quarterly ACS Newsletter (looking for an editor.) NEW ACS procedure manual will be available at January 2017 meeting. Meeting attendance requirements beginning 2017 - four times a year (2 - 1st half; 2 - 2nd half). Have Go Bag inspection by July 2017.

The next meeting will be on January 9, 2017 at 1830 hours (6:30 PM). All are welcome. ►

ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service)

By John Wright, SWR 042

The monthly ARES meeting was held December 10, 2016. A review of the November hospital drill was conducted. For the most part, the drill went well.

The replacement of the generator in the ARES trailer is on track. The donation goal has been met and the new generator should be purchased shortly after the first of the year. Thanks to everyone that donated.

After a flat tire on the trailer on the way to the Miramar Air Show, it was determined that all the tires on the trailer need to be replaced. Donations are being solicited. Anyone wishing to donate may contact Bruce Krypton, KG6IYN, the Section Emergency Coordinator at kg6iyn@arrl.net.

The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Kevin Zanjani, KI6DHQ, of Bioenno Power. Bioenno is a manufacturer and distributor of Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries and other products relating to power generation and storage. For more information on Bioenno



A lineup of Bioenno Power's products at the ARES meeting, ranging from small batteries to solar power generation equipment. *Courtesy ARES*

Power see <https://www.bioennopower.com>. Kevin's presentation will be available soon on the ARES website at <http://www.sdgares.net>. ►

DUES ARE DUE at the December meeting!

By June McCollough, SWR 054

Regular Dues are \$35.00, Family/Junior members \$25.00. Please see Daniel Willan or June McCollough if you have any questions.

Also if you want a new ID Picture, please come to the December meeting ready to have that taken. Otherwise we will use your prior year's picture.

After Action Report, North Park Toyland Parade

By Michael Maston, SWR 059

The North Park Toyland Parade took place 3 December 2016

Southwestern React provides communications for this event on an annual basis. In years past at least eight would volunteer for this event. This year we provided communications with only five volunteers. This presented no problems to the team members present and the end result was a professional operation from start to finish. This year we had three announcer stands, net control and sign-in position. Our coordinator for this event was Wayne Oliver, SWR 142, who was assisted by Michael Maston. Instead of a distinct hierarchy command structure we simply went to our assigned postings and provided communications. We did not provide a shadow position. Net Control was handled by Wayne Oliver, George Reeves, SWR 081, was assigned to Announcer One, Michael Maston was assigned to Announcer Two and Roger McCollough, SWR 098 was assigned to Announcer Three. June McCollough, SWR

054, handled the sign-in duties.

Step off was scheduled at 1100 hrs. Indeed, step off actually occurred at 1100 hrs. The parade consisted of five divisions with a grand marshal (Ronald McDonald), the usual vanguard of politicians representing the North Park area (except the mayor). Many North Park businesses, schools and service clubs were presented. The parade concluded at 1205 hrs with Santa riding atop fire engine 14. University Avenue was the main parade route which then circled to North Park Way and concluded with a festival at the end of the parade route.

While we as team provided communications with only five volunteers it should have been staffed by more volunteers. This is a fun event that the people of North Park enjoy every year and we as communicators provided that extra ounce of professionalism in our communications duties. I am proud to have been associated with this team. ►

Silver Strand Distance Classic After Action Report

By George Reeves, SWR 081 & Daniel Willan, SWR 061

Southwestern REACT deployed to work the Silver Strand Distance Classic on Coronado Island, Sunday, 11/13/2016.

REACT members who worked the event were: Dan Willan 061 (Coordinator), George Reeves 081 (Coordinator), Roger and June McCollough (098 and 054), Jim Patterson 151, Don Dodson 055, John Wright 042, Dee Osargent 058, Mike Woods 057, Wayne Oliver 142, and Friends of REACT Mike Hanson, McKenzie Jackson, Curtis Price, and Jay P.

The Team members were posted at six Water Stop Stations, located at Miles 1.5, 3, 5, 7, 9.25, and 10. Two REACTS (Oliver and Willan) roved at the Finish area. Net Control (Reeves) was in a static position, near Mile 10. No Shadow was assigned, per the request of Koz Event Coordinator, Tobias Panek.

Briefing was held at 0545 in front of the Coronado Public Library at 600 Orange Avenue, with all members present. The Primary Frequency for this event was initially 147.180, a CERO Repeater; however, the night before the event, the machine was down due to a potential power supply problem. The kind folks at CERO tried until late at night to rectify the problem, but were unable to do so. Primary Frequency was changed to 145.320 (with Chuck Wood's permission) to his Mission Hills repeater. Alternate Frequency was 145.555. All maps and pertinent information were provided to the Team at the Briefing.

To avoid road closures, the Team dispersed at 0630. A formal announcement opening the net was made by Net Control at this time, and upon reaching assigned locations, Team members reported "In Position". A formal radio

check was performed, with all locations sending and receiving well.

The Event began on-time, with runners on the course at 0700. The Race also included skaters, ElliptiGos, handcycles and wheelchair participants.

Three distances were covered: 5k, 10 and 13 miles, with start times staggered for the respective distances/categories.

No Medical Aid calls were received for the duration of the event.

The last runners, escorted by Coronado Police, crossed the finish line just before noon.

As the last participant passed each Water Stop, Net Control released Team members at that location, and closed the post position.

Noteworthy Items:

The battery of the Race Radio received by Net Control died after approximately two hours in Stand-By mode, leaving REACT unable to reach Koz Events Assistant Coordinator Jennifer Nanista directly, other than by cell-phone. As it happens, she is also a Amateur Radio operator, and was able to monitor our comms, but unable to transmit due to her location.

Water Stop 3 ran short of Energy Shots early on, and REACT fielded many complaints from participants.

REACT Coordinators for this event in the future should attend the Coordination Meeting held by the Race Crew, but rely more heavily on the information contained in the REACT Binder for more specific direction related to staffing, event time-line, logistics, and problematic areas.

The Mission Hills Repeater functioned very well, and all stations were sending and receiving with very little path noise via HT. I would certainly advocate the use of this Repeater for future SSDC Events. Many thanks to Chuck Wood for his generous use of his machine, literally at the eleventh hour!

The portion of the course entering the Naval Radio Facility in years past was dropped, and the distance made up for by routing participants into the residential neighborhoods near Connecticut and Fern Avenues in Imperial Beach.

Dan and I wish to extend our sincere thanks to all those who participated in this event, and we are proud of the professionalism shown by the REACT Team and the Friends of REACT...well done! ►





**Warmest
wishes for a
happy holiday
season and
a wonderful
new year.**