



Southwestern REACTer



OCTOBER 2017





**SOUTHWESTERN
REACT, Inc.**

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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 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)

"Days Of Our Lives"

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

More Than Just The Title of a Soap Opera

The past several months have put the test to readiness and volunteer value. Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Florida, Puerto Rico, and back to Texas. Then the wrath of nature moved to that of a very disturbed person. To aid those whose lives hung on the response of others, safety agencies were overwhelmed, and salvation was in the hands of volunteers; volunteers that brought their skills and drive to provide life-saving miracles.

Throughout the World groups and individuals have planned ways to disrupt the lives of innocents to enforce their sickness. Nature has raged with massive storms and earthquakes. And here we are with large fires raging throughout the West. In the past we mostly had the threat of wildland fires, rarely reaching towns, much less cities, but not this year. Large, unstoppable fires are raging at the doors of large communities, leaving miles of streets lined with skeletons of burned out vehicles, blackened homes, and chimneys that will never again contain a warming fire for the family that once lived there.

This rush of human loss and misery has left many of us saying "Of course I know that, but what can I do?" First, before moving on, you can stop and think about how thankful we should be to be free from a similar fate. Then, perhaps, you might consider if there is anything you can do to remove the pain and recover their loss of so much of their past lives. Finally, consider your special abilities to protect your family and neighbors, both by direct action when needed, and be part of the planning and preparation of you and the community.

So how prepared are you? There are a number of groups within the sound

of my voice that are preparing for the possibilities. REACT is one of these. Our training is based on using events to learn skills that are similar to those used in disasters, such as working with crowds, and assessing situational awareness. How long has it been since you worked an event or team training? We have been able to improve our recognition by being seen doing what we do best. I've said this before and it is still true. At events we work, we are considered as middle management. People come to us for answers or support, and that is what we do.

We are one of the recognized groups training on the use of communications and special skills to mitigate disasters. Perhaps it is time to reach out further to improve our abilities and recognition. This upcoming weekend we have the opportunity to work with the Boy Scouts Merit Badge activity for radio. We will be establishing a VHF/UHF station at their Camp Balboa with additional stations set-up throughout the county, so that the interested scouts can be exposed to amateur radio. We would like to involve several additional members by joining in from their homes or a known location. We will discuss this at the general meeting.

As the experts say, "We know it will happen, just not when". Please remember what you said when you filled out your Team Membership Application. We asked why you wanted to join. Most answered that they wanted to help their community. Sound familiar? ►

"Nuf said..."

Let's git'er done!!!

pres@southwesternreact.org

American Red Cross Communication Team Report

By June McCollough, SWR 054

The ARCCT meeting was held on Oct. 7, 2017. ARCCT Meeting was cancelled due to the CDOC was being activated for the hurricane and fire disasters.

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 Nov. 4, 2017

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

Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS)

By June McCollough

The ACS meeting was held on Oct. 4, 2017 at the Office of Emergency Service.

There was training to review the Earthquake Training held September 30th and also a review of personal go-kits.

ACS has a net every Monday except First Monday or County Holidays at 1930 hours. 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.

ACS upcoming event(s) and training:

The Great California Shakeout/Message Handling Exercise Oct. 19, 2017 1019 hours.

Del Mar Radio Rodeo Nov. 14, 2017 Time TBD.

Fry's Operating Day Nov. 18, 2017 Time TBD.

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

The Great Shake Out

By June McCollough, SWR 054

October 19th is the date. Time is 10:19. We are asked to take part by checking out the website at

<https://www.shakeout.org/>. We, as a team, are not participating but ACS will be on the air to take check-ins

from ACS Members. If you get the opportunity, listen and maybe we can set up an event for next year.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

By John Wright, SWR 042

The ARES meeting was held October 14, 2017 at 8:00 AM at Scripps La Jolla Hospital.

First on the agenda was a recap of the MCAS Miramar Air Show, September 22-24, 2017. The Marines have imposed stricter security measures at the air show and as a result attendance was down this year.

There was a good turnout of volunteers to work the air show. New volunteers were paired with experienced operators. This arrangement facilitated training and kept communications flowing smoothly.

Also discussed was the annual



SEC Bruce Krypton, KG6IYN, (blue shirt, back to camera) conducts the Saturday morning briefing at the Miramar Air Show.

Fred Curtis, KI6GRO

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) sponsored by the Boy Scouts.

San Diego Section emergency Coordinator Bruce Krypton, KG6IYN,

reminded everyone to be cognizant of cyber security, especially in light of the recent hack of Equifax.

The next hospital drill is coming up on November 16, 2017. Some facilities may be participating as early as 4:00 AM and more volunteers are needed. One inject will be a communications blackout of up to 30 minutes. It promises to get hectic.

As always, the meeting was followed by the Gateway Communicator Class. This month's class featured a breakout group for the Yaesu FT2DR System Fusion® radio. ►

Iron Horse Challenge Endurance Ride Sept. 23/24, 2017

By June McCollough, SWR 054

This was a first time event for the Ride Manager Susan Eyer-Anderson. She sent us the request very early so Jim Patterson, Roger and June McCollough went to Anza, CA. to meet with her. We were unable to do much radio testing but we figured we would have trouble because there was a large mountain between the Vet checks and base camp. We did have access to the mountain so we figured that cross banding would be our best answer.

We had ten (10) members that were there for Saturday as follows: Jay Pistiolas, June McCollough, Daniel Willan, Daniel McDougal, Carl Jensen, Marilyn Jensen, George Reeves,

Michael Bailey, Roger McCollough and Jim Patterson. The weather was nice, clear and not too hot. There were a smaller number of riders but it was a good ride, we had very few "pulled" horses. This ride went around the front of the mountain and then up and over it (on trail and road) then to the Vet Checks on the east side. Next they went back up and over the mountain back to the base camp.

We had five (5) members that stayed over and were there for Sunday: June McCollough, Daniel McDougal, Michael Bailey, Roger McCollough and Jim Patterson. This was a shorter ride and it was on a different road

on the west side of base camp. It was thought to be a challenge because it was one lane and known to have motorcycles on it. We were lucky to have only one group of eight (8) motorcycles that came down the road while we were there and they were very courteous to the horse riders. Michael Bailey had the opportunity to ride his bicycle to the turn around that was after the Vet Check area. Jim Patterson was at the motor home at base camp and June McCollough was out in the field for the first time in a long time on a horse ride.

It was a long trip up to Anza but everyone that was there enjoyed it and the food was excellent. ►



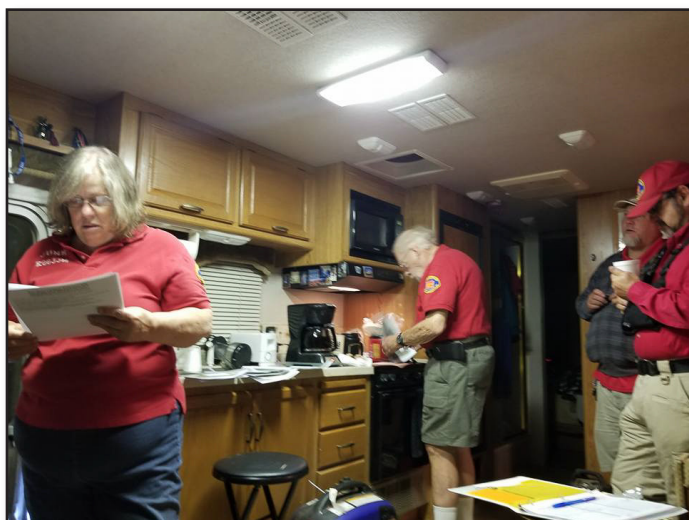
Sunrise over the base camp.

George Reeves, SWR 081



Dan Willan, SWR 061 setting up the team go-box for cross band repeat communications.

Jay Pistiolas, SWR 046



First order of business: Morning coffee...

Jay Pistiolas, SWR 046



Veterinary check area number 2.

George Reeves, SWR 081

Zello As A Tool To Communicate

By Dan Willan, SWR 061

I received the September 2017 “The REACTer” and perused it. Page 4 mentioned “Amateur radio and Zello are also great tools for communication but Zello needs a cell signal and if there isn’t one, it doesn’t work.” Then continuing through the publication, I found an ad for “Worldwide React International Zello Net, Every Saturday at 9p.m. EST. on the *REACT MEMBERS* channel”. Well, being interested in all thing internet, I decided to download the app on Google Play and set a reminder on my phone to attend the Zello meeting.

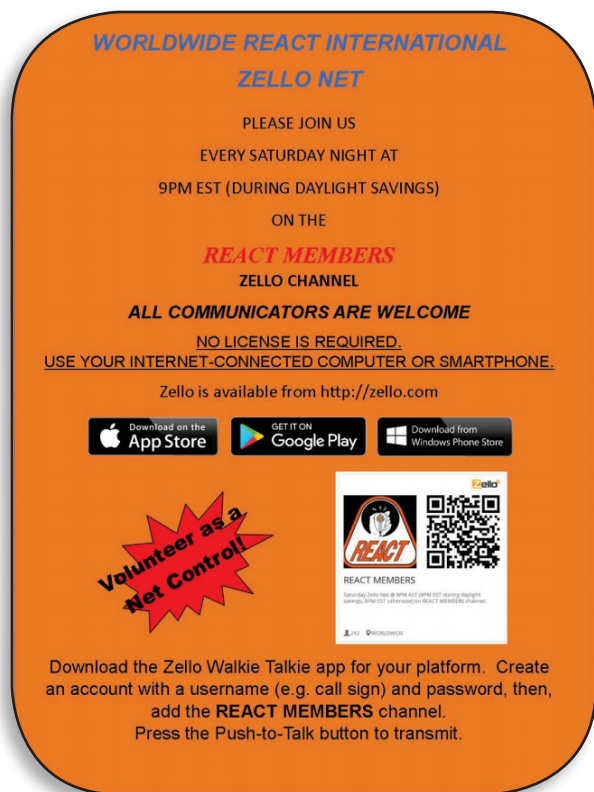
A couple of Saturdays came and went but I finally was sitting in my truck at the correct time and figured why not try it. I opened the application, Searched for International React (turned out it wasn’t the right channel) and waited. While waiting, I connected to another user from somewhere in the USA. After a couple minutes, the “REACT MEMBER”

moderator came on and told us the proper Channel. So, I changed over to it and there were 76 members. It was cool to listen and hear from others from around the United States and Caribbean Islands. Folks were checking in and telling where they are from, what the weather was, and any local news. The net went on for about a ½ hour then folks generally talked areas and activities they were involved with.

The REACT net using Zello is another media for communication that works and is free. Obviously, it needs an internet connection and the use of either a computer or smartphone with the application. And of course, there will be the nay sayers that it couldn’t be used in an emergency, but it’s another way to communicate to other outside of your sphere of frequency limitations.

Once you download the application

to your device or computer, create a user account and password, login to it, and search for groups, you’re ready to participate. Once the application loads and you are in the right group, it will have a round circle with a microphone, push it like a walkie talkie and hold it while you talk, release it when you’re finished. Just like on real nets, people will try to talk over each other but the application is very quick to allow the first person it senses to deliver their message. Zello uses live streaming audio so it is a Push to Talk application. It does not cure the fear of talking into a mic though. Of course, there are limitations, and it’s available in Android and iOS versions. You do not need an amateur radio license to use it, so it might be a good training tool for the newbies. My impression is it works well for what it is intended and I am adding it to my communications arsenal. ►



WORLDWIDE REACT INTERNATIONAL
ZELLO NET

PLEASE JOIN US
EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT AT
9PM EST (DURING DAYLIGHT SAVINGS)
ON THE
REACT MEMBERS
ZELLO CHANNEL

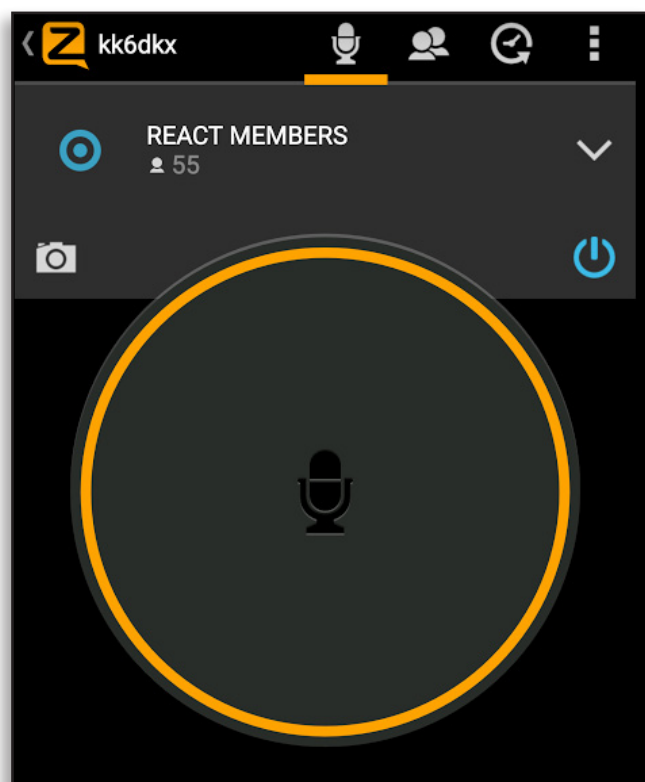
ALL COMMUNICATORS ARE WELCOME
NO LICENSE IS REQUIRED.
USE YOUR INTERNET-CONNECTED COMPUTER OR SMARTPHONE.

Zello is available from <http://zello.com>

Download on the **App Store** | GET IT ON **Google Play** | Download from **Windows Phone Store**

Volunteer as a Net Control!

Download the Zello Walkie Talkie app for your platform. Create an account with a username (e.g. call sign) and password, then, add the **REACT MEMBERS** channel. Press the Push-to-Talk button to transmit.



September Training Moment

Article and Photos By John Wright, SWR 042

At the September General Meeting, Michael Bailey, SWR 092, gave a presentation on “Emergency Response—Hemorrhage Control.” The 2017 recommendations are

- Apply direct pressure—gloved hand, dressing, pressure bandage.
- Elevation of extremity wound, if feasible.

- Consider use of a hemostatic agent if pressure fails to control bleeding.
- Rapidly apply a tourniquet to any patient with evident massive extremity bleeding.

In line with the last recommendation, Michael allowed team members to practice applying ready-made

tourniquets to other members in a controlled scenario. He also had samples of hemostatic agents used for controlling bleeding.

In all, a very informative presentation. ►



Michael Bailey, SWR 092, demonstrates the proper technique for applying a tourniquet to a bleeding extremity.

Team Member Marilyn Jensen, SWR 068 attempts to apply a tourniquet to “patient” George Reeves, SWR 081 as Carl Jensen, SWR 067 looks on.



IMPORTANT NOTE: As voted upon at the September meeting, the start time of the general meeting has been moved back to 6:30 PM. This will be in effect through the December meeting and will be reevaluated at that time.