



Southwestern REACTer



FEBRUARY 2025

Thank You, Firefighters!



**SOUTHWESTERN
REACT, Inc.**

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www.swreact.com

OFFICERS

President: Roger McCollough
SWR 098

Vice-President: John Wright
SWR 042

Secretary: Mike Bailey,
SWR 092

Treasurer: June McCollough
SWR 054

Director-At-Large:
Per Martin, SWR 053

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

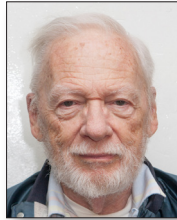
The Southwestern REACT board meeting is held the first Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Friars Road Denny's Restaurant. Any member is welcome to attend. Contact us for the address.

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

See the website for net information.

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Does Absence Make The Heart Grow Fonder?

Roger McCollough, Ø98, President

Not In Emergency Communications.

Prologue:

It is sad to see the lack of attendance on recent REACT Net nights. Similarly, our Zoom General Meetings lack good member interest. Why!

Our Situation and Duty.

All too often my past messages seem to fall on deaf ears. In sports the coach calls for practice sessions to sharpen skills, add knowledge and measure performance of the team. If only the key players attend, then how does he know the information is getting out, or even if the missing members are still on the team? Our team lost a member that had just helped coordinate an event. At some point later it was noticed that he had not checked-in on the net or attended any meetings. Attempts to contact him were made, only to discover that he had died. THE POINT is if you become inactive regarding meetings or nets, how can we keep you updated or know of your welfare?

Limits? Of Course!

Some members may not be able to reach one of the four linked repeater sites to check in. Some of you may not have Zoom capabilities and cannot attend those meetings, but in today's available technology, that should be fixable.

Bottom line: STAY IN TOUCH!

Opportunities? You Judge,

THE FIRES. It is not possible that you are not aware of the major disasters that have raked Southern California. You CANNOT say to those stricken, "I know how you feel." Sorry! Unless something of this magnitude has occurred in your life, you CANNOT know the shock, despair, and loneliness of their loss. They are in a "War Zone" as if in Gaza or The Ukraine. The impact on their mental

health makes PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), similar to what the military now recognizes, as a real thing crippling them, and now, threatens the victims of these fires.

Our live here have not conditioned us to war's utter destruction and loss. The closest we have had in our life may be the events of 9-11. Hurricanes, tornados, and other weather related events have softened some to these occurrences, but this goes well beyond that. Reports of over ten-of-thousands of people lost everything. This must have had a major effect that will take years, yes YEARS, to resolve. Let's hope that. That what we call "The American Spirit" can be found now.

To the best of my knowledge, no members of our team have been affected, [NOTE: I have not receive any word about any LA area teams] BUT we work with the public, in crowds of people that we may encounter, may have some of the symptoms. It suggests we should value any knowledge that helps us understand and respond to such an encounter.

To the end, the Board has asked Michael Bailey (SWR092), involved in the study of PTSD, to offer his presentation he prepared for CERT, at a future meeting (To Be Announced). Watch your e-mail for further information.

Make it so.

The theme, from here on, must become BE REACTIVE and RADIO-ACTIVE. It's not too much to ask.

"Nuf said..."

let's GIT' ER DONE!!! ✈

What Should I Monitor During Fire Season?

Courtesy San Diego Ham Forum

(Last updated: 08/23/2022)

The purpose of this guide is to aid Amateur Radio Operators in active monitoring of wildfire incidents that may occur during high fire danger conditions. Being well informed will not only aid in your safety, it will allow you to be alert when we, as Amateur Radio Operators, can aid in possible evacuation activities. This guide provides suggested radio frequencies and internet sites that are informative and may be active during a wildfire event.

**All frequencies can be found as public access on the internet
(such as “<https://www.radioreference.com/>”)
They are strictly for monitoring purposes ONLY.**

**YOU MUST NEVER TRANSMIT ON ANY FREQUENCY PROVIDED HERE!
IF YOU EXPERIENCE AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911!
THE PROVIDED FREQUENCIES ARE ONLY FOR MONITORING!**

NOTE: Highly recommend going to “<http://calfire.ca.gov/>” and become familiar with the various types of aircraft and ground units used by Cal Fire. Understanding what is being dispatched will help you understand what is happening.

RADIO MONITORING:

1. **Actively monitor “CAL FIRE Dispatch” (“San Diego”) Freq. 151.190** The dispatch use to go by “Monte Vista” but switched to “San Diego” in 2022. It now covers San Diego County Fire and Cal Fire. You will hear dispatch for numerous things. They routinely respond to medical emergencies, traffic collisions, and “public Assist” in unincorporated areas. **For wildfire issues, you want to listen for “Vegetation Fire”, “Smoke Check”, and “Structure Fire”.** (Structure fires can often turn to Vegetation fires)

For a dispatch, first you will hear a station number, a short word of what type of response, followed by tones. After the tones, you will hear actual units being sent. At a point, a more detailed description will be given of the issue, followed by the address.

2. **If a vegetation fire is in US Forest Service Cleveland National Forest jurisdiction, monitoring 171.425 (Forest Net) will be the dispatch frequency. Monitor this frequency as a secondary.** a) Many times USFS will be asked to respond either in place of or backup to Cal Fire.

If “Forest Net” is the primary for an active fire, other traffic will be on “Admin Net” (171.1375)

3. **When a vegetation fire is dispatched, the fire will be given a name and a Command frequency established.** Use “Radio Reference.com” to look up the full listings of Cal Fire (“Monte Vista”) <https://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?aid=1008> and US Forest Service (Cleveland National Forest-“Forest Net”) [http://wiki.radioreference.com/index.php/US_Forest_Service_-_Cleveland_National_Forest_\(CA\)](http://wiki.radioreference.com/index.php/US_Forest_Service_-_Cleveland_National_Forest_(CA)) command and TAC frequencies.
4. **Another set of frequencies to monitor are the “Air To Ground” (AG) Air Attack Frequencies for Cal Fire and FS.** a) CDF AG-1: 151.2200, CDF AG-2: 159.2625, Cal Fire/ FS AG-53: 168.4875, AG-59: 169.1125 b) The primary Air Attack frequencies are AG-59 and AG-53.) You will frequently hear “Copter 10” and “Copter 11” etc. dispatch via Monte Vista. There are helicopters located at Gillespie Field, Montgomery Field and other local air fields. When dispatched, they will be given a bearing and distance to their destination. S2 Air Tankers fly out of Ramona, Hemet, and San Bernardino. Larger air tankers fly out of San Bernardino or “out of area”. Helicopters fly from “Kitchen Creek”, “Montgomery Field”, Ramona, and “Gillespie Field”.

MONITORING THE INTERNET:

It would take volumes to go into detail on how to use each of these resources. I strongly encourage you to go to each of the websites and explore every link and feature. Become very familiar. Think how the information presented can be useful in an emergency.

Monitoring "Broadcastify"

CalFire uses both UHF and VHF frequencies. Although regulation requires all fire traffic be on VHF, sometimes their units will use 800mhz.

We monitor the "Rural San Diego County, Cal Fire and USFS" channel (<https://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/9733>) Monitoring this channel you will hear all traffic from CalFire/Rural SD County/USFS. You will get all traffic, not just dispatches.

You do not require a membership, without one, you will hear a commercial, with membership, no commercial.

When there is a major vegetation / wildfire situation, I highly recommend you access the following websites:

“ <https://hpwren.ucsd.edu/cameras> “.

- I HIGHLY suggest you place a link on the desktop of your computer for quick access.
- You can quickly look at the main page of the HPWREN cameras and scan the images for any smoke.
- If you do not immediately see any smoke on the first page, at the top of the page, select "PTZ". This will bring you to the "Pan-Tilt-Zoom" camera page. These are separate cameras. If there is an active fire, most likely, one or more of these cameras will be zoomed in on the fire.
- Clicking on any image thumbnail will enlarge the image. They are high resolution. You can "right click" on the image and save it.

“ www.alertwildfire.org ”

- At the main page of this site you can access cameras used for fire monitoring over the Western US (Washington/Oregon/Idaho/California/ Nevada). By clicking on the region the thumb nail view will appear for the region selected. By clicking on any of the thumb nail views, the one selected will be the one presented in the "large" view area at the top. (This is also used by SDGE. And are hyper-linked in the index of the HPWREN site.) A tool on this site can also be used to triangulate a fire location if at least two cameras are viewing the same fire.
- NOTE: All cameras on the Alert Wildfire page are "PTZ" (pan-tilt-zoom) and can only be operated by official designated personnel.
- On the right of the page you will see a box with blue arrows. Whichever camera is being displayed in the large display, look to the right and you will see a "shaded cone" displayed attached to that cameras arrow.
- In the upper right corner of the "arrow box", click on the menu. Add a check to "Camera targets". Now the arrows show a "bearing line" of where the camera(s) is pointed. If you have at least TWO cameras pointing at the fire, you can use these bearing lines to "triangulate" and where they cross will be the fires exact location.

“ <https://ops.alertcalifornia.org/> “ (Currently not 100% functional, however still very effective)

- In the near future, "Alertcalifornia" will replace "Alertwildfire" as the primary regional fire camera monitoring system for California. All of the PTZ cameras currently on Alertwildfire will be included, plus substantial more additions. Alertcalifornia will add a huge amount of new functionality for use by fire fighting agencies. At this writing, it is not known if Alertwildfire.org will remain online with all of its camera accesses. *Editor's Note: I believe this change has already taken place.*
- When you initially open Alertcalifornia site Home Page, you notice the State of California completely covered in blue arrows (each a camera location). As you zoom in on the state map, you will notice the number of thumbnails decreasing. The only thumbnails displayed will be ones that correspond to arrows shown on the map.

- You can currently enlarge and view the camera view. Full functions are yet to be activated and access to these functions will be controlled. (Standby)

During active fires, you can go to “ <https://app.watchduty.org/> “

- You can click on the fire icon for the desired fire and current up to date status of the fire can be viewed.

“**sdgweather.com**” Another webpage run by SDGE. More good info here if you know how to use it!. The page will cycle through different information. Click on one of the large boxes on the right.

- The first (top) box will cause the “Wind” data to be displayed. Here you can see where the winds are coming from as well as speed data.
- The second box will display the current temperatures.
- The third box is more important as it displays current humidity
- All displays can be moved around and zoomed in.
- BONUS TIME! : At the bottom, just above the Temperature data, you will see “more data”. If you click on it, it will display “Weather Awareness System Data”. There are “Remote Automated Weather Stations” (RAWS) all over S. Cal. These are small (usually solar powered) sensor stations. If you click on any of the stations, you can see historical weather data for that location. On the top menu, if you click on “map” it will show you on Google Earth exactly where the sensor is located.

“**National Fire Situational Awareness Map**”: <https://maps.nwcg.gov> This displays active fires for the entire nation. The page will open showing the entire country. Zoom into your local area or the location of a fire. Use the menu to the left to show what the symbols mean. This map also shows “Satellite fire detection hits”. Again, use the key.

Cal Fire: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/imapdata/index.html> Most people know about this page and it is where most people go to see general info on a fire.

National Forest fire info: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov> This page will open as nationwide. Zoom in to your location and click on the fire you want to monitor.

US Forest Service Dispatch Log and Resource Availability: <http://wildcad.net> This is access to all the dispatch logs and resource status for the Western Region. On the main page, you select the area. For Cleveland National Forest (San Diego/Riverside) you would select “CA-CNF”. For the San Bernardino Mountain area; “CA-FICC”. “Recent Incidents” shows current activity. You can also select to see incidents by TYPE. “Resource Status” shows what units are in service and where they assigned (includes local Aircraft)

Google Earth: If you were monitoring the initial radio dispatch and were able to copy the address, a good first place to go is “**Google Earth**” or “**Google Maps**”. Try both! Believe it or not, sometimes a road can be found in one and not the other! a) If you are successful in finding the location, select the “Ruler” function of Google Earth. You can anchor the cursor over your residence, left click, and then drag a “bearing line” out to the fire location. This will give you a direction and distance the fire is from you.

PHONE AND TABLET APPLICATIONS

Flight Radar 24: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.flightradar24free&hl=en>

- With this app, you can watch real time air traffic. By clicking on an aircrafts icon, it will display the type of aircraft, its departure and arrival times, etc. Also the flight path of the aircraft will be displayed (very handy, see below)
- During a wildfire, I use this to monitor air attacks on the fire. When you click on the aircraft, you will be able to see what type of fire fighting aircraft it is. NOTE: The OV-10 aircraft is always the “Air Boss” and he is pretty much air traffic control for all air drops. You can actually see aircraft making approaches.

“**My Radar**” Weather Radar: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.acmeaom.android.myradar>

- Pretty obvious this is helpful in monitoring adverse weather activity.

“Pulse Point”: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=mobi.firedepartment>

- NOTE: Many panic at the amount of “permissions” requested at APP install. These permissions are/were needed under original function of the APP. The APP was designed so those who joined the app could be alerted if someone close by needs CPR assistance. HOWEVER, under the functions we would use, most of the permissions can be turned off.

WHY PULSE POINT IS SO IMPORTANT!

When a person dials 911, as soon as the 911 operator types in the data, it is immediately transmitted to the Pulse Point APP. The data shows up on the Pulse Point APP even before a fire report is transferred to Calfire or USFS dispatch. You will see fire data before it is dispatched! On the app, you will see a description of the incident, the location (address), who is dispatched, and a small map. Touch the map and you can see in detail the location.

You can choose multiple “Fire Districts” to monitor and switch by using a pull-down menu.

All fire Fighters now have this APP on their phone as we will see the alert before we hear the dispatch!

OTHER FAST RESOURCES:

Although many do not like Facebook, there are some rapid response resources that are very much on top of all emergency activity.

FACEBOOK:

“Cal Fire San Diego/San Diego County Fire Authority,” “Cal Fire / San Diego County Fire,” “Brush Fire Party-line” There is one for North, South, East and Central County. Each group monitors multiple scanners and solicits live feed, images, and videos from the public who see or hear anything! Many times they are just as fast as the dispatchers and have images coming in from the public before units are on scene.

X (Formerly Twitter):

Cal Fire San Diego, Cal Fire (State level), US Forest Service, and local Fire Departments all have twitter pages and provide important updates on evacuations, road closures and fire status.

NOTE: During major fire incidents, Calfire and USFS will post updates via Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. They will generally show up on all at the same time or have links.

SCENARIO EXAMPLE

You see smoke in the distance or hear a report of fire. What can you do to be in the know?

1. Turn on your radio and monitor Monte Vista 151.190 and 172.425 (Forest Net) If a command channel has been established, switch to that channel.
2. Go to HPWREN cameras or ALERTWILDFIRE (or Alertcalifornia) and start looking around
3. Use the “PTZ” cameras on any of the camera sites to get a good look at the fire.
4. Using any info from the radio, news, internet, Facebook, or camera data, go to Google Earth/Google Maps. Locate the fire. Using Google Earth “Ruler” function locate the direction and distance from your residence.
5. Monitor the Dispatches of Calfire and USFS or local emergency websites and radio traffic for evacuation info.
6. If fire is still distant, monitor weather information, news, and all resources presented here to PLAN AHEAD!

All wildfires are unpredictable! Just because it is distant, does not mean it is not a threat! Embers fly for many miles. If there is a major fire anywhere in the county, start looking at your evacuation plan!

NOTE: I have all frequencies for the Forest Service and Cal Fire programmed in my HT’s, mobile radios and scanners. This allows me to quickly scan during a fire incident and quickly identify the important active channels I need to monitor if I have to evacuate. You can get most all of the frequency data from <https://www.radioreference.com>

Dave Fleming: N6WPG ✈

The following is a list of San Diego County wildfire radio frequencies, graciously provided by Craig Williams, W6CAW.

RX FREQ	RX CTCSS	DISPLAY	NOTES
151.1900	131.8	1 SDU 01	CDF SDU LOCAL NET 1
151.3325	131.8	2 SDU 02	CDF SDU LOCAL NET 2
171.4250	103.5	3 FS CNF	CNF FOREST NET
171.1375	103.5	4 CNF ADMIN	FS ADMIN NET
169.8125	0.0	5 US FWS	US FISH & WILDLIFE
151.3550	103.5	6 CDF C1	CDF COMMAND 1
151.2650	103.5	7 CDF C2	CDF COMMAND 2
151.3400	103.5	8 CDF C3	CDF COMMAND 3
154.1750	103.5	9 XSD CMD 1	Tone 8 Co Wide/Tone 7 San Onofre
156.2250	107.2	10 XSD CMD 2	HCFA
153.9950	110.9	11 XSD CMD 3	S. D. CO. BRDR CMD TECATE T1
158.9700	103.5	12 XSD CMD 4	SAN DIEGO OLD SND CMD
153.8900	0.0	13 XSD CMD 5	OLD NORTH CMD
154.0250	131.8	14 XSD CMD 6	N ZONE WEST
154.2350	0.0	15 XSD CMD 7	N ZONE EAST
154.8150	103.5	16 XSD CMD10	CHULA VISTA VHF INTEROP
153.8150	0.0	17 XSD CMD21	FALLBROOK
151.2575	192.8	18 CDF T1	CDF TAC 1
151.2500	192.8	19 CDF T5	CDF TAC 5
151.3700	192.8	20 CDF T8	CDF TAC 8
155.0850	0.0	21 XSD TAC 1	XSD TAC 1
154.4300	103.5	22 XSD TAC 2	XSD TAC 2
154.1450	103.5	23 XSD TAC 3	SAN DIEGO TAC 1
154.3100	103.5	24 XSD TAC 4	SAN DIEGO TAC 2
154.2500	0.0	25 XSD TAC 5	NORTH COUNTY TAC 1
154.4150	0.0	26 XSD TAC 6	NORTH COUNTY TAC 3
159.1650	0.0	27 XSD TAC 7	NORTH ZONE
154.3550	0.0	28 XSD TAC 8	SAN DIEGO COUNTY GREY
156.0150	0.0	29 XSD TAC 9	NORTH ZONE
155.5650	0.0	30 XSD TAC10	OCS
154.3850	0.0	31 XSD TAC13	NORTH ZONE
154.3250	103.5	32 XSD TAC22	ESCONDIDO VHF INTEROP
166.5500	0.0	33 R5 T4	FS R5 TAC 4
167.1125	0.0	34 R5 T5	FS R5 TAC 5
168.2375	0.0	35 R5 T6	FS R5 TAC 6
154.2650	156.7	37 VFIRE 22	VFIRE 22
154.2950	156.7	38 VFIRE 23	VFIRE 23

151.2200	192.8	40 CDF A/G 1	CDF Air to Ground 1
159.2625	192.8	41 CDF A/G 2	CDF Air to Ground 2
156.1650	107.2	42 XSD A/G	SAN DIEGO CO. AIR to GROUND
168.4875	0.0	43 AG-53	FS AIR/GROUND 53
169.1125	0.0	44 AG-59	FS AIR/GROUND 59

Upcoming Events 2025			
Event	Date	Status	Coordinator
Fiesta Island Time Trials	02/23/2025 (Sun)	Approved	TYLER 050
Touch-A-Truck	03/02/2025 (Sun)	Approved	GEORGE, 081
Fiesta Island Time Trials	03/30/2025 (Sun)	Approved	TYLER 050
Campagnolo San Diego Gran Fondo	04/06/2025 (Sun)	Approved	TBA
Lakeside Western Days Parade	04/26/2025 (Sat)	Approved	GEORGE, 081
Giro De San Diego	06/07/2025 (Sat)	Approved	TBA
San Diego International Triathlon	06/22/2025 (Sun)	Approved	TBA
San Diego Triathlon Classic	09/13/2025 (Sat)	Approved	TBA
Fiesta Island Time Trials	09/28/2025 (Sun)	Approved	MICHAEL, 092
Silver Strand Half Marathon	11/09/2025 (Sun)	Approved	TBA
Fiesta Island Time Trials	11/09/2025 (Sun)	Approved	MICHAEL, 092
Toyland Parade	12/06/2025 (Sun)	Pending Request	TBA

NOTES:

1. This list includes the return of the Toyland Parade (North Park.) This is still in the formulation stage and is pending.
2. The Silver Strand Half Marathon and the last Fiesta Island Time Trials both occur on the same date, creating a scheduling conflict.
3. The Touch-A-Truck event will take place at the Lakeside Rodeo Grounds, rather than the previous location.

Southwestern REACT Board Meeting, January 2, 2025

Michael Bailey, 092, Secretary

Attending: Roger, Per, John, June, Mike – Quorum Achieved

Call to Order: 1900 hrs.

Special Motions: None

Visitors: Jim Patterson joined at 1948 hrs.

Minutes: Minutes of Last Board Meeting:

1. Published. No changes, moved by John, seconded by June. Approved.

Correspondence: Roger/June

1. Robert Taylor sent in dues;
2. Renewal and certification sent to REACT International

Treasurer's Report: June:

1. Balance as of Nov. 31, 2025: \$4040.80
2. Ending Balance as of Dec. 31 2024: \$3705.67
3. Need to establish Committee to Audit 2024 finances.

Acting Secretary's Report: June.

1. Nothing to report.

REACTer Editor: John, VP.

1. REACTer published and emailed out 1/1/25

Website Manager: Per

1. Website will need updating for new officers
2. Currently loading in 2025 event dates. Not all events have published dates so approximations are used based on past years.

Unfinished Business:

1. Renewal for 2025—June, all current members renewed.
2. Election Procedure -- discussion regarding electronic/email voting for the future. Consensus is that it worked well but those members who shared same IP/email address had difficulty getting the second vote in. Mike was directed to contact Tyler to develop workarounds for that item. Will need to educate the team members on the procedure for next year.
3. Team Go-Box – John, VP: Layout developed, will incorporate a headphone jack to use headphones in a high noise environment. Fan will also be installed into the box. Considering the addition of a light or plug in to a USB port. Battery box has been completed. John demonstrated the layout/features.

New Business:

1. North Park Toyland Parade – Parade may be resurrected for 2025. Staff queried REACT to see if communications support is an option. Wayne volunteered to be coordinator. Awaiting formal request and update.
2. Tracking Method for Events: Possible used of a cell phone app to map location of members and/or event staff during events. Will work with John Capodanno, REACT International, to learn more about the program. He has access to Zellow Work. Mike suggested the topic as a potential training moment.
3. Roger is seeking a term for those individuals or individuals requesting REACT services. John suggested “Served Agencies”. Roger requested further input.
4. Equipment: June will send out list of what equipment the Team has to the Board for review and decide what to keep and what to get rid of. John is requesting where the Go-Box will be stored once completed.
- 5.

Training Moment:

1. Last presentation on Cross Band Repeat function was well received.
2. Per suggested we set up a cross band repeat frequency as part of our Communications Plan. John reminded us that Channel 6 is available for cross banding. Consider 103.5 as CTCSS with 145.555 simplex.
3. John offered a future topic, "Fusion Radio", specifically a how to tutorial. He is developing a presentation for SOBARS and can use the presentation for REACT as well.

Upcoming Events:

1. Per has updated dates for upcoming events on the Team website.
2. Per noted a conflict between Fiesta Island Time Trial in November and the Silver Strand Half-Marathon.
3. Touch-A-Truck is March 2nd with a new location—Lakeside Rodeo grounds. Per volunteered to coordinate it.
4. June will reach out to those groups who have traditionally utilized our services who have not yet filed requests for 2025, e.g., Koz Events, Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, etc.

Adjourned at 2044 hrs ✈

Southwestern REACT General Meeting, January 16, 2025

Michael Bailey, Ø92, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1842 hours.

Present: Roger #98, John #42, Mike #92, Per #53, Carl #67, Marilyn #68, June #54, and George #81.

1. Quorum present.
2. No visitors.

Correspondence: See back of Agenda.

1. No postal mail was received or sent.
2. Emails received included requests for event support from Koz Events and the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce.

Treasurer's Report: (June #54)

1. After payments and deposits, the ending balance is \$ 3705.76.

Secretary's Report: None.

REACTer Editor: (John #42) Emailed January 1st.

Webmaster: (Per #53) Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business:

1. North Park Toyland Parade: Initial organizational meeting was attended by Wayne Oliver, #142 in early January. The parade will be renamed, "Toyland Parade", dropping the 'North Park' designation. It will have a new route as original route has had traffic circles installed that will prevent some parade entries from navigating through. The event date and time will be December 6, 2025 at 1100 hrs. Wayne will update the team as planning continues.
2. Membership Renewal Update—100% renewal rate. There are 21 active members.
3. Election Update—procedures established. No new updates.
4. Go Kit Update— John finished the battery box and radio box, displayed on Zoom. He discussed features, answered questions, and summarized detailed expenses. He anticipates coming in under budget.

New Business:

1. John Capodanno, REACT International President, reports that several REACT members have lost their homes in the LA Region Fires. His home was not involved but was threatened. He did lose a shed to the fire, however. He had a generator to provide electricity as electricity went out. This sparked a discussion on how best to support victims of the fires.
2. Tracking Method: Roger is continuing to investigate but given John Capodanno's situation, he has not pursued further inquiry.

3. Requests for Services

- Lakeside and KOZ have submitted their requests. The only pending submission is the Toyland parade. All submitted requests were approved unanimously to support. It was observed that FITT and the Silver Strand event in November were identified as they are both on the same day but it was felt that both events could be supported simultaneously.
- Coordinators:
 1. George has agreed to take on Touch-a-Truck and tentatively, one of the Koz Events.

Yuma Hamfest will be Feb 14th and February 15th. Several team members will attend.

Training Moment for March General Meeting — topic needed. Potential topics offered.

1. Roger asked Mike to consider an article on psychological reactions to disaster and potential interventions to help educate the team. Mike noted having some presentations on the subject that could be used to educate the team as a training moment and could be summarized into an article for the REACTer.

Carl, the Team Chaplain, closed the meeting with a prayer in support of all those impacted by the LA County fires.

Meeting was adjourned at 1955 hrs. ⚡



Red Cross volunteers, including our own Dan Willan (center,) provided snacks, hydration, and other assistance for those displaced by the Lilac Fire, at the Temporary Evacuation Point at the Castle Creek Golf Course (8797 Circle R Dr., Escondido).

The First Law of Dropped Screw Dynamics

John Portune, W6NBC (Reprinted by permission)

Ham Radio corollary to the well-known law of the universe, "battered toast always falls butter-side downward."

Richard Feynman, the well-loved outspoken American theoretical physicist, known for his work in quantum mechanics, was he, I believe, who said,

"There are two classes of people in the world, those who understand the full implications of the Second Law of Thermodynamics(entropy)and those who don't."

Entropy – all systems tend toward disorder – is easiest to see in ham radio in the way screws and nuts jump out of your fingers when you are working on a radio project. Clearly, they are the best handiwork of the Second Law. I put it this way, "Screws and Nuts have a highly perverse mind. I have been keeping my eye on them now for some time, and believe me, I know. "Here are the rules of screw entropy at your workbench:

If You Drop One:

- It will always roll farther than you think.
- If there is something it can roll under, it will.
- It rolls in the opposite direction of the sound of it falling.
- If it falls without making a sound, you will never find it.
- When it hits, it seeks for a hiding place that you "just can't quite reach."
- If you try to find it with a magnet, it will be made of brass or stainless steel.
- If it falls on a carpet it buries itself deep in the pile.
- If you watch it fall, it knows you are watching , and this time will forego its evil intentions.
- If you remove one, it won't be where you laid it on you workbench when you go to put it back.
- All screwdrivers in reach, when you want to put it back,will be one size too large or small. (Screws and screwdrivers are in cahoots)
- You will find it in your shoe when you leave the room.

Dropped from a ladder or a tower:

- Big bolts and nuts will always hit and damage something, and favor the newest Mercedes, Lexus, or Cadillac in the parking lot.
- They will always bounce just outside your property.
- They love flower beds and dense ground cover.

Junk Box Corollaries

- If you need four screws for a project, there will only be three in your junk box.
- If you need a 1in. screw, the longest in your junk box will be $\frac{3}{4}$ in.
- If you need a 6-32 nut, all the nuts in your junk box will be 8-32.
- All screws in your junk box will be slot-blades if you need a Phillips
- Your local hardware store is always out of the size you need.

Conspiracy Demons

- Solder hardens 1ms after a component is too hot to hold onto.
- If you spill something on your work bench, the only paper in reach to wipe it up will be your schematic.

Readers: send your own screw(y) rules to John Portune W6NBC, jportune@aol.com, 519 W Taylor St., Unit111, Santa Maria CA 93458. ✨

2025 Southwestern Division Convention

Yuma Hamfest

Yuma, Arizona

Feb. 14 & 15, 2025



Yuma County Fairgrounds
2520 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona

www.yumahamfest.org

Check the Website for Additional Information

Gates Open for Camping
Thursday, 2 pm

Vendor Setup
Friday, 7 am - Noon

Event Hours
Friday, Noon - 5 pm
Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm

Hamfest Dinner &
Grand Prize Drawing
Saturday Night
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Vendors & Exhibitors
Full Seminar Schedule
DXCC Card Checking
Hourly Door Prizes
On-site RV Camping
Hamfest Dinner
ARRL Speakers
Transmitter Hunt
\$15.00 Admission

Tailgating (Swap Meet)
License Testing
\$15,000+ in Grand Prizes
Emergency Preparedness
Admission Prizes
Hospitality Area
Near Space Balloon Launch
Antenna Clinic & T-hunt

Email Contact: info@yumahamfest.org