



# Southwestern REACTer



OCTOBER 2021





**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:**  
George Reeves  
SWR 081

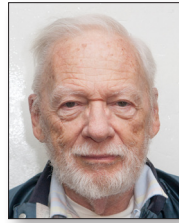
SWR's mission is to prepare for communications during emergencies and disasters. This preparation is accomplished through working community events such as: The Lakeside Western Days, and North Park Toyland parades, the Midnight Madness Bicycle Ride and Fiesta Island Time Trials, the Silver Strand Half-Marathon, the San Diego International Triathlon and the Descanso Endurance Horse Ride

The Southwestern REACT board meeting is held the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM on the Zoom application. Any member is welcome to attend. Contact us for the link.

The Southwestern REACT General Meeting is held the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM on the Zoom application. Contact us for the meeting link.

**Reactive Team Net**

The Team net is currently on hiatus.



## Time To Roll Up Your Sleeves And Let's Git' Er Done!!!

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

### No Pep Talk, Just A Reminder Of Some Of My Past Messages. Short and Sweet!

“Here is the deal” is a term often heard from our “leaders”. Here is our deal.

- As a Team, we have a job to be ready to perform.
- As part of an International organization, REACT Intl., we have a special reputation to maintain.
- To maintain our level of professionalism, we need to be ready in both logistics and performance.
- We have chosen to serve our community in daily needs and disasters; that becomes our responsibility for excellence and professionalism where possible.
- And most importantly, **to be willing and prepared to respond when needed!!!**

There you have a very “Short List” of whom and what we work to be. Without question you should have agreed to this list at the beginning of joining the Team, or shortly thereafter. So now that the event world reawakens, we must

be ready to “saddle-up” and form the posse to rescue those we can help. We all need this experience to refresh our skills and learn from these opportunities to train. I've said this before, but with the imposed layover, caused by the pandemic, even the best of us have some catching-up to do.

To those that worked the Lakeside Parade, you must have felt a little off, but shortly, things began to settle in. Next time, at your next event, perhaps you will have reached a point of start already settled-in and ready to do the best you can do. Well done to those that offered their support to Jay, the Lakeside Coordinator, and to Jay for a job well done.

And so ends our stay-at-home lockdown. We are no longer stuck in our “caves”, awaiting a call for our professional services. The time has come. Will you?

Nuf said...

**LET'S GIT' ER DONE!!!** ⚡

## Southwestern React After Action Report

Jay Pistiolas, SWR 046

### Lakeside Parade, Lakeside CA, August 28, 2021

The following report includes areas that were planned and what was actually accomplished as well as room for improvement.

REACT Team Members: Roger McCollough, June McCollough, George Reeves, Jay Pistiolas, John Wright, Wayne Oliver, Patrick Gooden, Bob Taylor, Walter Wallenborn

**Event Summary:** Southwestern REACT was deployed to provide assistance to the 2021 Lakeside Parade by providing radio communications.

**Objective:** Keeping the announcers apprised of the floats in order, providing the announcers of any missed or any float that bowed out, traffic Control in certain blocked streets, directing said traffic around the closures, answering

questions from the public of said parade. Looking for any medical emergencies that may have occurred.

**Major Strengths:** SW REACT had ample people on hand to handle this event. All operators reported to their posts, with a few minor changes, and reported their on site location by radio. Net Control Operator George Reeves handled the communications with professionalism and was instrumental in conveying the necessary info to the team. The team communicated well with net control.

**Areas For Improvement:** SW REACT used the parade map/route that was given to the team. Unfortunately, there was a second map that the team did not receive and reports have indicated the announcers had a third map that again the team did not receive. The communications between the coordinator, Jay Pistiolas, was

established at the parade meeting prior to this, however there were some changes that were not communicated to the team such as Announce Stand #6 which was mentioned the day of that there was not going to be an Announce Stand #6, only a possibility at the aforementioned parade meeting a couple of weeks earlier.

**Summarization:** All in all, this was SW REACT's first event in more than 18 months, due to COVID 19 and the lack of events during this time period. The team handled the event well overall and the Lakeside Parade went well since the parade was organized with a lot of ifs and some uncertainty from the point of view of vendors. Kathy Kassel, the President of the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce was pleased at our efforts. ✨

## Are You Ready For The New Rf Exposure Evaluation Regulations?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On Tuesday, April 27, Dan, W1DAN, ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Technical Coordinator, gave a Zoom presentation on the latest FCC regulations on RF exposure evaluation. These are spelled out in FCC-1926A1 (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-maintains-current-rf-exposure-safety-standards>), "Proposed Changes in the Commission's Rules Regarding Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields; Reassessment of Federal Communications Commission Radiofrequency Exposure Limits and Policies." The document is as long as the title might suggest—159 pages—but W1DAN boiled it down, focusing on what these changes mean for radio amateurs.

A recording of the presentation can be viewed by going to [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1\\_qIGZhHyMrha-axJt87DcuoUZuJOot8F](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_qIGZhHyMrha-axJt87DcuoUZuJOot8F).

After explaining how RF exposure can be harmful, Dan explained how the rules are changing: The biggest change, he notes, is that amateur radio's categorical exclusion has been eliminated. What this means is that now every radio amateur will have to perform an RF exposure evaluation of their stations. This now includes mobile and portable stations, including HTS, SOTA/POTA stations, and Field Day and special event stations.

He noted that you must be able to prove that your station is safe. This includes not only performing the evaluation, but also documenting these evaluations, should this data be requested by FCC personnel.

One thing that's not changing are the maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits. These are spelled out in FCC OET Bulletin 65 ([https://transition.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering\\_Technology/Documents/bulletins/oet65/oet65.pdf](https://transition.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Documents/bulletins/oet65/oet65.pdf)), "Evaluating Compliance with FCC Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields." The FCC published this document in August 1997, but it's still the Bible when it comes to RF exposure. If you don't have a copy, or have never taken a look at it, you really should do so.

Be careful, though, when reading it. It contains a table (Table 1 on p. 21) that contains a list of output powers at various frequencies. If your station exceeded those limits, then you were required to perform an RF evaluation. Now, however, all amateurs (and other radio services, for that matter) must perform RF exposure evaluations if their output power exceeds 1 mW. We are no longer categorically excluded from performing these evaluations.

OET Bulletin 65 goes on to give guidance on how to calculate or measure exposure levels. Explaining how to do this is outside the scope of this article, but again, you'll want to refer to the bulletin for more information.

Besides the elimination of the categorical exclusion for amateur radio stations, what else is new is the dates on which amateur radio stations must perform evaluations. They are:

- May 3, 2021(!) for new and modified stations

- May 3, 2023 for stations that complied under the old rules.

Having said all that, the ARRL's RF Exposure page (<http://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure>) has a lot of resources to help you understand this topic and perform your own RF exposure evaluations:

- An RF-exposure FAQ (<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/RFsafetyCommittee/RFXFAQ.pdf>) to help hams understand the new rules.
- "Learning to Live with RF Safety ([http://www.arrl.org/files/file/protected/Group/Members/Technology/tis/info/pdf/QST\\_Mar\\_2009\\_p70-71.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/protected/Group/Members/Technology/tis/info/pdf/QST_Mar_2009_p70-71.pdf))," QST March 2009 pp. 70-71.
- RF Safety at Field Day (<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9906048.pdf>) QST, June 1999, pp. 48-51. A case study of Field Day with NSRC in a public park
- RF Exposure Station Evaluation and Exemption Worksheets ([http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/rfex1\\_2.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/rfex1_2.pdf))
- RF Exposure and You (<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/RFsafetyCommittee/RF%20>

[Exposure%20and%20You.pdf](#)). This 8 Mbyte PDF file contains the text of the entire book by Ed Hare, W1RFI.

- Chapter 5 References (<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/RF%20Exposure%20Chapter%205.pdf>) needed for filling out worksheet.

There are also links to FCC web pages with information on RF exposure.

I'm sure we'll all be hearing more about this in the days ahead. Hopefully, someone will come out with a simple way to do the modeling or make the calculations. As always, play safe.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (<https://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/>), and often appears on the -Podcast (<https://icqpodcast.com>). When he's not RF exposure evaluating, he teaches online ham radio classes and operates CW on the low end of the HF bands. ✎

## Vice President's Message

By John Wright, SWR 042

Now that we are beginning to emerge from the pandemic and have returned to in-person meetings, both the board and the general membership, we're looking at having some kind of team social event to draw everybody together again.

The idea of having a get-together at a park has been floated. If there is enough interest, this could develop into an annual event.

The board is open to suggestions for an annual team social event. If anyone has comments or suggestions, please send them to any board member.

I'm writing the following with a heavy heart. As much as I love being a ham radio operator, and collecting radios, building go-kits and getting on the air, it takes up too much of my time and I am struggling to keep up with the everyday basics such as cleaning and maintaining my home, so something has to give. I will be getting rid of my collection.

Below is a list of what's available. Serious inquiries only. Please don't insult me with low ball offers.

Thanks for reading and understanding...

1. Dustpan and brush
2. Sponges
3. Febreeze spray
4. Mop and bucket
5. Window cleaner
6. Vacuum
7. Dishwashing liquid
8. Laundry detergent
9. Fabric softener
10. Laundry baskets
11. Toilet brush
12. Cleaning sprays
13. Scrubbing brushes... ✎



## George Gets His SEGWAY...

By John Wright, SWR 042

Cover and article photos by June McCollough, SWR 054

### Rewarding a member for exceptional service

For many years, Team Member George Reeves has been a stalwart performer. He is a skilled radio operator/communicator and is always willing to step up and coordinate an event.

For years he has been asking Southwestern REACT to purchase a Segway for him. This past month, the board

decided it was time to give him what he wanted.

However, George never specified what size it should be...



