



Southwestern REACTer



JUNE 2018

Every good ham radio operator needs a dog in a dress. SWR Secretary Jay Pistolas, SWR 046 at Fry's Operating Day.





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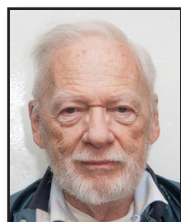
Director-At-Large:
Jim Patterson
SWR 151

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 449.440 Community based Repeater with a negative offset and a PL tone of 107.2 (Mt. Otay)



Rural And Back Country Radio World

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

The Meaning of "It's Summer"

From time to time we mount up in our RV steed to visit other lands along the Pacific Coast. As might be expected, we have a radio or two on to capture the action floating our way. Much of what we hear is not unlike the local chatter we hear here; but the more rural the countryside, the more the flavor of the people changes. So travel now with June and myself as we explore the radio world of the back country of the Eastern Sierras.

First off you should travel with someone else that can share the airwaves with you. The ability to coordinate movements and conditions found in the wilds of the Southern California freeways with its swarms of bumper-car traffic. With the use of a Magellan GPS, maps, and road signage, we escape the surley bonds of I-15 to access a more leisurely US-395 North. As pushing north through the Mojave Desert, less repeaters and activity become the norm. Reaching the south end of the Owens Valley near Ridgecrest, the voices on the WINSystem Eagle Peak (near Ridgecrest) repeater begin to fade. Although the valley's population is small, the mountains are full of visitors, campers and hikers. The ham hikers are not beyond communications if they have checked out <http://www.gsl.net/aa6j/pct/calif.htm> for a list of repeaters found along the Pacific Crest Trail.

Just because you find a repeater does not mean any one will answer your call. You will soon discover that the best way

to find life is to monitor for a net, then join in when invited. At the present time the Bishop Amateur Club [Elev: 4,100], with the home repeater on Silver Peak at a whopping 10,000+ feet, just east of Bishop, in the nearby White Mountains. They linked the Silver Peak site to the south to the Mazourka Peak site, near the town of Independence and to a repeater at Little Lake, near Lone Pine. To the north Silver Peak links to Mammoth Peak, which can provide limited coverage into the San Joaquin Valley.

US-395 is a moderately active road with an occasional amateur passing through, calling "Hi" to the local folk, some coming from Death Valley. It is the small community with conversations that should remind you if you have ever read a home town newspaper; life where you know everybody and friendships abound, where help and support is available any time.

As you travel, consider monitoring the national simplex channels of 146.520 or 146.550. Of course, CB is still in use on the roads with Channel 19 still popular with the truckers. When listening on amateur radio, you may have to speak up to let other listeners know you are there. So make friends as you travel, but be safe and not a distracted driver. Share your adventures with us.

"Nuf said..."

Let's GIT'ER DONE!!!

pres@southwesternreact.org ➤

Upcoming Events

Event	Date
San Diego International Triathlon	06/24/2018 (Sun)
Giro di San Diego	10/21/2018 (Sun)
Silver Strand Half Marathon	11/11/2018 (Sun)

Everyday Carry Bag (EDC)

By John Wright, SWR 042, Vice-President

Lugging All My Everyday Junk

Introduction

While researching a backpack solution for carrying my ammo can go-kit, I stumbled on the idea of an Everyday Carry Bag. This bag would hold all the items I'd like to take with me on a daily basis, but would be inconvenient to carry in my pockets.

According to Wikipedia, “Everyday carry (EDC) or every day carry refers to items that are carried on a consistent basis to assist in dealing with normal everyday needs of modern society, including possible emergency situations.

Some of the most common EDC items are knives, flashlights, multitools, wallets, smartphones, notebooks, and pens. The type and quantity of such items may vary widely.

While often distributed among pockets in everyday clothing, carry options are frequently expanded by the addition of clothing accessories like a fanny pack, purse, small day pack, bracelets, or even footwear like long boots or a vest with pockets. The multiple large pockets of cargo pants make them a popular choice among people who carry EDC items.”

After trying a single-strap sling bag, I decided a standard backpack would be a better fit for what I had planned. I found a very nice, reasonably priced backpack at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar exchange. I settled on the RUSH 12 backpack from 5.11 Tactical.



The RUSH 12 backpack from 5.11 Tactical.

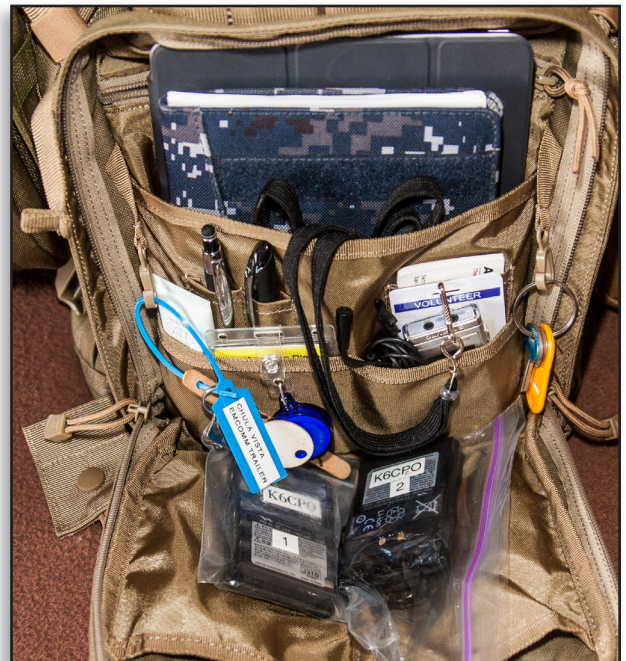
Internet Photo

The 5.11 RUSH 12 is the smallest pack in 5.11's RUSH line and is designed to carry 12 hours' worth of supplies. It is a tactical pack in that it has straps on the outside—called MOLLE—that allow adding extra pouches and holders to the pack. This allows infinite customizing flexibility. It also has Velcro patches that allow the addition of name tapes and flag or other “morale patches” to the outside of the pack.

Contents

So what do I carry in my bag? Well, it really depends upon where I'm going or what I'm going to do that day, but some items are standard.

The front of the bag has what is called an “admin” compartment. In this compartment are a couple of pens, business cards, a digital voice recorder, batteries for my handheld radios, a tube of hand cream, a note pad, my iPad tablet, copies of the Gateway Communicator Workshop booklets, a copy of the NIFOG and a copy of the ARES Field Resources Manual. I also keep a couple of my various ID badges in this pocket and two sets of keys.



The “admin” compartment: HT batteries, pens, notebook, tablet, voice recorder, ID badges, etc, etc.

John Wright, SWR 042

In the main compartment, there are two mesh zippered pockets that contain a headlamp, an internet hot spot, and back-up power for my phone and tablet and associated cords. There is also a supply of AAA and AA batteries. Also in the main pocket are a pair of high

visibility work gloves and a pair of fingerless wool gloves (for operating radios when it's cold.) I also keep a folder containing model releases and other PIO materials in this pocket. There is enough room in the pocket for a three-ring binder.



The contents of the main compartment: Internet Hot Spot (black case,) backup batteries, AAA and AA batteries, cords and PIO folder. Not shown are the two pairs of gloves.
John Wright, SWR 042

Above the admin compartment is another pocket that contains some morale patches and a couple of lashing straps. The straps could be used in conjunction with loops on the bottom of the pack to carry a jacket.



US flag and "morale" patches that can be attached to the outside of the pack with Velcro. Also shown are two lashing straps.
John Wright, SWR 042

Right underneath a nice hand strap is a fleece-lined pocket intended for holding eyewear, but it's just the right size for a small digital camera.

On the outside of the pack, in various locations, are two HT pouches, a water bottle holder and a first-aid kit. The first aid kit is designed to be easily removed from the pack. It is attached by a Velcro panel and a strap. When the strap is released, the kit can be "ripped" off the pack. On one of the shoulder straps is a dual pouch holding a multi-tool and a bright flashlight. The pack has provisions for a 1.5L hydration bladder and hose. If I use the hydration bladder, I would probably remove the water bottle and/or its pouch and put something else in that spot. ➤



The outside of the pack, all 20 lbs of it, showing the First Aid Kit (left), the 32 oz water bottle holder (right) and the HT pouches.
John Wright, SWR 042



The first aid kit removed from the pack. The small pocket holds examination gloves and a CAT tourniquet is in the other pocket.
John Wright, SWR 042

Wildfire Information Resources

By John Wright, SWR 042

Be Informed In The Event OF a Wildfire

In Southern California, fire season never really ends. Our climate is such that a major wildfire could occur at any time of the year. It behooves everyone, especially emergency communicators, to be as prepared as possible for the inevitable.

If you live in a rural location, or another fire-prone area, you probably already have a go-bag (or similar) prepared in case you have to evacuate on short notice.

But where do you get that notice? It will likely come from law enforcement and/or the reverse 911 system, but you don't want to be taken by surprise.

The best sources of information can be anywhere, but most will be available through the internet. With the advent of social media, there are literally hundreds of sources of wildfire information available. I'm going to touch on just a few that are available to us in San Diego County.

County and City:

The County of San Diego and every incorporated city within the county has a website. These are usually dedicated to the daily business of the jurisdiction, but in the event of a major incident can be sources of information and since they are governmental, the information is likely to be more accurate than other sources.

Broadcast Media:

Every broadcast media station now has a presence on the internet, usually in the form of a website and social

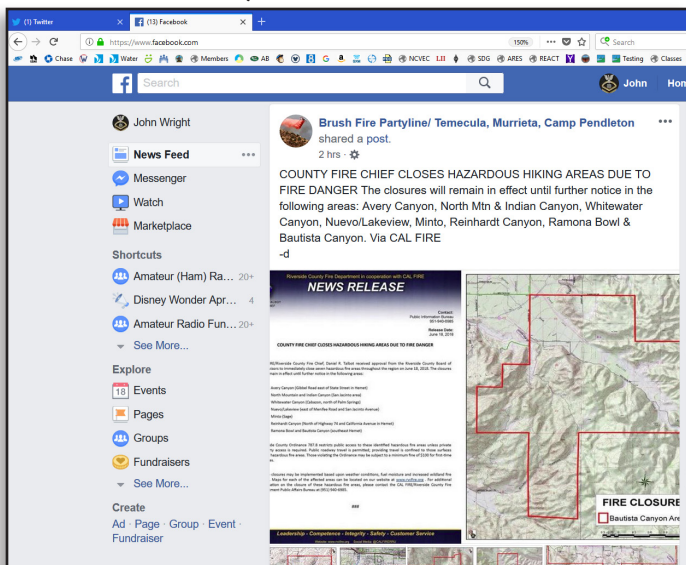
media, such as Facebook And Twitter. Most stations, especially television, also have their own dedicated cell phone applications that replicates what is on the air, and on their website and social media. One consideration, however, is that media now relies heavily on eyewitness information, especially when they can't get a crew into the area. If the information is coming from the public it may not be completely accurate or may be out of date.

Social Media:

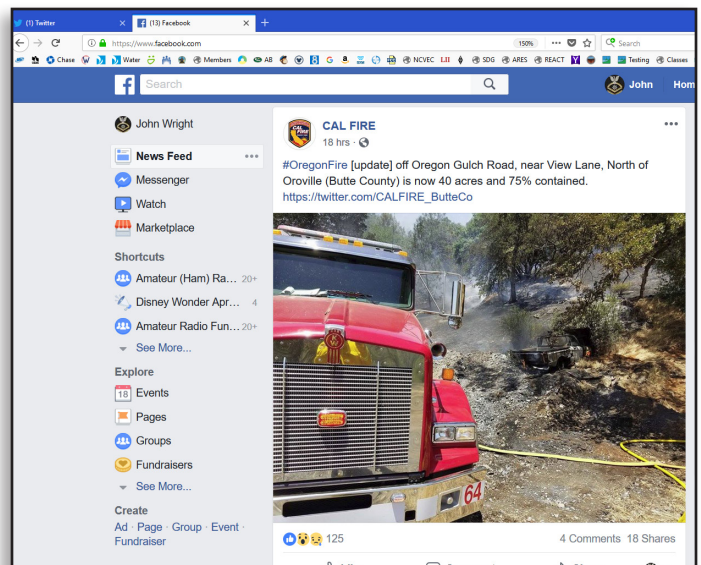
By far, the most numerous resources are on social media, particularly Facebook and Twitter. Just on Facebook alone are the following: CalTrans (good for road closures and detours,) San Diego County Wildfires (self-explanatory,) CalFire (state-wide coverage) Skywarn and the National Weather Service (good for weather related events,) and The Brush Fire Partyline pages. The Brushfire Partyline maintains separate pages for North County, east County, San Diego City/South Bay, Temecula-Murietta-Camp Pendleton and Ham Radio. Also on Facebook are the pages for San Diego ARES and the San Diego Section of the ARRL.

Again, be cautious, as many of these page get their information from the general public and it may not be entirely accurate.

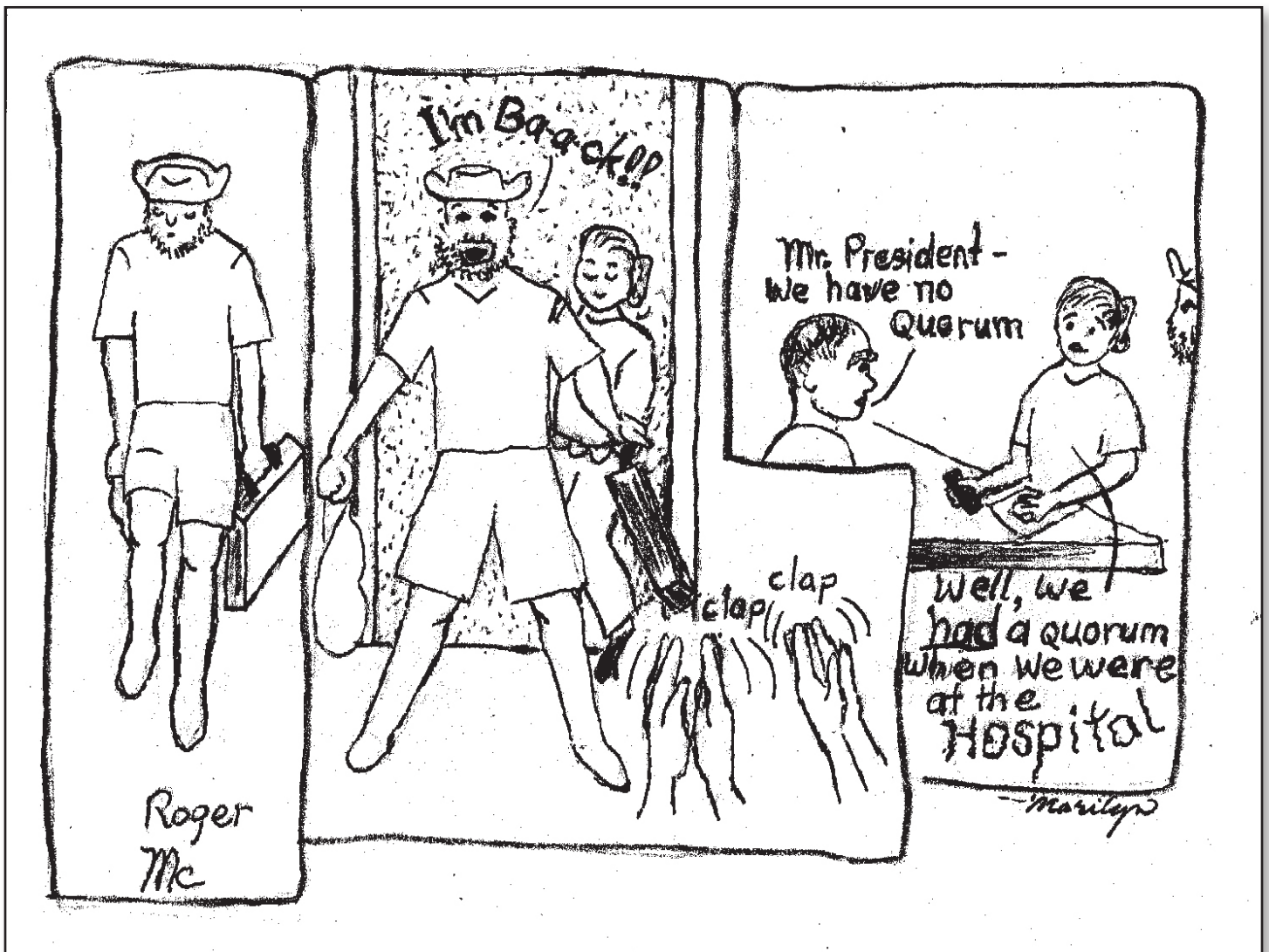
Take the time to familiarize yourself with these resources and you won't be caught short in the event of a major wildfire. ➤



Screen capture of a typical notification on one of the Brush-fire Partyline Facebook pages.



The CalFire Facebook page, reporting on a fire in Butte County, CA.



The May SWR meeting got started with a accolade of joy as President Roger Mc. returned as if from the dead - but really living to take his required post and lead the meeting. All went well but we could not do business as we did not have a quorum present. But wait, in walked a non Board member and we were able to get down to business as usual. We worked hard and completed the matters at hand. Good job TEAM.

Cartoon By Marilyn Jensen, SWR 068,