



# *Southwestern* *REACTer*



DECEMBER 2018





**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

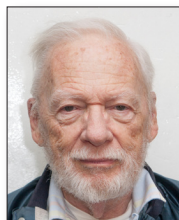
**Director-At-Large:**  
Jim Patterson  
SWR 151

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 8:00 PM on the 449.060 REACT/ARES Repeater with a negative offset and a PL tone of 88.5 (Mt. Otay)



## Diving Into Another Year

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

### A Hopeful Look Into the Future and a Glance of the Past

Before I begin (OK, this is the beginning) let me thank those that carried the load when I was down the first part of the year. I hope all of you are willing to jump in when others need your help. The job of a first responder is to lead and take charge until others trained and equipped can come to fulfill the needs of the incident. Keep up the good work; now the real beginning.

For me, this is a happy, even joyous time of the year, with the lights, music, more smiles than usual. The thoughts of presents for the kids, (for me and June, it is Christmas itself), and the completion of another REACT year. On the whole it was successful but individual participation was discouraging to our event coordinators, but the job was done. Each of us came to this Team to help others but must face the quandary of do they need me? Reasons to do an event are many, from the simple act of doing the job to refreshing, and perhaps improving their capabilities. A few members are having age or health problems and have chosen to simply support their Team in the background. There are others that have come from the amateur community to aid with our events, and they are always welcome, as are the new "kids" in the amateur neighborhood. To all others, the door is always open to the Team's work in the community. All who have supported us in the past are my heroes.

'Tis the season for thanks including another past event that can't be overlooked is the REACT Repeater on Otay Mt., a joint venture of Metro REACT and Southwestern REACT. It has been a long time since we had a repeater that we could call "home". Be sure you give thanks to John and Roy of Metro REACT

next time you see them, they made it happen. Then thanks for the help from SANDRA and SOBARS for allowing the use of their repeaters at the far ends of the county. Please give a round of thanks to those who requested our help and for their trust in our ability to provide a safer and successful event. You all did it.

I can't find a crystal ball, and my pet good-luck rock has disappeared (bad housekeeping), and Alexa keeps saying "I can't answer that question". This is leaving me with no good look into the future. But I do have you to create our future. What do you have to offer? Maybe you'll bring improved tools of communication, more dedicated members, more opportunities to demonstrate and improve our skills, you might even demonstrate a miracle or two; nothing big perhaps, but we will take what we can get.

The future suggests our toolbox may soon grow with high frequency capability, maybe DMR, WINLINK, or? What do you want, what do we need? The County RACES is completing a plan for the County Disaster Council and the California Office of Emergencies that could create a link/links to the established amateur group (such as REACT) if they are prepared. An updated response plan would help.

John Muir once said, after years in the Sierra Mountains: "Bring me men to match my mountains". Well, men or women, bring to the team the people we needs. So with no useful information or predictions from the lost pet rock, Alexa, or crystal ball, it will be up to all of us to set our destiny and history.

Please do your part.

"Nuf said...***let's GIT' ER DONE!!!*** ✎

## ALERTEX 2018

By June McCollough, SWR 054

### What Is It:

ALERTEX 2018 is a REACT International alerting exercise for all member teams in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, the Philippines, and Thailand. The exercise is conducted by the REACT International Training Committee.

### Background:

REACT's Training Committee is working this year to increase familiarity of REACT teams with standard message formats and with ways of managing resources used in disasters. The tools being developed to help to meet these goals have demonstrated that they can be used to improve awareness and alert our Teams to ongoing major events. Because disasters are increasing in frequency and in their impact, it is important that REACT be able to provide alerting and warning information rapidly in any commonly used message format, and that individual Teams can understand the format and text of those messages. REACT appreciates your support for and participation in the exercise.

### Operation Tsunami Jan 2018:

Scenario: Atlantic Ocean tsunami impacting Virginia coast from collapse of Cumbre Vieja volcano, La Palma, Canary Islands. Flooding expected inland to 50 foot contour. Scenario impact does not extend outside Virginia.

### ALERTEX 2018-B:

Tropical Storm Alexander (Southern California) has made landfall on the Baja California Peninsula at Venustiano Carranza and continues to track along the coast to the northwest with heavy rains. Impacts of this storm should start to be felt in the United States around midnight tonight.

### ALERTEX 2018-C:

Exercise: Ransomware attack on public safety in major cities. Outage impacting Fire Dispatch, EMS, and Police

Dispatch response times.

### Great Shake Out 18 October 2018:

Southwestern REACT did not have a registered presents, but many participated with other Amateur Radio Groups. Using the Modified Mercalli Scale.

### ALERTEX 2018-D:

10 NOVEMBER 2018: At the start of the exercise (STARTEX) a simulated request by one of the agencies with which REACT International has a national Memorandum of Understanding will generate a message to all REACT Teams. Due to the nature of the emergency, REACT will need to determine which of our Teams can be contacted by local affiliates of the supported organization for assistance.

### Preparing For Emergency Call Out:

We have had a lot of discussion about these email ALERTEX exercises. We had members that did not feel the need to participate as we don't have these disasters in California; we don't have enough details to know how to prepare for the exercise; we do not access our email in a timely manner. So if it was an emergency, we would not have all the information but need to know whom is available and can help.. What do we need to do as a REACT team to be better able and willing to respond to emergencies? We have a manual that has a very outdated with Emergency Call-out. I would like to see it brought up to date but this should not be done only by the board.

We need the help of you the members to get this done. ✈

## Dues Are Due

By June McCollough, SWR 054, Treasurer

Once again Dues are due. The dues for 2019 will remain the same as in the past year. REACT International would like renewal by December 2018.

Regular Dues are \$35.00, Family/Junior members \$20.00.

Please see June McCollough if you have any questions.

# General Meeting Update

By June McCollough, SWR 054

You may be wondering “when will my ballot arrive in the mail”? It was decided at the January 2018 meeting that if only one person was nominated for an office no ballot would be mailed. Therefore, at the General meeting on December 20<sup>th</sup>, we will have our election of officers for 2019.

We will also have our annual snack potluck, please bring your favorite snack to share with 10 to 15 people that will be at the meeting.

Please come out to the last meeting of 2018 and welcome our 2019 board of directors. ✎

*The following editorial reflects the opinions of the author only and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of Southwestern REACT, its board of directors or its members.*

## Editorial

By John Wright, SWR 042

### The Decline In Meeting Attendance

Since January, 2018 there has been a general decline in attendance at the monthly general team meetings. We have been averaging five non-board members per meeting and on at least two occasions we have not had a quorum of members. No quorum means we are unable to conduct team business, including approval of meeting minutes and approval of event requests.

We have been through this before. A survey was taken and the board attempted to make changes to encourage meeting attendance and event staffing. Among changes that were made was the shortening of meetings and moving back the meeting time by 30 minutes. It hasn't seemed to help.

An organization such as Southwestern REACT cannot long survive without the support of its members. When one joins a group, there is an unspoken obligation to support that group.

It is understandable that members will not be able to make *all* the meetings, and there are special cases, but there are some members that haven't attended a meeting all year.

Southwestern REACT *needs* the support of its members if it is to survive. Your attendance at meetings will be welcomed. ✎

## Giro di San Diego

By Michael Bailey, SWR 092

### After Action Report

**Overview:** On October 28th, REACT Team members provided communications support to the Giro di San Diego recreational bike ride put on by KOZ Events. The four rides were spread out over a 105 mile course that ran from Escondido to Mt. Palomar, over to Mesa Grande and then back to Escondido over Hwys. CA-79 and CA-76. Six rest stops along the way were supplemented with 2 SAG vehicles/mechanics to serve the 800 cyclists.

**Goals & Objectives:** The goals for REACT were to provide a communications solution to KOZ events while ensuring the safety and enjoyment of the cyclists on the ride.

These were achieved by achieving each of four objectives:

- Develop a communications plan that provided reliable radio comms over the 105 mile route through varied and mountainous terrain.
- Monitor cyclists on all 4 routes (26, 44, 67, and 105 miles) for accidents, injuries, and mechanical problems.
- Track the last cyclists to ensure safe arrival back to the finish line.
- Monitor resources at each of the rest stops in order to transfer food, water or mechanics to where the need was as the rides progressed.

The REACT Team for this event was comprised of:

- June McCullough, SWR 054 - Control



- McKenzie Jackson, SWR 037 - Control
- Patrick Gooden, Friend of REACT - Rest Stop #1
- John Wright, SWR 042 - Rest Stop #2
- Roger McCullough, SWR 098 - Rest Stop #4
- Jim Patterson, SWR 151 - Rest Stops #5 & #6
- Jay Pistiolas, SWR 046 - Rover #1
- Mike Bailey, SWR 092 - Rover #2, Coordinator

**Outcome Analysis:** REACT met all of the objectives. The success was built on a solid communications plan that ensured reliable coms over the entire course. While it was presumed that the use of a repeater on Mt. Palomar would provide good coverage, it turned out there was significant differences in the signal quality among the various VHF and UHF repeaters on Mt. Palomar. Initially, the Palomar ARC repeater, 147.130+ was selected but by driving the route, Jay and Mike discovered that a UHF repeater, 449.300 had better signal quality. That was selected as the primary repeater with the VHF repeater as back-up.

The reports from the Rest Stops and the two Rovers allowed Control to track the progress from the Start/Finish Line and relay that to the KOZ coordinators. Use of bib numbers allowed individual riders to be identified and tracked over the course while avoiding the use of other identifying data. Riders needing SAG pick-up or those pulling out of the ride could easily be identified and info relayed to Control. As such, there were no lost riders with all riders accounted for. Luckily, there were no accidents or injuries.

**Improvement Opportunities.** Several aspects of the ride could be improved upon:


1. Rest Stop Locations - Unlike the Campagnolo Gran Fondo event, precise locations of rest stops were not provided. While the ride slips identified rest stops by the mileage on that ride, that was useless to a vehicle approaching the area from a different direction and not following the precise route. This led to delays in deploying Team members and some confusion getting to the locations. Signage for rest stops was inadequate and easily missed. (Something noted at the Campagnolo Gran Fondo as well.)

2. Provide all Team members with copies of each route map. Patrick noted that riders would approach him for directions or need to modify their routes and that he could not fully advise them not knowing where each of the routes went.
3. Given the distances and the number of riders, additional Rover units and SAG/mechanical support could have been useful. Riders requesting transportation back to the start from Rest Stop #1 and #3 had to wait over an hour. Similarly, the mechanic had to shift back and forth between rest stops to meet the needs of those with mechanical issues. This delayed repairs for some individuals.

**Critical Task Performance:** Overall, all Team members performed admirably. No mechanical issues, radio failures, network discipline breakdown or health issues arose amongst the Team members. Interaction between KOZ event staff and REACT members was good. No training deficits were identified. Jay Pistiolas' advance work with repeater owners ensure access to needed machines without any interference by other users.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. It is recommended that precise locations of the rest stops be provided by KOZ and distributed to the coordinator well in advance of the event.
2. Ensure each Team members receive a copy of each map and ride slip to be able to track and advice cyclists.
3. Encourage more participation by Team members in the future to assure adequate course coverage.
4. Rest stop signage could be improved and enlarged to make it more visible for cyclists and support staff.
5. First aid supplies should be at each stop for the minor ouchies that some cyclists may have along the way.
6. Consider wash stations in conjunction with restrooms.
7. Increase the number of SAG support vehicles and mechanics.

Thanks once again to all of our great participating Team members that made this a success. 



The starting line in Kit Carson Park. *Michael Bailey, Ø92*



The event begins. *Michael Bailey, Ø92*



Patrick Gooden, K6PFG, Friend of REACT, at Rest Stop #1, *Michael Bailey, Ø92*