



Southwestern REACTer



NOVEMBER 2021

Thanksgiving
Greeting





**SOUTHWESTERN
REACT, Inc.**

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OFFICERS

President: Roger McCollough
SWR 098

Vice-President: John Wright
SWR 042

Secretary: Jay Pistolas
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.

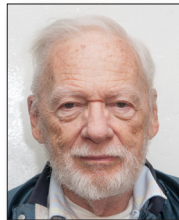
Reactive Team Net

The Team net is currently on hiatus.

News Flash: Chaos Returns To The Streets

Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

Crowds Controlled, Only One Known Injury



WHAT is that about? Maybe a brief history lesson may clear this up.

A Little History: The Southwestern REACT Chaos Crew

Did you know we used the title of "Chaos Crew"? True. Back when we were doing the Bayfair/Thunderboat Races on Mission Bay, several incidents occurred that, if not controlled, could have created serious problems to the Race committee and, the crowds, and the safety and welfare of the race drivers. Often the chaos occurred when several high priority incidents occurred at the same time or required a string of several coordinated responses.

Example: A boat flips and on-water rescue begins. The Vacation Isle members respond as follows:

- A small crew goes to all "Hot-pit" gates and make sure they are closed to incoming crowds.
- Another crew sweeps all visitors out of the pit area.
- Yet another member clears the T-dock area for the rescue and med personal.
- Team members, as they become available, clear a path from the dock to the main gates for an ambulance (if required) and to our helipad.
- Team members, as they become available, conduct a "FOD" (foreign object debris) walk and security check to be sure that, if the copter is used, there is nothing else flying about. They then surround the LZ to prevent movement of people and vehicles and protect passersby on the adjacent roadway.

- Stand-by until the problem is resolved and course of action determined; all this is done in less than five minutes.
- When Control closes the radio emergency traffic-only status and release area to normal activity and returns the Team to normal duties.

So As To The Above Headline...

The chaos mention above is, of course, the Southwestern REACT (Chaos) Team doing what we do best. So with 3 days of events compressed into two days, (MS bike-2 day ride and FITT-Sunday morning trials) the crew had a chance to stretch and renew our abilities. As expected, some minor errors or flubs happened BUT lessons learned. We are still looking for more events now that people are getting out. So what is next? Stay tuned and ready.

The injury was Saturday at the MS Ride when one of the bikes struck/was struck by one of the escort motorcycles (not PD) during a low speed turn. The extent of injuries is not known.

The General Meetings are back to face-to-face at the church again, so set your calendar and be there.

That's it for now.

"Nuf said..."

LET'S GIT' ER DONE!!! ✈

Editor's Note: The bicyclist in the collision mentioned above WAS NOT a participant in the event but just a random bicyclist out for a ride.

It's That Time Again – Time to Pay Your 2022 Dues

June McCollough, SWR 054, Treasurer

In case you did not review the budget or see the minutes of the October General Meeting, dues are as follows:

Regular Member \$45.00

Family Member \$40.00

Regular Member is the first member of any household; family member is the second member in the same household. There is also a rate for third member but we do not have any at this time.

If you are unable to pay the full amount at this time, please feel free to contact me and we can work out payments for you.

Southwestern REACT Board Meeting October 14, 2021

Submitted By Jay Pistolas, SWR 046, Secretary

The Meeting was called to order by President Roger McCollough at 19:14

Quorum Check – Five (5) Board Members present

Visitors – Dan Willan, Heather Wright, Jim Patterson

Special Motion – None

General Meeting Minutes – Approved and accepted for filing

Correspondence List – Reviewed

Treasurer's Report – June McCollough reported an ending balance of \$5597.29 as of 9/30

REACT Editor – Latest issue is out and posted to Website

Webmaster – Updated

Unfinished Business – Budget Committee in process
Events, upcoming and review

New Business – Board Meeting plans, where to meet in the future
Zoom meeting October 28 @ 18:30 for Budget
MS Event for November is voted down
MS Bike The Bay & Fiesta Island Time Trials discussed

Post Events – None

Upcoming Events – MS Bike The Bay, October 16 – Saturday
Fiesta Island Time Trials, October 17 - Sunday

Meeting Adjourned at 20:42 ⚡

Southwestern React General Meeting, October 21, 2021

Submitted By June McCollough, SWR 054, Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Roger McCollough at 18:35

Quorum Check – Three (3) Board Members- Jay Pistiolas & John Wright were excused,
Six (6) General Members and no visitors.

Meeting Minutes – Accepted and ready to file. Motion by Carl Jensen, Seconded by Wayne Oliver.

Correspondence List – Reviewed

Treasurer's Report – June McCollough reported an ending balance of \$5597.29 as of 9/30/21.

REACT Editor – Latest issue is out

Webmaster – Website is up to date

Unfinished Business - Budget see attached. Deficit of \$580.00. Wayne Oliver moved to accept Budget, Marilyn Jensen seconded it. Motion carried. Dues for 2022 will be \$45.00 per regular member and \$40.00 for Family Member.

Seeking Future Event Sources: FITT Coordinator is going to pass along information to a couple of other events that he knows about. Roger publicizes REACT at all VOAD meeting. Victor Ashbaugh President of South County REACT wants to try and get Ham Clubs started in High Schools in San Diego County to hopefully promote interest in community service and REACT.

NEW Business - Board Meeting special meeting – Board will have a Zoom meeting at 18:30 on October 28th to discuss new location for board meeting.

Request for MS 3 Day walk – Nov. 12-14, 2021 – Board recommended not to work this event as the wanted SAG Driver/Ham Operators. They want proof of CA Drivers License, Insurance, Background check and pass a driver's safety class. **Election Committee** formed for November meeting – Carl Jensen will contact all members.

Post Events - Bike MS Bay to Bay – Went well; event volunteers appreciated us being there. It was a job well done.

FITT – It went well. Mike, event coordinator, to get dates for 2022 to us. Simplex worked well.

Upcoming Events – None at this time

Good Of The Team – Membership reunion?; meanwhile make the meetings.

Meeting Adjourned at 19:50 ✍

After Action Report, MS Bay To Bay Fund-raiser

By John Wright, SWR,Ø42, Coordinator

During the weekend of October 16-17, 2021, Southwestern REACT and Friends of REACT supported the 2021 National MS Society Bay To Bay bicycle fund-raiser in Carlsbad, CA.

This event was put together on somewhat short notice and without benefit of in-person meetings with the MS Society Staff organizing the event. All communicating was done by e-mail. We were further hampered by two competing events taking place the same weekend, the Pacific Crest Trail 50 in San Diego's east county and the resumption of the Fiesta Island Time Trials (FITT).

Due to the other events, I was only able to staff four of six rest stops on Saturday and two of three rest stops on Sunday. My thanks to Southwestern REACT members June and Roger McCollough, SWR 054 and 098 respectively, Jim Patterson, SWR 151, Jay Pistiolas, SWR 046, and Wayne Oliver, SWR 142 for their assistance on Saturday. Also helping out on Saturday was John Walker, AC7GK. Sunday staffing was myself, John Walker and Noel Encarnacion, AG6KA.

Saturday morning I picked up Wayne Oliver and headed to Carlsbad. Upon arriving at the Sheraton Carlsbad Resort, we located the Net Control area and began setting up. I used my recently rebuilt small go-kit and my hitch-mounted dual-band antenna.

We were joined by members of the Motorcycle Amateur Radio Club (MARC) of Orange, CA and by Bike MS Staff at Net Control. MARC set up their own station to communicate with their members who were escorting the bicyclists on the different routes.

A generator was provided for power for computers and the gear being used by MARC. I was advised I could use it as well, but I opted to use battery power. I was interested in determining how long my Bioenno LiFePo battery would last. I had previously obtained permission to utilize the Metro REACT (K6RRR) repeater on Mt. Palomar. It was linked to another repeater on Mt. Otay. Thanks to Patrick Gooden, K6PFG for monitoring the repeaters and making periodic announcements about our event.

Communications were, for the most part, excellent, with the exception of one rest stop that was surrounded by hills and the operator was trying to communicate by HT. We were able to connect by cell phone so communication with that rest stop was not lost completely.

Communications with the two rest stops staffed on Sunday were excellent.

Observations:

Planning should have begun at the same time as the MS Society began planning for the event. It's a credit to both the society and Southwestern REACT we were able to put this together on short notice.

My Bioenno battery powered go-kit functioned perfectly the entire weekend, with the exception of one instance of the radio accidentally getting knocked off frequency for a short period of time. The radio was then locked to prevent this from happening again. Sometimes the dummy load is between the chair and the microphone.

Conclusions:

This would be a good event to add to our calendar. With enough advance notice, we could add operators to SAG vehicles, especially if an APRS capability was available. This would allow computer equipped society staff to track the SAG vehicles in real time on the APRS.fi website.

The use of the Metro REACT repeaters and their fairly extensive coverage is a real advantage. Having these repeaters available on short notice was a major factor in the success of our participation.

Final Comments:

Both MARC and the staff from the MS Society seemed pleased to have us there. I would recommend doing this event again.

There's a certain amount of nostalgia attached to working this event for me. Back in the late 1980s, Southwestern REACT used to support the MS 150 bicycle fund raising event in San Diego County. At that time I was not a member, but I was an active member of a motorcycle club. For several years, I coordinated motorcycle escort for the MS 150 and became acquainted with some of the Southwestern REACT members. At that time, REACT was actively using GMRS for communications and I had a scanner on my bike I used to monitor those communications. It seems I have now come full circle. ✈

Editor's Note: No after Action Report for FITT was submitted.

MS Bay To Bay Fundraiser and FITT

Images by Jay Pistiolas, SWR 046

