Southwestern REACTer

Southwestern REACT Vice-President Daniel McDougal explaining the antenna for the team's portable repeater during training at the March 2Ø17 regular meeting.
John Wright, SWR Ø42

Back To The 3 R's
By Roger McCollough, SWR Ø98, President

Educating in Response, REACT, & Radio

Three R's eh? As in school, and teachers? Yep! If you think you know-it-all, likely, you don't. Sorry but there are at least "holes" and blank spots in your stream of knowledge. Some of the stuff you need can maybe be found in books somewhere. Maybe a class with good handouts and a good instructor can fill many of those gaps. These things do set you up for the best method; experience.

Confucius wrote "I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." He is not currently available to explain how he came to that conclusion, but a simple search of your past life should convince you that the old boy's truth should be cut in stone; maybe it is. So let's see if all this applies to anyone.

Learning is a two part exercise; the input from educators and our eventual desire to learn. When we were kids, we were sent to school, our desire to be there and receive what the teacher had for us, like it or not. Of course as we get older, we experience a use for much of that schooling and need to add more to our mental database (ex: becoming a Ham). "Okay" you say, "I know that." Of course you do, but to go to "Stuff-102", a review of "Stuff-101" should verify that the entire class is up to speed to receive the 102, then 103, and on, classes. So don't bypass 101 even if you know ALL that. What you have just read is the "101" of what follows.

Since last June we have modified the agenda of the General Meeting to reduce operations details and expanding training time. The Board wishes to keep the Team updated and knowledgeable. To be professional, requires preparation in equipment capable to complete any mission. Every member has a bank of knowledge they can share, and space in their memory banks ready to receive valuable "stuff."

So here is the deal; we need members willing to share some of their best (ie: useful) "stuff" and members willing to absorb this "stuff" to improve their value and capabilities; everybody gains. That ends the pep talk. Now let's talk about what we all can do.

First, whatever we do, it is everybody's duty as a member to do whatever is needed to improve the Team. I have mentioned a suggested list of possible training items [Ref: REACTER, Sept, 2016, Pg 3) which is attached elsewhere in this issue. The list is by no means complete, but it is a guide to ideas, your ideas.

REACT is made up of volunteers, and Southwestern REACT is no exception. It is also made into a Team working together for strength and support. Shared training needs to be a Team goal. To do your part, contact me or the Board and we will work something out. My door is open awaiting your shadow in the doorway.

"Nuf said…"

Let's Git 'Er Done!!! ►

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American Red Cross Communication Team Report
By June McCollough, SWR Ø54

The ARCCT meeting was held on April 1st. There was discussion on seasonal update; equipment & facilities update; El Centro trip report/new Winlink Gateway; AREDN work party report; Pubic Safety Map Book; secondary Repeater for the weekly net. There was also Winlink Training and a Social BBQ and Potluck after the meeting.

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 May 6, 2017 at 9:00 AM at 3950 Calle Fortunada, San Diego CA 92123. Hope to have a VHF/UHF Exercise & other training opportunities. These are open meeting for anyone unless they are discussing confidential ARC business. ▶

ACS (Auxiliary Communications Services)
By June McCollough, SWR Ø54

The ACS meeting was held on April 3rd at the Office of Emergency Service (OES). We had training on ICS 214 and 214A at the meeting. This form will be used by ACS for all events and should be filed out in pen and printed for easy reading by all.

The Last training was on March 18th from 1300 – 1700 the topic was a Communication Test and Exercise. All ACS members are encouraged to participate from their home or other location that they frequent on a regular basis. This was a radio test so you did not have to travel to OES to participate.

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.

Upcoming event:
Poway Safety Fair on May 13, 2017, time to be determined.

Tentative date for next training will be May 27th (0900-1300) - Subject to be determined but announced prior to date.

The next meeting will be on May 8, 2017 at 1830 hours (6:30 PM). All are welcome. ▶

ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service)
By John Wright, SWR Ø42

The mothly ARES meeting was held Saturday, April 8, 2017. Due to a scheduling conflict, we met at an alternate location on Campus Point Drive instead of Scripps La Jolla Hospital.

The morning's presentation was about high frequency antennas for restricted spaces:

"*As a follow up to the February presentation on NVIS by Bill K1CT, we will have a presentation on how to build and leverage limited space HF antennas to take advantage of our solar minimum and provide HF communications on the lower HF bands for regional needs.*

In areas like San Diego where lots and backyards are limited in size and or are deed restricted n some fashion, there are still ways to use 80 through 40 meters with fairly "simple" antennas you can construct from surplus materials (and perhaps a run to a Lowes or Home Depot)."

San Diego ARES will conduct a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) training event on Saturday, 4/22/17, from 0800 to 1000. The SET is a "comms only" drill with no deployments.

All San Diego Area hams are invited to participate.

The purpose of the SET is to flex the ARES EC Organization, to test the ARES Comm Plan, and to introduce hams to their neighborhood ECs. Net Controls will be home based. Several ECs are not available on the day of the , so

Assistant ECs will have an opportunity to step into their EC's shoes, as might happen during an emergency.

Timeline for Saturday, 4/22/17:

0800: Winlink operators send "SDG ARES Check-in" message form to pre-set Winlink addresses SDG-RESOURCE and SDG-MOC. Net Control (SDG-RESOURCE): XE2/N6KZB. Winlink voice coord (if needed): repeater 438.225(-) PL100. AE6O will receive SDG-MOC Winlink traffic at his QTH.

0800: HF 75M Net on 3924KHZ. Net Control: KOCSD.

(Note: Out-of-area check-ins are welcome.)

0815: HF 40M Net on frequency TBD. Net Control: TBD.

0830: 6-Meter Net (repeater TBD). Net Control: TBD

0845: 220 MHZ Net on Palomar repeater 224.90 MHZ. Net Control: BTD

0900: All Hams (including non-ARES Hams) check in with their neighborhood ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC) on the repeater designated in the ARES Comm Plan by their EC. Hams who do not have an EC should check in with any EC they find on the air. ARES "ushers" will help lead non-ARES hams from PARC 146.730 and Lyons Peak 146.265 repeaters to a repeater used by an EC. There are no nets planned for the 73 and 265 machines.

All Hams check in with as many ECs as you can find on the air.

0930: All Hams switch to a simplex frequency designated in the Comm Plan by their EC for simplex check-ins with their ECs.

1000: End of SET.

There are no plans to staff the MOC with ARES people during this SET.

Due to schedule challenges, some ECs cannot participate in the April 22 SET. Nevertheless, their absence is an opportunity to test the resilience of Assistant EC assignments in neighborhoods across San Diego County.

Prior to the SET, Net Controls and/or ECs should request approval from repeater owners for use of their respective repeaters during the SET training event.

Other organizations (such as CERT, Skywarn, and Red Cross) are welcome to participate in the SET, as they see fit.

Known ECs and organizations participating:

Fallbrook EC: Randy, KD6UAK
Valley Center AEC: TBD
Escondido EC: John, AF6UA
Vista EC: Rich, NI6H
Central San Diego AEC: TBD
Coronado EC: W3NRG
Southern DEC: Fred, KI6GRO
El Cajon AEC: Tim, N6CUX
CERT hams such as Craig, W6CAW, attending CERT training at Cuyamaca College
Winlink Net Control (SDG-RESOURCE): Mike, XE2/N6KZB
Winlink MOC simulation (SDG-MOC): Art, AE6O
XE2BNC Baja Club
Usher covering PARC 146.730 repeater: Chris, AF6XZ
Usher covering Lyons Peak 146.265 repeater: TBD
ARES Event Coord 449.440 repeater: Rob, K6RJF

Point of contact for questions is Rob K6RJF <k6rjf.rob@gmail.com>.

Encinitas Half Marathon

Article By Carl Jensen, SWR Ø67; Photos by John Wright, SWR Ø42

What a team we have! Eleven Southwestern REACT members showed for the Encinitas half marathon event.

We, the team, met at Denny's for the briefing and job assignment and maybe coffee and breakfast and each member went to their station.

I could say that it went off without a hitch but not quite. There was one problem getting to Water Stop 4 but our team adjusted and covered another problem area. Communication was OK but not great because of dead spots and we adjusted to that problem also.

Overall, the Encinitas Half Marathon was a huge success with no emergencies that the team had to respond to. Our team members were exemplary and receiving praise from Tobias from Koz and Carolyn Cope, the president of the Encinitas Historical Society.

We set up a 35 foot antenna mast atop the View Point, to help with communications and some members had stationary antennae to work with to help solve the "dead zones" problem (such as Seaside State Beach known as Water Stop 5).

Those that participated are: McKenzie Jackson #37T, Don Dodson #55, Wayne Oliver #142, George Reeves #81, Jason Pistiolas #46T, John Wright #42, Matt Weaver #38T, Marilyn Jensen #68, Carl Jensen #67, Daniel McDougal #63, and Michelle Harmon #64 and a Friend of REACT.

Thank you to all for making this a successful event. You're the best!!! ▶

Water Stop 1 before the start of the race.

The first large group of runners approaching Water Stop 1.

Sheriff's Department motorcycle officers leading the first runners on the course

The "main body" of runners.

Training Items

Steering Committee

- Board recommended goals _____
- Report progress_____
- _____

Team Task List Assignments

Training Items (arranged in order of priority):

- Create Trainer Pool _____
- Powering Equipment _____
    - Basics _____
    - Supplies _____
    - Components _____
    - Other _____
- Radio Units _____
    - Basics (Types: Coverage, Models, Pro & Cons, etc.)_____
    - Basic controls, terms, and setup)_____
    - Other _____
- Antenna _____
    - Basics _____
    - Types (fixed, mobile, portable) _____
    - Build _____
    - Effect and use _____
    - Connections, cable, support, tuners… _____
    - Other _____
- How do Repeaters work? _____
- How to setup the Team Repeaters _____
- On-The-Air Procedures _____
    - Basics _____
    - Messaging _____
    - Other _____
- Team Activities and Procedures _____
- ICS Training _____
    - Classroom Training _____
    - Personal (on-line) Training _____
- Other _____
- > _____
- > _____
- > _____
- > _____