



Southwestern REACTer



SEPTEMBER 2023

Hurricane Hilary:



We Will Rebuild...



SOUTHWESTERN REACT, Inc.

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OFFICERS

President: Roger McCollough
SWR 098

Vice-President: John Wright
SWR 042

Secretary: Daniel Willan
SWR 061

Treasurer: June McCollough
SWR 054

Director-At-Large:
George Reeves
SWR 081

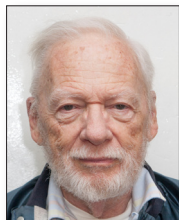
SWR's mission is to prepare for communications during emergencies and disasters. This preparation is accomplished through working community events such as: The Lakeside Western Days, and North Park Toyland parades, the Midnight Madness Bicycle Ride and Fiesta Island Time Trials, the Silver Strand Half-Marathon,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



What A Month

Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

"There She Blows"

Hurricanes In California is not a disaster category we have coming tripping to my mind. Back in "the good old days", any weather reports of a hurricane in our Eastern Pacific waters came from ships and fishing boats in southern waters. These reports were often less than accurate. Satellites changed all that so that we can now watch current weather activity anywhere. So here comes Hillary.

Life In The Western Hemisphere

As I write this a major hurricane is reeking havoc and destruction across Florida and the East Coast. We must acknowledge we dodged the bullet. Still, if Hilary had become what it threatened to become, were you ready? Statistics suggest this is a rare occurrence and not likely to happen in our lifetime, YET...??? It could be tomorrow. Look at what the media shows of people working to recover. Look at Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii. The turnout of volunteer help, material, time, care, and all that humanity can offer is out there. You are part of REACT to be a part of the support and cure when the need come to our door.

So Let's Look Forward

Perhaps first and foremost, we MUST remember why we are here and what we can do, if and when the bell rings. Part of that is remaining connected, even when the event list is low. This

included attending meetings and checking in on our twice a month net. Currently the next face-2-face General Meetings is this month (Sept 21). We will have "Training Moments" from time to time. If you don't attend, you'll miss some training, and the instructor might be wasting their time.

The face of disaster and need.

If you were on Maui after the fire(s), or in Florida after the winds and water destruction, what do you see you doing? We should be capable to rise to the fill the greatest need in supporting recovery. Be thankful that these disasters are not at our doorstep YET. It does not hurt to be prepared.

A Piece Of History

As the returning aircraft were landing on a Japanese carrier after the December 7th attack of Pearl Harbor, Admiral Yamamoto is alleged to have said:

"I fear we have awakened a sleeping giant..."

Are you part of a sleeping giant, or just sleeping?

"Nuf said..."

LET'S GIT' ER DONE!!! ✈

Training Notes

John Wright, SWR 025, Vice-President

There will be a "Training Moment" during the face-to-face meeting this month. The topic is "HT Antennas, The Good, The Bad and The Ugly." So bring your HTs and any antennas you might have for them to the meeting.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES			
	KK6SLE	KK6SLE@ARRL.NET	
Date: 08-10-2023		Report By	Daniel W SWR061
Called to order: 19:12	Board of Directors	In attendance: Yes	http://www.swreact.com
President: Yes	Roger MC	Vice President: Yes	John W
Secretary: Yes	Daniel Willan	Treasurer: Yes	June Mc
Director at Large: No	George	Editor: Yes	John W
Quorum:	Yes	Webmaster: No	Per Martin
Guests:	Jim Patterson		
Opening and Special Motions:	No		
Correspondence List	Yes: Advertisements, E-Mails		
Minutes of the last Board Meeting	Approved: Yes	Minutes of the last Board Meeting	Approved: Yes
Reports:	Treasurer:	Yes	\$4383.32
	Reactor Editor:	Yes	SENT
	Webmaster:	Yes	CURRENT
	Guest:	Yes, Heather W	
Unfinished Business			
1) Ongoing, Committee to review bylaws and policies and procedures form a committee to review and update bylaws and PNP John 042			
2) Modify SWREACT Membership Application Form, John			
3) Update our current Members Information, (FCC Amateur Radio License, DMV, and other certifications)			
4) Update SWR net problem system and attendance problem			
5) Suggest Event Tracking/Reporting			
New Business			
1) New Member, Lawrence (Larry) Bierma (#084T) Mike #092 agrees to coach Larry on SWR Training material.			
2) Information on McKenize Jackson #37, FB request for financial help (John#042), Bring this to the TEAM at General Meeting, (John 1 st , June 2 nd) she has a Paypal if you want to donate, Would SWREACT donate as a TEAM funds			
3) Status of member, Jay Pistiolas #46, comments at ARES Event regarding REACT (John #042) Steps to remove TBD			
4) ARES Gateway Training has returned: Announcement to Team for refreshing your knowledge of/for new radio.			
Motion:			
08-10-2023-01 To use the new Membership form. (June 1 st , (Dan 2 nd) all (Yes), No (0)			
Training Moment			
General Meeting Training Session: Subject or Title, Mike asked about “ HT Antenna Topic”			
Please attend the SWREACT monthly NET, 1 st and 4 th Thursday at 18:30, 449.440, - offset, pl 107.2			
Events			
Future Events	Event Date	Status	Coordinator
Silver Strand ½ Marathon	11/12/2023	Not Approved	George
Good of the Team			
Reminders			
	Date and Time	Location	
Board of Director Meeting	2 nd Thurs at 18:30	IHOP at 2169 Fenton Pkwy, San Diego, CA. 92108	
General Meeting	3 RD Thurs at 18:30	Zoom unless in person	September in person
SWReact Net	1 st and 4 th Thursday 18:30	449.440, - offset, pl 107.2	
Meeting Adjourned	20:15		

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

	KK6SLE	KK6SLE@ARRL.NET	
Date:	08/17/2023	Report By	Daniel Willan 061
Called to order: 19:05	Board of Directors	In attendance: Yes/No	http://www.swreact.com
President: Yes	Roger MC	Vice President: Yes	John W
Secretary: Yes	Daniel W.	Treasurer: Yes	June Mc
Director at Large: No, absent	George	Editor: Yes	John W
Quorum: Yes		Webmaster: Yes	Per M
Guests/Team	PER MARTIN, MICHAEL BAILEY,	Lawrence Bierma, Carl & Marilyn Jensen	Walter Wallenborn
Pledge of Allegiance:	Carl		
Opening and Special Motions:	None		
Correspondence List	See Back of Agenda		
Minutes of the last General Meeting	Approved: Yes	Minutes of the last General Meeting	Approved: Yes
Reports:	Treasurer:	Yes	\$4383.32
	Reactor Editor:	Yes	
	Webmaster:	Yes	
Unfinished Business			
1. Ongoing, Committee to review bylaws and policies and procedures form a committee to review and update bylaws and PNP John 042			
2. Update current Membership application – Board approved it, John 042 will do fill in form and add to Website.			
3. Update member information – verify all licenses (FCC, DMV, or other as required) Email will go out to the team in a week or so requesting information.			
New Business			
1) ALERT – Severe Weather Warning: Hurricane “HILARY” effects this weekend. Be Prepared – check radios, batteries and generators if you have them.			
2) Information on McKenzie Jackson #37 – Face book request for financial help. Motion by Carl Jensen to send McKenzie \$250.00 seconded by John Wright. Motion carried. June McCollough will send by PayPal this week.			
3) Status of Member – Jay Pistiolas #46 – made comments at ARES event regarding React and him being done with it. We have removed him from email list and net check ins. We will let his member expire and Not renew for 2024.			
4) ARES Gateway training has returned: if you need refresher training on your radio or have a new radio consider attending this class. There are lots of ARES members to help you learn more about your radio.			
Events			
Future Events	Event Date	Status	Coordinator
Silver Strand Half Marathon	11/12/2023	Approved	George #082
Good of the Team			
September meeting will be Face to Face at 2650 Melbourne Dr. San Diego We will have training moment on Hand Held Antennas.			
Reminders			
	Date and Time	Location	
Board of Director Meeting	2 nd Thurs at 18:30	IHOP at 2169 Fenton Pkwy, San Diego, CA. 92108	
General Meeting	3 RD Thurs at 18:30	Zoom unless in person	
SWReact Net	1 st and 4 th Thursday 18:30	449.440, - offset, pl 107.2	
Closed Meeting 20:15			

Firestorm 2007 – It Gets Real And Personal

Howard White, KY6LA, FireNet Control (AM)

Firenet - The San Diego Fire Emergency Info Net

There are so many real ham heroes in this story that I am sure that I will not be able to name all of them no was I able to record events outside of my shifts even though I know that many heroic deeds were done by FIRENET hams, especially Harry W6YOO, Tom KI6IET, and Dan KG6VVN, who are the real heroes and did much more than I did to help their neighbors in San Diego. By my count I had over a hundred different calls pass traffic at night and there were what seemed to be at least 200 – 300 different calls passing emergency traffic during the day.

During Firestorm 2003, I was mostly a listener. During Katrina I passed traffic for people I did not know who were a long way away. But Firestorm 2007 has been real and personal for me, but more on that later. Katrina evacuated 50,000 people. Firestorm 2007 evacuated 560,000 people.

Many of you have been listening to the exemplary Emergency Communications Operation on the PARC 146.730 repeater of the Palomar Emergency Services Net to gather and share vital Fire Information – FIRENET.

With flames starting to engulf the county and no active single source of information, (as best as I could determine,) Charlie, NN3V, stepped into the information vacuum to start the FIRENET as an ad hoc operation on Sunday afternoon. Early contributors included Gayle, K6GO, and Gary, W6GDK. Initial operations started by collecting fire information as to fire location, wind directions, shelter locations and initial evacuations. Hams provided eyes and ears on the ground where the danger was. Soon, however, the fires seemed to be heading down to the Poway area so Charlie and the other Poway hams needed to evacuate.

At that point on Sunday evening Dan, KG6VVN, stepped into the breach to assume the net control operation. By now the fires were raging out of control. Ramona was evacuating. Tom, KD6TR gave FIRENET on the spot information from Ramona that proved vital to evacuees in getting through traffic jams and out of harms way. Kurt K6MD reported on site evacuation information, fire and traffic reports from Julian as he tried to move his family. Terry K3PXX drove his animal rescue trailer through fire and smoke up to the Ramona Fire House to rescue animals. Terry's heroics including saving all but four rare birds before flames finally forced him to evacuate himself.

With Dan dropping from exhaustion after working at the highest intensity and his really making a difference for several hours, I assumed net control at 0215 Monday.

DAY ONE

0215 Monday: Even working Katrina EMCOMM did not prepare me for this one. It was intense. My ham friends and family were calling for help.

The questions came fast and furious. "Is the fire near us? Where is the head of the fire? What directions are the heads going? What are the winds doing? Should we evacuate? What roads are closed? What about our animals? Where should we go? What should we take? What is the route to avoid the flames? Where are the shelters? Can you help us find missing people or pets? Can you help us get barrels of water for animals? Can you help us find food and water? Can you get the police to deal with looters?"

Unlike Katrina, the questions and answers did not abate at nite. It was non-stop. Terry, K3PXX needed routing around the fires to evacuate his nimal trailer. Terry reported on Fires as he drove through Poway and back to San Marcos EOC. ROARS hams had evacuated Ramona, leaving the 147.03 repeater, and were looking for help to be routed safely out of the area.

FIRENET reported three bright flashes in San Marcos. FIRENET determined it was downed power lines. Fires broke out in Coronado Hills in San Marcos. People needed to be evacuated. Brian, KF6C, asked where to evacuate his four children. San Marcos EOC needed to be activated and FIRENET held the fort for them passing traffic until they could get there and became operational to evacuate San Marcos. Terry, K3PXX, drove to San Marcos EOC to help with communications.

George, KG6IDE, tries to drive up to Ramona to evacuate elderly parents but FIRENET turned him back to avoid the flames.

0230 Monday: The fire streamed down to Lake Hodges, jumped the I-15... The I-15 was closed cutting off escape to the South. People needed to be rerouted for their evacuation routes. It's the middle of the night and EMCOMM traffic is intense.

Fire reported in Pauma Valley so I call relatives there to wake them up and tell them to pack their valuables

in case it gets closer.

0300 Monday: Rob, W43IHV, asked for fire info for evacuation for his family and two horses. "How near was the head of the fire to his house? Should he evacuate? Could we find a horse trailer?" FIRENET reported the fire was on as cresting his hill. He evacuates in time to Palomar Hospital where he works but has to leave the horses behind. The horses survive but house across street is gone

FIRENET reports that the Fire in Pauma is contained 2 hours later so I tell relatives that they can stay another night.

0500 Monday: Daylight is starting creep through the smoke. EMCOMM Message traffic picks up even more, if such were even possible. I have four radios, a scanner, two TV's, AM 600, Winlink, and two computers with three screens going. Responders on FIRENET are finding fires before the authorities and giving very accurate traffic routing. In spite of all the computers, I am at times so overwhelmed with traffic that I could really use a scribe.

Throughout the night, PALOMAR FIRENET continually received many heartfelt thanks from victims who said FIRENET was making a difference to them personally.

0600 Monday: Traffic load keeps on increasing and I am starting to make mistakes as I have been up for 20+ hours, and net control for 4+ hours without a break.

I hear the friendly voice of octogenarian and Net Control Extraordinaire Harry, W6YOO, asking if I needed help. Thankfully I turn over FIRENET Control to Harry. Shades of Katrina working with Harry again!

Harry is the guru of the art of Net Control. He masterfully takes over the net and teaches everyone how to handle extra high volumes of traffic information. With daylight, winds pick up even worse and EMCOMM traffic increases but Harry, as usual, is absolutely cool under fire. He seems to have had hundreds of check-ins with people calling for help. Harry is under a mandatory evacuation order himself but he stays at his post. Harry institutes an information attribution process so that FIRENET can source information accurately. He always seems to have information as to the exact heads of the fire at his finger tips. He coordinates people on their evacuation routes. He arranges to look for missing persons. He coordinates families to find loved once. He directs people to shelters. Harry helps FIRENET keep people safe.

Iron Man Harry, W6YOO, runs the Net for the next 15 hours.

It's 0800 Monday and I want to get some sleep but my son's office calls me in to help backup servers to the East Coast. So I am not destined to get any sleep. After working all day I must go to my son's house as it is my grandson's 4th birthday. I deliver him a toy fire engine (ironic) and an HT to his father while we finalize family evacuation plans. I do not get to sleep until 7 PM Monday after 32 hours on my feet.

2100 Monday: Harry, W6YOO, turns over FIRENET Control to Dan, KG6VFN, and Tom, KI6IET. EMCOMM Traffic load all day is heavy. People need food and water. Evacuation Routes needed planning. Road closures reported. Most important is the people on the ground giving accurate descriptions of the heads of the fires.

Call signs participating on Monday early AM included (I did not have a scribe so I missed a lot of them as message traffic was very heavy) KA7FUW, NG6V, KG6WVK, KG6WVG, KG6YQU, KG6WFE, KC6HGV, AE6SD, KD6TR, KI6IET, KC6HKM, KG6WFFV, W6ODG, KI6JFK, W6EPX, W6EOG, W43IHV, KF6C, KG6IDE, KG6RZ, KC5NJU, K6RXZ, K6MHY, KI6FTL, KF6YVF, KI6KTG, K6BK, W6ASP, N6VAY, KI6DZI, K6MHY, WD6FWE. AD6VI to name but a few.

DAY TWO

0005 Tuesday: After second day of heroic efforts, Dan, KG6VFN, is fading fast. He has had little sleep for two days. So, with only four hours sleep, I take over for a second night as FIRENET control. Tom, KI6IET, is backing me up as he has done all evening for Dan. Tom proves himself to be invaluable

FIRENET traffic remains hectic throughout early Tuesday AM.

"Should we evacuate? Where are the fires? We have lost power and have no other communications so what should we do? How close are the fires? Fallbrook evacuated. Poway evacuated. What routes are open? Where are the shelters? Can you help us find missing family and friends? There are fires in all directions, which way do I go to evacuate my family?"

0130 Tuesday: N9XF reports flame proceeding down 76 from Fallbrook. Tom, KI6IET, who is blind, stays at his post as my backup net control. He reports that while he cannot see the flames, he can feel the heat on his face so he needs to be evacuated. Evacuation arranged ok but I lose him as backup net control. Rob, W43IHV, calls from his office at Palomar hospital to tell us his family

was evacuated OK and horses survived.

0200 Tuesday: Harris Fire down south has gotten worse. It is advancing towards Spring Valley and La Mesa. South Bay Hams call into FIRENET looking for information and help with evacuations. Recommend families to go to Qualcomm as other shelters now in fire's path. KG6IDE call for help to move his family.

0340 Tuesday. Alan, KE6SQS, calls to report that Fires have broken out again in the La Jolla Indian Reservation. He is evacuating but needs routing information. FIRENET observers in Valley Center report seeing flames on Cole Grade so we route him the other way.

0355 Tuesday: Now it is personal. I call my family in Pauma Valley and tell them to get out as fast as they can. They get reverse 911 calls but ask FIRENET which way to go. The Fire Captain is telling them to go up the Cole Grade. But FIRENET reports that flames are blocking that route. So FIRENET routes them and their neighbors via Pala to grade over to Temecula as 76 and 15 are closed and flames block 76 and Cole Grade. The Fire Captain who went up Cole Grade is forced back by flames. Needless to say FIRENET received thank notes for saving my family and their neighbors.

0400 Tuesday: There are now simultaneous evacuations are going on both in North and South County. New fire on Cole Grade discovered by FIRENET is reported to authorities. Message traffic intensifies yet again as people do not know where to go or how to get there because of road closures and fires. Fires hit Mt. Miguel in the south. Spring Valley, Lemon Grove and parts of La Mesa are now evacuating.

0415 Tuesday: AB6QT reports power has been lost on Palomar Mountain due to La Jolla Indian Reservation Fire.. He says that need to conserve the available battery power as much as possible. He will try to bring an emergency generator. He completes this after sunrise. There are reports of fire along Highway 76, around the La Jolla Indian Reservation, so access to the mountain is limited so he may not be able to refuel it again. In addition, this means the PARC repeater site could be over ran by fire some time today or in the next few days. Several other repeaters in the area have already failed.

0500 Tuesday: There are more and more calls for help on where to go and how to get there. South Bay Hams could have really used a South FIRENET but without it FIRENET has had to do double duty. Message traffic especially for routings and evacuations is very heavy.

We literally do not have time to worry about anything else as the primary concern is now using FIRENET just to keep people safe.

0630 Tuesday: Dave, N2AXZ, spells me as FIRENET Control while I call to wake up Harry, W6YOO.

0700 Tuesday: Harry assumes Fire Net Control at 0700 and runs it with his usual masterful precision for the next 12 hours. What is perhaps the largest single city evacuation in US history continues. FIRENET is masterfully helping people find routes to escape flames and get out safely. FIRENET continues to provide a single source of reliable information about the heads of fires.

0800 Tuesday: I finally get some sleep

Call signs participating on Tuesday early AM included (I did not have a scribe so I missed a lot of them and likely have some wrong) AB6QT, N2AXZ, WD6FWE, W6ASP, KG6IDE, KE6SQS, W6EPX, K6MHY, NN3V, WA3IHV, KB6PZV, KM6XV, KJ6TDC, KF6BFD, N9XF, KI6IET, K6RCA, AE6TR, KD6YQR, KG6WSM, W6WWZ, KD6VJ, KE6EOR, NO6Z, KF6ECO, NOFU, NK6D, KM6XV, KI6EHD, KI6BJA, WA8IHA, AE6BU, KF6C, WA8ZHG, KI6FPD, W3LFR, W6ASP, K6BAA, AD6VI, KE6MDE, KI6JES, KF6AUP, N6KTG, NU6L, to name but a few.

1900 Tuesday: Dan, KG6VVN, with the help of Tom, KI6IET, takes over as FIRENET Control

A ham at Carlsbad Evacuation Center calls for help with supplies. Dan transfers Net Control to his Truck and delivers supplies to ham. While at the Center, the Carlsbad Police tell Dan that Mira Costa College Evacuation Center has no food.

2100 Tuesday: Dan arranges for FIRENET Hams drive to Qualcomm Stadium and load trucks with food. It is amazing how empty the highways are now. It takes less than two hours to make the round trip. Dan leads ham relief convoy with food and supplies to Mira Costa College. Fire victims at shelter express gratitude for first food delivery.

DAY THREE

0005 Wednesday: Dan, KG6VVN, was exhausted. His rescue mission to Mira Costa College while being FIRENET control and little sleep for 3 days had done him in.

I take back the reigns of FIRENET. It was a very different picture than the last 2 days. More than 500,000 people had already been evacuated. PARC Repeater is now on battery power as Mt Palomar is on fire and

there was no way to refuel the generators. Repeaters were dropping like flies all over the county. Many of the south and east county repeaters have failed.

0100 Wednesday: KC6SDO, Lake Hodges Neighborhood Safety Association who were guarding their burnt out neighborhood from looters calls FIRENET to get assistance from the police. They report a truck with youths in 20's drinking beer and up to no good. Police were overwhelmed but nearest to them was a fire engine which was dispatched and chased away the looters. They stayed on guard for the rest of the night and regularly checked into FIRENET to make sure we were available to give them the needed help. They report that National Guard arrived to relieve them in the AM.

Lots of calls still coming in regarding road closures, shelters, fire perimeters.

0200 Wednesday: We are receiving reports of fires on Camp Pendleton. KI6IET, our blind net control backup, needs to be evacuated again. He is taken to Oceanside where he reports using a handheld.

0300 Wednesday: I-5 is now closed through Camp Pendleton so we have to reroute people heading north via 78 to I-15 and then to the 91 as Ortega Highway is also blocked by fire. Needless to say no one is getting to work in Orange County today.

0400 Wednesday: KG6HKM has 20 Llamas that need water. We need to get him 55 gallon drums with water for animals.

0500 Wednesday: Most of message traffic is now about road closures especially with I-5 closed. People really need rerouting help but there is only the 15 /91 available. FIRENET reports on Camp Pendleton Fires that they have heard ammunition blowing up. Possible evacuation from Pendleton may be in the works. Lake Hodges Safety Association still waiting for National Guard to protect property but Fire and Police finally in area now.

Editor's Note: This account of the North County ham radio community's response to the wildfires that ravaged San Diego County in 2007 was written shortly after the event. It is reprinted here with the gracious permission of the author.

This is an example we could all do well to emulate. ✨

0615 Wednesday: FIRENET still going strong but I am fading fast. I have had too many days with little sleep and too much high adrenalin. FIRENET is getting lots of queries and traffic but I am not effective anymore. I turned the FIRENET Control over to Fred, W6HPH, and go to sleep for the next 12 hours.

2350 Wednesday: KG6VVN signs off as net control as the 146.730 repeater runs out of fuel and goes off the air.

Call signs participating on Wednesday early AM included (I did not have a scribe so I missed a lot of them and likely have some wrong) NU6L, K6JET, KF4ZWZ, K6KEV, KE6EUM, KE6TUJ, KG6UTS, N6MD, WA3IHV, KA6MWT, W6KY, K6JEC, W6TIA, KC6SDO, KI6HCB, N6LGK, W6MTG, N6LKG, N6LPG, KG6HKM, KI6IET, W6WU, KC6RCW, KI6HPH, W6HPH to name but a few.

FIRENET was an ad-hoc EMCOMM net set up by hams who in the absence of any outside leadership did the right thing at the right time. FIRENET helped people with information when they needed it most. FIRENET continued to receive heartfelt thanks from Fire Victims who thanked FIRENET for being there to save them. Palomar Amateur Radio Club should be proud of the efforts of its members and its repeater system in providing this vital tool to help our neighbors in this time of need.

To Quote Hospital Responder: "I found the information useful while I working Kaiser Zion (with really nothing to do) because it gave mostly good information about fires that I could pass along to the IC at Kaiser and others staying informed, knowing ahead where possible victims would come from.

Firenet maybe the best use of ham radio that I have personally witnessed." ✨