



Southwestern REACTer



JUNE 2022





**SOUTHWESTERN
REACT, Inc.**

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OFFICERS

President: Roger McCollough
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Vice-President: John Wright
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Secretary: Jay Pistolas
SWR 046

Treasurer: June McCollough
SWR 054

Director-At-Large:
George Reeves
SWR 081

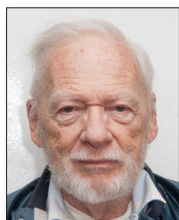
SWR's mission is to prepare for communications during emergencies and disasters. This preparation is accomplished through working community events such as: The Lakeside Western Days, and North Park Toyland parades, the Midnight Madness Bicycle Ride and Fiesta Island Time Trials, the Silver Strand Half-Marathon,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



THE JOY OF BEING WANTED HAS RETURNED

Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

The New Dawn Of Duty And Pleasure And More

Prologue

The Covid Closure may be lifting allowing events to return to people's lives. We have seen evidence of this in the media and with several requests for support for their planned activities. All of these requests are posted on our website and elsewhere in our newsletter. As I have said before, mark your calendar for each upcoming event whether you plan to attend or not. You may change your mind later. Be aware.

The Call To Duty

The slogan once used by Gillette Razor applies to our work; "Look Sharp, Be Sharp". That seems fair. The "Look Sharp" can be accomplished by your professional appearance, including the condition of the team uniform that you wear. As to the "Be Sharp", let's use each member's performance, including actions and prompt responses at an event. At the 1st major event, a wide coverage bike ride, our people were briefed and assigned, repeater coverage was a little spotty, but that proved to be the challenge to overcome. Full details can be found in the After Action Report (AAR). It may have been a little rusty at the start but past training and experience kicked in and obstacles were overcome. The best part was the job was done and the event people were happy with our efforts. The Call to Duty was met.

What are your feelings about Digital?

In the past, I have raised the question of members' for their thoughts on the various digital systems available and gaining popularity, due to their improved coverage and audio quality. Some of you may have purchased a radio that has both analog and digital capabilities, but have not made use of its digital capabilities. Well it is about time you offer an informed opinion;

by trying the digital feature. Several members have one or more system radios and tests can be arranged. If we can determine what works best with the members, then we can determine which, if any system we might recommend for a future purchase. Mixed operation at an event is possible, but offers planning and some sort of work around. Most importantly, we are NOT saying you need a new radio, only digital is coming throughout the amateur world and this is only an ALERT that may become a tool in our toolbox. The time to plan and prepare is now.

On The Road: An Overview

Recently, June and I took our annual trip to Mule Days, held in Bishop, California. While in Bishop, I hop on the local repeater. Located just above Bishop, at about 10,000ft, on Silver Peak (Bishop Amateur Radio Club-BARC-146.920-/103.5) and renew past contacts with the "Locals". Over the years, I got to know three active Hams; two of them are SK, Val Cammeron (KG6FCJ), and Dennis Clark (W6IY). My Current contact is Jon Patzer (NW6C), the current Vice-President of the club. Their net is held nightly at 20:00 and last about an hour. Their conversations are like a small town newspaper with their day and what is happening in their area (sometimes very remote). The club links 3 repeaters, stretching from near Lone Pine, in the South, to Mammoth in the North, providing pretty good coverage through much of Owens Valley. Check in with them if you are passing through on US-395. Their website is <https://n6ov.org/>.

"Nuf said..."

LET'S GIT' ER DONE!!! ✈

AAR Lakeside Western Days Parade 4/23/2022

George Reeves, SWR 081

EVENT: Annual parade held in the downtown area of Lakeside, CA

As in years past, REACT was on hand to work Course Communications for the Lakeside Western Days Parade, an annual event, which was held on April 23rd, 2022. In attendance were: George Reeves, SWR 81 (Coordinator/Step-Off/Control), Roger and June McCollough, SWR 98 and 54 respectively (Announce 1 & 2), Carl Jensen, SWR 67 (Announce 3), Jim Patterson, SWR 151 (Announce 4), McKenzie Jackson, SWR 37 (Announce 5), and Mike Bailey, SWR 92 (Announce 6). All comms used 145.555 (Simplex Team Channel 5), which worked rather well from all points on the parade route. The Rattlesnake Repeater (Team Channel 8), was deemed secondary operating frequency.

After Briefing in the Lakeside Café parking lot at 0700, all REACT units were deployed to their assigned locations. Upon reaching stations, each unit advised Control. After all units checked in, a test of the Operating Frequency and alternate Frequency was performed.

The Parade consisted of 120 entrants; motorized, floats, equestrian, banners, and walking entries. Step-Off advised all Announce Stations of drops, adds or out-of-sequence participants, to be passed along to the Announcers.

The first Parade entry took to the course at 0935, and the last entry passed Step-Off at approximately 1115.

The event went very smoothly, due in large part to the high level of organization provided by the Lakeside Chamber Of Commerce; primarily, Crystal Grobner and Kathy Kassel (Coordinators), among many others. There were no notable occurrences or problems encountered for the duration of the event.

The REACT Team was graciously fed lunch after the parade, and displayed, as always, our high level of professionalism and diligence while on the job. Well done, Team! 73

Southwestern REACT Board Meeting, May 12, 2022

June McCollough, SWR 054, Acting Secretary

The Meeting was called to order by President Roger McCollough at 7:02PM

Quorum Check – Five (5) Board Members present.

Visitors – Jim Patterson, Cindy Jackson and Heather Wright

Special Motion – None

Meeting Minutes – Approved and accepted for filing

Correspondence List – Reviewed

Treasurer's Report – June McCollough reported an ending balance of \$5,371.34 as of 04/30/22.

REACTer Editor – Reacter was out on Tuesday.

Webmaster – Updated – Revamping complete with list of events.

Unfinished Business – no unfinished business

New Business – **Website update** – Looks good. **New Members** – George is willing to go to testing sites and report on REACT for new hams. He contacted J. Goldberg but got no response. **Event coverage** – We need all members to work events especially the Giro de San Diego. It is another 100 mile bike ride. **Digital Radio** – per Roger's article with various links to the different type of digital radios – DMR, Yaesu and D-Star.

Minutes for General and Board Meeting – John Wright moved that the minutes no longer printed and handed out at meetings. They are on the website and in the REACTer. George Reeves seconded it Motion Carried **Training and Drills** – ARRL website has list of all nets in San Diego County. **Reinstate Net** - Discuss reinstating the 1st and 4th Thursday net. George Reeves will do it once a month and set it up so another member or various members will do it. Need the net to get new members. George will contact John and Roy about use of the 449.060 repeater. Start date will be July 7th. **APRS for Giro de San Diego** – John will discuss with Mike about it.

Post Events

FITT	Sun. 04/17/2022	Approved	SWRo81
Lakeside Western Days Parade	Sat. 04/23/2022	Approved	SWRo81

Upcoming Events –

FITT	Sun. 05/15/2022	Approved	SWRo81
Giro de San Diego	Sat. 06/11/2022	Approved	SWRo92
SD International Triathlon	Sun. 06/26/2022	Approved	SWRo81
FITT	Sun. 10/16/2022	Approved	SWRo81
Silver Strand Half Marathon	Sun. 11/13/2022	Approved	SWRo81

Good of the TEAM – Yeah, Jay is back with Cindy. He is planning on working FITT on 5/15/22.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50PM ✈

Southwestern React General Meeting, May 19, 2022

June McCollough, SWR 054, Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Roger McCollough at 18:39 (On Zoom)

Quorum Check – Four (4) Board Members. Jay Pistiolas excused Four (4) General Members.

Meeting Minutes – Motion by Carl Jensen, Seconded by John Wright to accept minutes; motion carried.

Correspondence List – Reviewed

Treasurer's Report – June McCollough an ending balance of \$5371.34 as of Apr. 30, 2022

REACT Editor – REACTer is out **Webmaster** – Updated.

Unfinished Business – Update to Website – Removed patch of old logo. Moved REACT International to bottom. Added event page with all events for 2022 – completed and upcoming with coordinators. Thanks to repeater owners for use of their repeaters. Added Communication plan.

New Business – APRS discussion to use of APRS to follow vehicle and Sag Wagons for long ride events. There is an app - APRS Smart phone – need call sign- Can check website if internet connection. **REACT Team Net** - In an effort to get new members it is important to have a net that new members can find out about us. We can advertise our events and get more people to attend. We will let people know we will be happy to have them ride-a-long with a qualified member to learn what we do. **PIO/Promotion** George would like to introduce REACT to other teams. Will contact Cert – Lakeside. **Antilog vs Digital** Would like to survey the team members on what digital radio they have or would consider purchasing. There was discussion on the various types of digital radio. **NEW Tri-Folders** - available for you to pass on to prospective members.

Post Events – Lakeside Western Days Parade Sat 04/23/2022 it went well AAR in REACTer. FITT Sun 05/15/2022 had a very good turnout of members to cover this event.

Upcoming Events –	Event Date	Status	(* -Reqr Action)Coord.
Giro di San Diego	Sat 06/11/2022	Approved	92#
San Diego International Triathlon	Sun 06/26/2022	Approved	81#/46#
FITT	Sun 10/16/2022	Approved	81#
Silver Strand Half Marathon	Sun 11/13/2022	Approved	81#

Good of the Team – Mary Hick from REACT International to be sending a survey; requesting a response from the team.

Meeting Adjourned at 20:50 ✈

Campagnolo Gran Fondo April 3, 2022

Mike Bailey, SWR 092

After Action Report

Southwestern REACT provided communications support to KOZ Events' Campagnolo Gran Fondo event which included 3 routes varying from 35 to 100 miles and 1400 riders. SW REACT's role was to provide communications between the four rest stops and the ride director at Start/Finish as well as track riders over the 3 courses to monitor for accidents, medical emergencies, mechanical issues, and SAG support.

Challenges:

- Weather: In contrast to prior years, this ride was marked by lower temperatures and drizzle over most of the course but particularly in the eastern part of the route. While there were no reported accidents as a result of slippery surfaces, it did appear to chill riders, cause some to take a shorter route than the one they signed up for and cause more tire punctures. Chain lube issues arose as most riders use a dry lube formulation that washed away leaving chains with lubrication issues. At Rest Stop #2, volunteers went to the nearby hardware store to get light machine oil lube to help cyclists.
- Gaps in Repeater Coverage: Using the 4 linked K6RRR repeaters, there was an assumption of excellent repeater coverage throughout the entire course. A major coverage gap was discovered in the Alpine area which included Rest Stop #2. The gap occurred halfway up Alpine Blvd. from Harbison Canyon and extending along Tavern Road to South Grade.
- Linked Repeaters resulted in a slight delay in capturing initial words resulting in clipped messages.
- Inadequate Mechanical and SAG Support: Only 2 SAG vans and 2 mechanics were on the course. With the high number of flats and mechanical issues, a mechanic should be assigned to each rest stop. A line of cyclists was seen at the 1st Rest Stop awaiting mechanical assistance. Promised support at later stations took longer than anticipated to arrive, if it arrived at all. Exhausted, cold and wet riders or riders with irreparable mechanical failures waited over an hour to be picked up by sag vehicles.
- Poor signage and placement of Rest Stop #3: It was easy to pass Rest Stop #3 as it was located on a downhill section just past a curve. This is a highly trafficked area with cars traveling at relatively high

rates of speed. Additional signage alerting cyclists to the rest stop ahead and cautioning cars to reduce speed may help to prevent potential accidents. Delineating inbound and outbound lanes to the rest stop using cones may also help prevent collisions and cause cyclists to reduce their speed going in and out of the driveway. Drivers can be distracted in this area as they enter and leave various businesses. A motor vehicle accident 100 yards east of the rest stop took place during the active hours of this rest stop illustrating the dangers along this narrow thoroughfare.

Successes:

- In spite of the repeater coverage gap at Rest Stop #2, Daniel and Michelle developed a workaround by utilizing existing cell phone service and called net control to advise them of issues.
- Despite the weather and multiple challenges, we had a good turnout with everyone working hard to ensure we met our role while ensuring safety of the cyclists.
- Having extra bicycle inner tubes and a pump with Rover #1 allowed several cyclists to get back on the road and prevented them from having to be sagged back into the Finish line.
- Use of Zoom for the Event Briefing: Instead of Team members meeting downtown for a briefing in the very early hours and the deploying out to the different rest stops, a virtual briefing was held the night before over Zoom. Not only did the approach avoid excessive travel, reduce the amount driven and save gas, but it allowed team members additional sleep and lessen the amount of time deployed for this event.

Lessons Learned:

- For events that encompass a large geographical area, utilizing a virtual briefing just prior to the event can reduce transportation requirements and the time needed to deploy to assigned locations as well as the overall time commitment for such events.
- Weather should be factored into event planning. Our unique climate in San Diego has lulled us into assuming all events will be sunny with moderate temperatures. Not anticipating the specific

challenges of rain, cold, or high heats, can result in hypothermia, increased accidents, dehydration or heat injuries.

- When using new repeaters or when preparing for a new event, it is important to actually drive the course to check for adequate repeater coverage.
- As mechanical support may be inadequate or not available in a timely fashion, it will be important to have additional basic bicycle supplies for the mobile units or Rovers—extra inner tubes, air pumps, lube, etc.

- When using linked repeaters, delaying speech a moment after keying up will prevent initial words or phrases from being clipped.

Thanks to all of the team members that participated in this event. The professionalism, ingenuity, hard work and commitment displayed by each and every team member was laudable. ✓

Upcoming Events			
Event	Date	Status	Coordinator
Touch-A-Truck	02/27/2022 (Sun)	COMPLETED	George, 081
San Diego Gran Fondo	04/03/2022 (Sun)	COMPLETED	Mike 092
FITT	04/17/2022 (Sun)	COMPLETED	George, 081
Lakeside Western Days Parade	04/23/2022 (Sat)	COMPLETED	Open
FITT	05/15/2022 (Sun)	COMPLETED	George, 081
Giro di San Diego	06/11/2022 (Sat)	Approved	Open
San Diego International Triathlon	06/26/2022 (Sun)	Approved	Open
FITT	10/01/2022 (Sun)	Approved	George, 081
Silver Strand Half Marathon	11/13/2022 (Sun)	Approved	Open

