



Southwestern REACTer



JUNE 2017





**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 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 7:00 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 449.440 Community based Repeater with a negative offset and a PL tone of 107.2 (Mt. Otay)

CHANGE

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

How It May Occur In Our Communications Methods

When I went to work at the company communications hub, I found much of the equipment had been in service since the early '20's and was still working as well as when it was installed. Right next to it was newer equipment using a newer technology using less power and space. Both systems functioned providing similar service and quality. A time came where more service was required so change was the answer. Of course the oldest was the first to go and free up more than two dozen rack spaces and major power draw. Now 4 racks provided 10 times the service.

During WW-II, many of the communications improvements came from the efforts of radio amateurs that were banned from amateur radio operation. Again change. In the commercial radio world, AM was the only mode, but in the mid 50's FM crept on the scene, growing slowly in popularity as people bought radio capable of its reception, with sales boosted by the advent of stereo sound.

Now the world is becoming a digital world, boosted by the growth of computers. Phones, both wire-line and cellular, moved from the analog to the digital world and even broadcasts contain digital services within their existing analog service. So what about our amateur world? Let's see what there is.

At this time there are three digital formats, each with their special features providing connection to the Internet and selected distant contacts, are contending for your dollar. Several features are common to all three formats. They are:

Digital audio is clear and generally free of static or other interference due to

data error correcting circuits. Levels and quality do not change as distance increases. It is either good or gone, and it is good if almost any signal is received

Each method uses some method to connect to the Internet to a dedicated server then direct your call to other member stations and locations.

Many radios contain a directory of routing information to all fixed system locations and users.

They are not compatible between systems yet but interoperability is in the future.

The three current systems are (in no particular order):

D-STAR- Featured in certain ICOM radios, their radios feature normal FM operation or several digital methods that provide parallel voice and data transmission. Voice quality is similar to normal 2-way radio. On occasion, because transmission is in packets that link to create the voice, the sync bits that link the packets may momentarily break-up causing, what users call, "R2D2" (from "Star Wars").

C4FM-The System Fusion® is currently offered by Yaesu in several models. Their Wires system they used for analog has a new version called Wires-x for digital service. Most of the radios have other features such as GPS. Audio quality is very clear, very similar to a good phone. In an earlier test, in the Lakeside area using handheld radios, simplex communications was clear and unbroken.

DMR or MOTOTURBO- Related to P-25 from Motorola, it is found in several different radio brands, but again, this format is not compatible with the other

systems. There are several companies that make these units. I have not operated one of these yet, so I can only speak to what several users have said.

So there you have it; digital is future in all communications. The 2-way radio as well as Amateur radio is perhaps the last to go full digital. Amateur radio may never go full digital, but rather, adopt it with the other tools in its toolbox. Stay aware of products and development so that, if the Team decides to add “that digital feeling” to its ability, members will be ready to chose the best way.

As an additional note, our Yaesu repeater is capable of both FM and C4FM for our members able to use C4FM. Please get informed. I believe the descriptions given above are accurate but let's correct any errors. Please look into this; we need your wisdom. We really hope to see you Thursday at the General Meeting – Please be there!

“Nuf said...”

Let's Git 'Er Done!!! ►

pres@southwesternreact.org

American Red Cross Communications Team Report

By June McCollough, SWR 054

The ARCCT meeting was held on June 3, 2017. There was discussion on seasonal update; equipment & facilities update. There was review of the HF Go-Kits as they will be used for Field Day on June 24-25th. If you would like to attend we will be there from 11:00 am Saturday until 11:00 am Sunday.

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 July 1, 2017 at 9:00 AM at 3950 Calle Fortunada, San Diego CA 92123. These are open meetings for anyone unless they are discussing confidential ARC business. ►

ACS (Auxiliary Communications Services)

By June McCollough, SWR 054

The ACS meeting was held on June 5, 2017 at the Office of Emergency Service (OES).

There was a training minute on Preparedness and Safety Reminders. It was suggested that we should all have the San Diego County Emergency Site APP on our phones or have the website www.ReadySanDiego.org available. We were also given the Family Disaster Plan and Personal Survival Guide to review and make sure we are ready.

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.

RACES upcoming event(s) and training:

Training July 22nd (1300-1700) – Exercise: Message handling & documentation

The next meeting will be on July 3, 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 June 10, 2017. The primary topic of discussion was a “hot wash” of the state-wide hospital drill conducted on June 8, 2017.

Mention was also made of the need for new tires for the ARES trailer. Needed are four ST225/75R15, Load Range trailer tires. Donations for the tires are welcome.

The meeting was followed by the Gateway Communicator Workshop for new hams or those desiring a refresher. Information on the workshop can be had by contacting Rob Freeburn, K6RJF; k6rjf.rob@gmail.com.

The next ARES meeting will take place on July 8, 2017. ►

Descanso Endurance Horse Ride

Article by June McCollough, SWR 054; Photos by John Wright, SWR 042

After Action Report

The Descanso ride returned for its 2017 version, which like past rides, had some interesting problems and decisions. Our portable repeater had a problem, discovered at the Encinitas Run earlier, that meant we had to revert to the use of cross-band (that we had used before.)

The rains we had earlier in the year have now raised the Sweetwater River, causing the usual crossing near the bridge and Vet Check 1 to be abandoned in favor of using the South Road Crossing a second time for the return.

Finally, our skill in adjusting to a problem came when a pair of Ride and Tie racers got out of sync when the runner got ahead of the rider and, expecting to find a horse ahead, kept going, so that when the rider arrived at the transfer point and tied the horse, both runners were ahead of the horse. We received reports of a tied horse and a runner asking if the rider had passed that way. Riders also reported no second runner had been seen.

State Park Rangers were notified and they returned the first runner to Base Camp to seek information. Ultimately the missing runner was found after a short search and the tied horse returned to camp.

We received lunch Saturday and Sunday with Dinner on Friday and Saturday (yum, yum). We were clear by mid-afternoon.

Saturday attendees:

Michael Bailey, Carl & Marilyn Jensen, Jay Pistiolas, McKenzie Jackson, Jim Patterson, Daniel McDougal,* Roger & June McCollough and Michael Fletcher (ACS) (* Camped out overnight)

Sunday attendees:

Michael Bailey, Jay Pistiolas, McKenzie Jackson, Jim Patterson, Daniel McDougal, Roger & June McCollough, and John & Heather Wright (Heather is John's better half) ►



Daniel McDougal, SWR 063 and Roger McCollough, SWR 098 at Vet Check 1.



Radios used at Vet Check 1.



Michael Bailey, SWR 092, checking in riders at Vet Check 1.



Horses being cooled down and checked at Vet Check 1.

Touch-A-Truck

By June McCollough, SWR 054; Photos by Walter Wallenborn, SWR 089

After Action Report

This is the second time for REACT working this event. Last year it was held in September and it was very, very warm. This year it was on June 11, 2017. We were on the way there about 7:00 am and it was rainy at our house. When we arrived in the valley it was still cloudy but no rain in sight. The day was pleasant with a nice breeze, as the cloud breaking to sunshine, so nowhere near the heat of last year.

It was held in the same place as last year on Vigilante Road, and there was more room because they did not put vendors in the middle of the road. We had better (not perfect) traffic control than last year but it still had problems.

Kathy from the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce was very pleased to have REACT there to help again this year.

Thank you to Michael Bailey, Jim Patterson and Roger and June McCollough for helping with this event. ►



An overhead view of the Touch-A-Truck venue.



A ground shot of Michael Bailey and his jeep.



Overhead view showing the entrance to Touch-A-Truck. Michael Bailey, SWR 092 is at center left, behind the white Jeep.



June McCollough, SWR 054, speaking to an event attendee.

COVER PHOTO: An overhead view of the Touch-A-Truck event.

Team Attendance Information

Team attendance information will be published quarterly. Since this is the first publication, attendance since the first of the year is included.

Unit			Jan Gen Mtg.	Feb Gen Mtg.	Mar Gen Mtg.	Encinitas 1/2 Marth. 3/29/17
31	Carl	Demas				
37	McKenzie	Jackson	x		x	x
38	Matthew	Weaver			x	x
42	John	Wright		x	x	x
46	Jason	Pistiolas		x	x	x
48	Grady	Yearwood				
54	June	McCollough	x	x	x	
55	Donald	Dodson				x
59	Michael	Maston		x		
61	Daniel	Willan	x	x	x	
63	Daniel	McDougal			x	x
64	Michelle	Harmon			x	x
67	Carl	Jensen	x	x	x	x
68	Marilyn	Jensen	x	x	x	x
75	Doug	Waltman				
76	George	DeLaBarre				
81	George	Reeves			x	x
89	Walter	Wallenborn				
91	John	Pfingsten				
92	Michael	Bailey		x	x	
93	Mike	Corum			x	
98	Roger	McCollough	x	x	x	
142	Wayne	Oliver			x	x
151	Jim	Patterson	x	x	x	
181	Dolores	Lemay				
	TOTALS		7	10	16	11

April Gen Mtg.	Lakside Parade 4/29/17	May Gen Mtg.	Descanso Endurance Ride 5/20/17	Descanso Endurance Ride 5/21/17	Lakeside Touch- a-Truck 6/10/17
X			X	X	
X	X	X		X	
		X	X	X	
X	X	X	X	X	X
X					
X		X			
X	X	X	X	X	
	X		X		
	X		X		
X					
X	X				
X					
X			X	X	X
X		X			
X	X	X	X	X	X
X		X	X	X	X
13	7	8	9	8	4

Team training at the June meeting will be a presentation: “Anderson Powerpoles 101, An Introduction to Anderson Powerpole Connectors for DC Power Applications.” This is the first of a two-part series on Powerpoles.



San Diego Ham Radio Community Invites you to join us

for the Biggest Radio Event of the Year
11am June 24 to 11am June 25, 2017



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Directions: From I-15, exit at Pomerado Road.
Head northeast on Pomerado Road for 4 miles.
Turn right onto Stonebridge Parkway.
Take Stonebridge Parkway east for 4 miles to the end
of the road. (Sycamore Canyon Preserve)

Ham talk-in: Simplex 146.580 and Repeater 449.780(-) PL 141.3