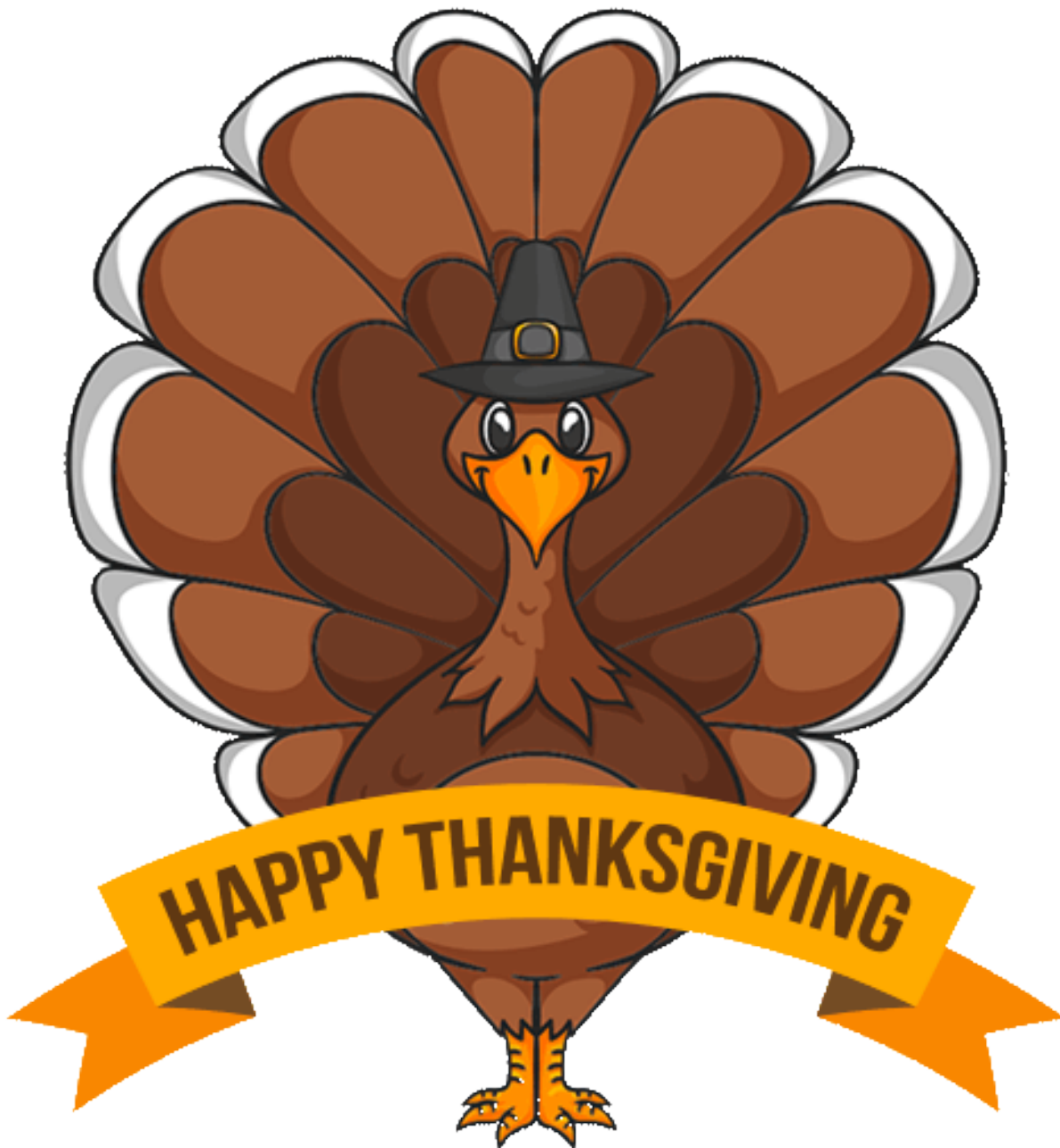




# Southwestern REACTer



NOVEMBER 2019





**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

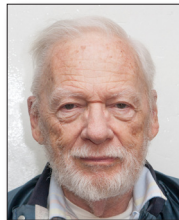
**Director-At-Large:**  
Jim Patterson  
SWR 151

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 7:00 PM on the 449.060 REACT/ARES Repeater with a negative offset and a PL tone of 88.5 (Mt. Otay)



## Ready For What Comes Next?

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

### Prepare, Prepare, Prepare

**"Be Prepared! That's the Boy Scouts marching song."**

That part about being prepared, of course, has been the heart and motto of the Boy Scout movement as far back as I can recall. Being prepared actually fits the direction of most if not all response services, including FEMA, branches of the military, all varieties of law enforcement, medical services, fire agencies, and various civil agencies, such as American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, and various faith – based organizations. Of course we must also consider REACT, ARES, ACS/RACES, and many other volunteer support and recovery groups throughout the nation.

Each of these groups has a certain level of preparation, based on their expected response. Some are expected to respond immediately (ex: police or fire), others plan for known imminent likely disasters (ex: hurricanes), while others plan for the unknown (earthquakes or epidemics). I hope you understand that a key element of these groups planning is TRAINING. Training has two faces: 1) training within the group so that each member will know, and be prepared, to work as a coordinated group, and 2) training to work with other groups and the public. We ever heard, perhaps all too often, that our training is based on our experience. I'm sorry to have to remind you of this again, but we do have new members within our Team and those, outside our membership that read this and may support us at various events, need to understand the value of this type of training. Come on gang! The time will come that we will all NEED all hands to work together to be effective. Responding agencies to a disaster or emergency are reluctant to accept spontaneous volunteers because of their unknown qualifications.

**Time to discuss another "Be Prepared"**

To be accepted by a responding agency, each of us needs to seek and complete recognized training such as the courses offered by FEMA. Agencies are requesting certification in the following ICS courses: 100, 200, 700, and 800. For members of REACT, in case you hadn't noticed, the back of your annual REACT ID card are certification check blocks indicating you have presented evidence of course completions that should satisfy any agency requiring these courses (but keep your certificates handy), everybody else, get cracking and update your profile with your group. And to REACT members, your 2020 ID card renewal information needs your training update before your renewal.

**Time to discuss yet another "Be Prepared"**

As mentioned by others in earlier issues, it is renewal time. The budget committee has set the 2020 dues to be the same as this year. International will assess an additional \$5.00 for members renewing after the December deadline (12/31/2019). To make sure you make the deadline, have your renewal to the treasurer by the December General Meeting, with any last-minute profile changes.

**Keeping the ball rolling with another "Be Prepared"**

Every member should have a "go Kit" ready to go, but when was the last time we checked it out? Some items, such as batteries, and certain foods, are "self expendable", that is, they are no longer fresh. Batteries weaken, food items become stale, and certain items may require periodic maintenance or attention. Have you dipped into your bag to borrow an item that now needs to be returned or replaced? This is one you really should not put off.

### ***And for now, our final Be Prepared item***

With the aid of the media's constant reminders of the current and pending weather problems and the high level of wildland fire hazard, some people may develop a "deaf-ear" to pending hazards; don't let that happen to you. The past few months are just the start of what can be a very long wildland fire season. We do not know what part we may be asked to play in what is coming

and who we will be asked to work with. To do our best we must always perform in a professional manner. You can do this if you "**Be prepared**".

"Nuf said..."

**LET'S GIT' ER DONE!!!**

### **It's That Time Again!**

By June McCollough, SWR 054, Treasurer

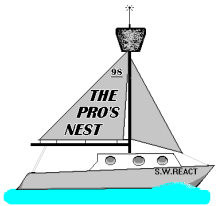
**W**e are fast approaching the time to renew our membership. This year REACT International has set forth a new policy. If you renew by December 31, 2019 the dues will be the same, after December 31, 2019 there will be an additional change of \$5.00 per member.

The Budget committee is meeting soon, and we are going to try and leave the dues at \$35.00 for Regular members and \$20.00 for family members (in the same household) if paid by December 31, 2019. After December 31, 2019 there will be an additional change of \$5.00 per member.

Also I would like each member to update their training so we can add it to the ID Cards.

<b>IS-100</b>	<b>IS-200</b>	<b>IS-700</b>	<b>IS-800</b>
<b>EmComm</b>		<b>CERT Skywarn</b>	

Also if you have any change in your personal information, please include that in your reply.



### **The Pro's Nest**

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098

#### **Are we locked in a cell?**

**L**ooking back over the past 60 years, the motoring public's ability to communicate from their vehicle has gone from public service, commercial usage, or mobile telephone, to the present. This change was, in most part, due to the development of digital and solid-state electronics, and the introduction of Citizen Band Radio at lower cost, and broad public acceptance. Now motorists on the road had a voice. Similarly, mobile amateur radio grew from the use of "home brew" and military surplus equipment to the newest "do-everything" radios.

In the midst of this came the cell phone. The first issue of these was as big as the World War II "walkie-talkie" to now they can be built into a watch with many "smart" features. By the early 80's the highway call box was introduced that many predicted end the need for REACT. But Mother Nature and other bad things demonstrated a continued need for well trained volunteer radio operators to serve the public's need.

#### ***So Are We Locked In A Cell Today?***

Back in the day, when phone service users far apart, your

phone service was often a "Party-Line" because there were more users than wire pairs. Single party service was available where there exist more pairs than users/telephone numbers served. Let's describe single party service as similar to using a cell phone. Two-way radio is more like a party line service. Let's compare the two.

#### **Using your cell phone**

- First, and most importantly, both parties must have cell service access.
- Conversations are limited to only two persons; the caller and the called.
- All information is not shared with anyone else; it's all private.
- Broadcasting information is generally impossible.
- You connect to only the party you wish to talk to; if the connection can be made.

#### **Using Your Two-Way Radio**

- All of the information past from the transmitting party can be received by all.

- Any monitoring station and respond to the information from the sender.
- Monitoring stations on the channel are situation updated at all times.
- Calls can be made to Tactical Names without knowledge of who is at the location.

**What About Texting?**

- Cell service is not required to create a message, only to input into the network. Any/all pending messages will be sent when cell service is established, but are delayed until that happens.
- Reply messages are delayed until cell service is available.
- Conversations are difficult and slow caused by the need to type each message.
- Unless a group call is established, text messages have the similar negative properties of regular cell service.
- To input to a call group, all recipients must be in the directory of the imputer.

**What Can We Make From All Of This?**

- Sharing of information is best conducted in a group face to face.

- Sharing information is next best conducted over two-way radio.
- Sharing information using cell phone service requires multiple calls; one call to each recipient.
- If communication is private, face to face or a cell call should be the method of choice. Establishing a separate TAC Channel for these conversations, should be in the comm plan for the event.

So there you have it. Some of the pros and cons of cellular radio service versus two-way radio should point out that our two-way radio method is superior, in most of our events, especially where cellular service does not exist or is unreliable. Remember, we can establish a completely self-contained communications network, without outside support, if necessary.

What do you think? Send an email to [kf6hbu@arrl.net](mailto:kf6hbu@arrl.net) with the subject line of:

Reply: ARE WE LOCKED IN A CELL? ✎

<b>Events</b>		
<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Trail of Terror	09/25-26/2019	Completed
Silver Strand Half Marathon	11/10/2019 (Sun)	Approved
North Park Toyland Parade	12/08/2019 (Sun)	Approved



# Trail Of Terror After Action Report

By John Wright, SWR 042

**T**rail of Terror, a Halloween event sponsored by the Lakeside River Conservancy is a brand new event this year. The event occurred over two nights, October 25 and 26, 2019. The request for assistance was made at the last minute and the organizers asked for only two operators per night. The report on the event follows, as observed by the team members working the event. Also working the event was McKenzie Jackson, SWR 037.

## **Mike Bailey, SWR 092, Friday**

Bob and I completed the event tonight and have some recommendations.

As background, this is the first Trail of Terror put on by the San Diego River Coalition to raise money for a building for education and maintenance. The Trail of Terror uses the eastern end of the San Diego River trail and some access trails south of the golf course to create a half mile circular course. The theme of the event is a western-cowboy-ghost-zombie terror trail. So there is a facade of a western "ghost town". Admission is \$10 and commemorative T-shirts are \$15. They reportedly have a thousand tickets pre-sold and we may have had 250 individuals through the course tonight. So it should be busy Saturday night.

I'd recommend arriving early and walking the course while there is light out. Bring a jacket, water, a first aid kit and a folding camping chair. It gets surprisingly chilly once the sun goes down. You will likely be stationed out on the course and best to have your chair to set back from the trail and the action of the volunteers/actors.

Basically, we are safety monitors and to keep people on the course. Of course with no lights on the trail, uneven surfaces, and a half mile course, fatigue, falls, minor scrapes can occur. Make sure you have a flashlight.

The organizer, Desi, has only requested 2 of us. Not much for us to do and to really use us correctly, would probably need 3-4 of us--one at HQ with the Desi & the EMT and 2-3 scattered out along the course.

## **Alan Dyer, SWR 047, Saturday**

I arrived in the vicinity of the event while also have problems with my GPS. I was all around the event but had difficulty find the parking lot due to lack of signage. A little not like, parking is at end of Maple Street would be helpful.

Good recommendation for warm clothes. I walked the trail, but it is too long for a person walking and probably best to keep out of sight to keep the ambiance alive. I stationed myself near the end of the trail where there was a long dark stretch. There was a report of unauthorized persons trying to scare guests with a chain saw. They were not located, but appear to have left the scene once challenged by someone early on.

The event was fun and easy. Nice for a change. They could use some help. It would be best worked with some stationary communications off the path and out of sight. Most volunteers I encountered along the way did not have radio communication. Many of the volunteers were high school boys and girls. Some were a little uneasy being in the dark and especially after reports of unauthorized persons. Flashlights are not used by guests.

The volunteer coordinators were easy to work with.

I recommend this event. We should be careful not to be seen or heard more than necessary to help maintain the spooky environment.

## **Bob Taylor, SWR 027, Friday**

Desi Klaar also mentioned to me that they would like for us to assist is an endurance run that is being planned for sometime in the Spring. This will require 24 hour service which will require shifts. I pointed her to our web site and specifically the form required for requesting our assistance. This might be an event requiring additional outside assistance from other clubs and I would be happy to discuss this at our next meeting

EAT  
PIZZA...

