



# ***Southwestern REACTer***



FEBRUARY 2019

*Happy  
Valentine's Day!*



## **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

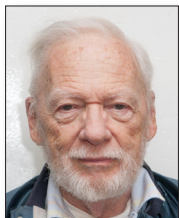
**Director-At-Large:**  
Jim Patterson  
SWR 151

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 6:30 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 449.060 REACT/ARES Repeater with a negative offset and a PL tone of 88.5 (Mt. Otay)



## **A** Brief Review of Stuff

First of all, let me be clear: I was not "away" but just out of the game for a bit-of-time. I won't go into the details now, but simply said I spent too much time at or recovering from visits to one of several hospitals around the countryside, on my back-side for far too long. I feel about 80% recovered and should be out of my wife's care soon (no more than usual). Clarification of the above, if you wish, at a later time.

Back to the world of Southwestern REACT, radio, disaster stuff, etc...

First to Team business: Renewals have been submitted to International and should be back soon with new cards. Thanks for getting that done.

The early notification request of events has yielded, to date, seven back from last year, with all but one to go about the same time of year as 2018. Details to follow.

Our REACT partner, METRO REACT has set-up several new sites in So-Cal and

## **Short And Sweet**

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

### **I'm back!**

Nevada, again, details to follow.

With the growth and interest in DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) with its coverage, clarity, and lower cost for handhelds (due in part to the large number of major manufacturers in the world for commercial versions) the amateurs have shown a growing interest. I have attended several interesting meetings, including one at the last ARES meeting (Feb. 09, 2019). METRO REACT has established, on its Otay DMR repeater 3 new talkgroups (1 is for SWR/Metro, and 2 for SDG-ARES). Are we interested? Some of you seem to be. Let's talk about it soon.

Finally, it seems we have a number of "later stuff" items and the next general meeting would seem a good place to start, SOOO please plan to be there. We need your input.

"Nuf said..."

***let's GIT' ER DONE!!!*** ✈

## **Random Musings**

By John Wright, SWR 042, Vice President

**N**ot only do Valentine's Day and President's Day occur during the month of February, but it's also Chinese

New Year. This is the year hams finally get their year...





## Quartzfest, 2019

Article By John Wright, K6CPO, Photos Courtesy Kris Weed, KR1SS

I decided that this was going to be the year I finally attended Quartzfest, the big RV hamfest in Quartzsite, Arizona. Since my little tent trailer needs new tires, I contacted a ham friend who is an Arizona resident and has a nice travel trailer. He is a regular attendee at Quartzfest and was willing to share his trailer with me.

Quartzfest ran from January 20, 2019 through January 26, 2019. I left San Diego on the morning of the 20th and after a five hour drive (with a stop in Yuma) I arrived at the Road Runner camping area on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land just outside Quartzsite. Camping there is free for up to 14 days, more than enough time to cover the event. I arrived in time to catch the tail end of the opening ceremonies (*Cover Photo*).



The Special Event Station, W7Q, was up and operating every day of the event. Anyone could come in and operate if they desired.

There was a full schedule of seminars and workshops covering just about any topic imaginable, including several that were of interest to RV owners. There was also a special event station, W7Q, that operated just about every day.

My friend Tom, N7WEM, is involved with the Sunlife Amateur Radio Club and the Venture Out Amateur Radio Club in Mesa, AZ. There were several members of both clubs in attendance and I got to know them fairly well.

Every morning at 7:45 AM there was an announcement net on simplex, outlining the day's events and schedule. Announcements came from Kris Weed, KR1SS, the event organizer, and the day's schedule was read by Gordon West, WB6NOA, of Ham Nation fame. I set up my ammo can go kit on the counter in the trailer so we could listen to the net every morning.

Of primary concern the second day was getting registered and obtaining my raffle prize tickets. Because I

had to leave on Friday, the 25th, I was unable to participate in the Grand Prize Drawing as it was "have to be present to win." I did, however, obtain a ticket for a drawing to be held at the Yuma Hamfest in February.

Tuesday morning, my friend, one of his fellow club members and I went into Quartzsite to check out the giant RV show there. There were acres and acres of RV on display, from the fanciest bus-sized models, to the smallest trailers. There was also a sizeable vendor show, at which I picked up several items.

Upon retuning to the event location, I attended a seminar on "Land Ops." Not knowing what this was, I was intrigued. As it turns out, Land Ops is an organization of individuals that combine the activities of ham radio, off-roading, and other sports such as orienteering and geocaching. As part of their activities at Quartzfest, they sponsored an off-road event for those that had appropriate vehicles. There is a video on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DLxS2oScxc&t=499s> that shows the line of 4WD vehicles getting ready to depart on their drive. At 5:45 into the video you'll see a trailer on the right flanked by two red pick-up trucks. That is the trailer I was staying in (my truck is on the right.)

On Thursday evening, the Sunlife and Venture Out clubs had a nice well attended potluck dinner and one of the members flew a drone over the gathering. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoZBKDwuiUs>.



ARRL Southwestern Division Director brought attendees up to date on the recent ARRL board meeting.

ARRL Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, spoke Friday morning with an update on the January ARRL Board meeting at the headquarters in Newington, CT. Thanks to my opposite number, Arizona Section Public Information Coordinator Virgil

Silhanek, K7VZ for the following notes on Dick Norton's talk.

- ARRL board has revoked the code of conduct.
- There is a new lawyer they are working with from DC who has previous experience with the FCC.
- WARFA jammer. Problems persist.
- Volunteer Monitor program. The Official Observer (OO) program worked on our end, but nobody was paying attention on the FCC side. They want VM's to be qualified and be able to get results when problems arise.
- QSL Bureau will be returned to being a membership benefit. Stop trying to run it for profit.
- NTS- National Traffic System. Many split off to RRI- Radio Relay International. The damage has been done, but the current board would like to mend ties.
- ARES – They are going to allow sections to set the “rules” and adapt. Discussion focused on some sections organize ARES based on counties, while others operate under hospital layouts, etc. The ARES program in each section will be the ultimate call of the Section Manager (along with SEC and DEC's.) They will follow local requirements. The ARRL EC-001 course fee of \$50 will be dropped and ARES members will be able to take this for free.
- Data rates on HF. Discussion focused on allowing use of PACTOR4 in the USA. It hasn't “ruined” amateur radio in all other countries that allow the data rates.
- Petition for Technicians to gain more HF privileges. It was discussed, but there is no real update at this time.

- Web site revamp. Life Long Learning program. There are 30k new hams annually, ARRL gets about 17% who join and only half of those renew. They really want to focus on new hams and are brainstorming how to appeal to these folks. The ARRL wants to provide a resource where all hams can turn to for answers and Elmer help.

- Membership discussion from the crowd: Someone brought up the ARRL should offer a discount to first time members. There was also membership incentives suggested for older hams as well as life membership discount ideas thrown out. The ARRL used to offer a 5 year renewal, but only offers up to 3 years now. Bring back 5 year option. Someone suggested the IEEE offers free lifetime membership if years of paid membership plus age is greater than 100. Adopt a similar program? It was joked that most in attendance would qualify.

- Many hams have started YouTube channels with training on amateur radio. KE0OG suggested the ARRL work with these folks to contribute to Life Long Learning portal mentioned above.

- ARPA status was discussed. See ARRL press release. There was a lot of discussion and I stopped taking notes here.

The Final Minutes of the January board meeting can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/2019 Board of Directors/Final Minutes January 2019.pdf>

I enjoyed my first visit to Quartzfest and plan on attending future events if I have the opportunity. I'd recommend it for any ham as a worthwhile event. ✎

Upcoming Events		
Event	Date	Status
Encinitas Half Marathon	03/31/2019 (Sun)	Approved
San Diego Gran Fondo	04/07/2019 (Sun)	Pending Approval
Lakeside Western Days Parade	04/27/2019 (Sat)	Approved
Giro di San Diego	06/15/2019 (Sat)	Pending Approval
San Diego International Triathlon	06/23/2019 (Sun)	Pending Approval
Touch-A-Truck	09/??/2019	Pending Date
Silver Strand Half Marathon	11/10/2019 (Sun)	Pending Approval

## Make Ham Radio A Habit

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Every week, I get an email newsletter from Penguin Random House called *Signature*. *Signature* includes links to articles about books and writing. Being a writer, I clicked on the link to “5 Good Writing Habits You Need to Learn Now.” As I was reading the article, it occurred to me that the advice could also apply to amateur radio.

So, with apologies to the author, Lorraine Berry, here are five things you can do to make ham radio a habit:

1. To get on the air more, or to do more building, set up a time to do it. If you enjoy getting on the air or homebrewing, but never seem to be able to find the time to do it, you need to put it on your schedule. Set aside the time a couple of days, or a week, or even a month in advance, and you'll be more likely to do it. If you set up a regular time every week, pretty soon it will be a habit.
2. If ham radio is important to you, create an environment that encourages you to do ham radio. To make ham radio a habit, you really need a place that's set up to do ham radio. If you have to dig out and set up your equipment every time that you want to get on the air, you're just not going to do it. You need a “shack” that makes it easier for you to engage in the hobby. Richards, K8JHR, gave me some great advice back in 2012 on where and how to set up a shack (<https://www.kb6nu.com/building-a-new-shack/>).
3. Create temptations that reward you for your new habit of ham radio. For me, being able to make interesting contacts, or building some new gizmo, is reward enough, but you may want to reward yourself with a beer or some ice cream after an operating session.
4. Make it easy to do what you like to do. This is related to #4. Your shack should have everything you need to easily do whatever ham radio activities you enjoy

doing. If you enjoy operating, then it should have a nice operating desk. If you enjoy building, then set it up so that all of your tools are readily accessible. The easier it is to do, the more likely it is that you'll do it. If you enjoy operating portable, then build up a kit that has all the stuff you need, and have it ready to go when you're ready to go.

5. Start with the Two-Minute Rule for new habits and continue from there. The “two minute rule” (<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/productivity/how-stop-procrastinating-and-stick-good-habits-using-the-2-minute-rule.html>) is a tool to help you overcome procrastination. The idea is to allot just two minutes to a task that you'd like to complete or a skill that you'd like to develop. It's a small commitment, but enough to get you started, and the idea is that once you're started on a particular task or project, continuing work on that task or project becomes a lot easier. Those two minutes could easily become a half hour or an hour once you've gotten the ball rolling.

Armed with this advice, I'm expecting you to be a more active ham in 2019. I'll be listening for you on 40 m. ✈

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*Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog ([KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com)), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides ([KB6NU.Com/study-guides/](http://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/)), and one of the hosts of the No Nonsense Amateur Radio Podcast ([NoNonsenseAmateurRadio.Com](http://NoNonsenseAmateurRadio.Com)). His wife sometimes thinks that amateur radio has become too much of a habit for him.*



# ***2019 Southwestern División Convention***

## ***Yuma Hamfest***

***Yuma, Arizona***

***Feb. 15 & 16, 2019***



Yuma County Fairgrounds  
2520 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Yuma, Arizona

***[www.yumahamfest.org](http://www.yumahamfest.org)***

Check the Website for Additional Information

Gates Open for Camping  
Thursday, 2 pm

Vendor Setup  
Friday, 7 am - Noon

Event Hours  
Friday, Noon - 5 pm  
Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm

Hamfest Dinner &  
Grand Prize Drawing  
Saturday Night  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

**Vendors & Exhibitors  
Consignment Sales  
License Testing  
Hourly Door Prizes  
On-site RV Camping  
Hamfest Dinner  
ARRL Speakers  
Transmitter Hunt  
\$5.00 Admission**

**Tailgating (Swap Meet)  
Full Seminar Schedule  
DXCC Card Checking  
\$25,000+ in Grand Prizes  
Emergency Preparedness  
Admission Prizes  
Hospitality Area  
Near Space Balloon Launch  
Antenna Clinic & T-hunt**

Email Contact: ***[info@yumahamfest.org](mailto:info@yumahamfest.org)***