



# ***Southwestern REACTer***



FEBRUARY 2020





**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

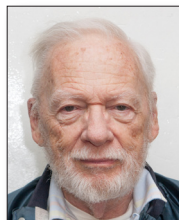
**Director-At-Large:**  
Jim Patterson  
SWR 151

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 7:00 PM on the 449.060 REACT/ARES Repeater with a negative offset and a PL tone of 88.5 (Mt. Otay)



**A Report From Abroad**

By Roger McCollough, President

**Well, Maybe It's Just Arizona**

**First-up, Quartzfest  
@ Quartzsite**

From January 19 through the 25<sup>th</sup>, Quartzfest 2020 gathered at their usual location, near Milepost 99 on Highway 95, about 7 miles south of its junction with Interstate I-10. Starting as an informal gathering of amateurs in the desert in 1995 became Quartzfest in 1997 and has grown to 800-1,000 hams. Each year they gather on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, of the Sonoran Desert, to share knowledge, tips, equipment, and old and new friendship through gatherings, seminars, show-and-tell, and, of course, a swap-meet. To those of you that have been there, you know this is just a brief description of a major ham radio gathering.

To get an overview of the last two Quartzfest events, go to YouTube and search for Quartzfest 2019 and Quartzfest 2020 or other years that you may find. Those by "Pilot Dave" (KG6LYI) are excellent.

Just as Quartzfest is one of many gatherings within the greater Quartzsite RV Show and Camp out, other weeks focus on other subjects, such as rock and mineral collecting and trading, vehicle showing, trading, and parts, and so on. Pop your favorite URL search tool to <https://quartzfest.org/2020-quartzfest-schedule> to review the planned events. As the week moved on, changes were made but the quality of the sessions remained. Hosts for the past several years include amateur radio test guide author Gordon West, and the leadership of The WINSYSTEM, which served about 80 gallons of free coffee over the week (just like our old "Wake-breaks").

So there you have it, a brief overview of a real Ham gathering. The desert offers extremes of conditions but if you have

access to an RV, and some time, consider checking it out next year. June and I plan to be.

**Now comes the Yuma Hamfest**

Rushing up on us now is the Yuma Hamfest beginning this week (Feb. 14-15, Fri & Sat). Again, there are seminars dealing with various items of amateur interest, a rather large swap meet, a dealer's show, ending with The Buzzard Barbecue (yum, yum) and an extensive and costly list of prizes (a \$4399 Kenwood TS-890S as a Grand Prize) and 15 others plus hourly door prizes, all packed into just two days. By the time you read this, the show may have started, so, like Quartzfest, plan to attend next year, same bat time, same bat channel.

For more details about the Ham Fest, go to: <http://www.yumahamfest.org/>. Check it out. Hope to see you there, just let me win some prizes.

So that is my short report

We have got to get repacked and restocked, but most of the heavy lifting was done to prepare for Quartzfest. Because the Yuma event is short, many people drive or fly to Yuma and stay in nearby hotels or motels. Are you game?

73's

"Nuf said..."

**LET'S GIT' ER DONE!!!** ✈

## To Plan Or Not To Plan?

By John Lally, NB6P

It's 2:45 AM, the sudden ringing cell phones wakes you from a sound sleep. As you semi-blindly reach for your phone to see who would call at this hour, you are shocked to find the call is a reverse 9-1-1 notification for you to immediately evacuate. As you frantically start to wipe the sleep from your eyes, panic, confusion, and dread start to well up from deep inside you. These emotions combine to raise the horrifying questions "What do we bring?" and "Where will we go?"

As this scenario exemplifies, disasters can happen at ANY moment, and according to Mr. Murphy, they WILL occur at the LEAST opportune times. Disasters come in three main categories; Natural (earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires), Technological (industrial accidents, power outages, infrastructure failures), and Human-Caused (terrorism). Given the wild range of potential disasters, the first step to becoming ready to safeguard your family and yourself is to determine which disasters you are trying to prepare for. In order to make this determination, you must weigh the potential (or likelihood) of a certain disaster occurring versus the impact of that disaster. In other words, how likely is it AND how bad could it be? For example, if you live in a high-rise apartment in downtown San Diego, you may view an earthquake or prolonged power outage as the most likely and significant disasters. In contrast, if you live East of Otay Lakes, wildfires and mudslides may top the list. There is no right or wrong determinations, it is completely subjective, in other words, it's up to you.

In May of 2011, the Centers for Disease Control made headlines for its mention of a "Zombie Apocalypse". What was lost in the media hysteria surrounding this reference was the premise that if a family is ready for the "Zombies", they are ready for most disasters. The idea is that a plan for one type of a disaster can be modified to fulfill the requirements of a completely different disaster. As you begin to formulate your disaster plans, it will become apparent that plans for many disasters share the same basic ingredients. The most important part is to HAVE A PLAN.

Whatever determinations you make, the first step in being ready is to develop your plan. A plan need not be complicated, but it does need to be well thought out. Household disaster plans fall into one of two categories, evacuation or shelter-in-place. For the purposes of this article, we will discuss evacuation (shelter-in-place will be discussed in a later article). Your plan

should answer many of the questions which may arise in the middle of the night when you receive the evacuation notification or the earth begins to violently shake. Important factors to consider when formulating your plan should include:

- Location of important documents (passports, insurance policies, vehicle titles, birth/marriage certificates, mortgage paperwork, etc).
- Out of area emergency contacts (preferably out of state)
- Family evacuation destination (if not a public shelter) and multiple routes of travel to destination.
- Local meet up location (for family members who are not at home when incident occurs).
- Location of family disaster kits (kit contents to be discussed in detail in next article).
- How will household pets be cared for (most shelters will ONLY allow service animals, support/comfort animals will not be admitted).

As the old military adage says, "the best laid plans seldom survive first contact with the enemy". The same is true of disaster plans; if they are not written down they have no weight. Additionally, plans MUST be practiced in order to be effective and every member of the household needs to know what their part in the plan is, as well as being comfortable with their part. To obtain the best results from a disaster plan, they should be discussed with all members of the household who have active rolls, even children can be made to feel involved when assigned tasks appropriate to their ages. These tasks may be to grab their favorite toy or their prepacked disaster bag (see next article). Involving all members of the household, even children, can help to relieve fear and anxiety while building confidence.

When determining potential evacuation routes, several factors should be given serious consideration. These factors include the avoidance of;

- Bridges
- Over/underpasses
- Choke points

- Freeways

Give consideration to areas you wish you could avoid during your normal commute; now imagine every household in your surrounding area trying to use those same areas all at once. If at all possible, multiple evacuation routes from your neighborhood should be considered due to congestion, infrastructure failure, or closure due to the disaster you are evacuating from. The testing of potential evacuation routes during normal circumstances can be made into fun family adventures involving picnics, dining out, or other special events for the successful practice run.

Many of us already perform one of the basic requirements of an evacuation plan, we maintain our vehicles. Proper vehicle maintenance is important during normal situations, but it becomes critical during disaster situations! Ensuring the safe condition of vehicle tires (and the spare we never look at), maintaining AT LEAST a half tank of fuel, and periodic preventative maintenance could make the difference between life and death. During the massive power outage which struck Southern California in September 2011, tens of thousands of vehicles across the region ran out of fuel simply attempting to get home that day. You must always assume that the next gas station will be closed and ensure you have fuel to reach your destination. If your household is evacuating from a wildfire and your vehicle breaks down or runs out of fuel, would you want to leave your most prized possessions in the vehicle as you abandon it to escape the flames? All because you didn't see the harm with letting your vehicle fall below a quarter of a tank of fuel or putting off replacing that worn tire or that oil change weekend after weekend, month after month.

Formulating a disaster plan shouldn't be a daunting evolution, if you've read this far into this article, you have taken the most difficult step, you've accepted the realization that a good plan can save the lives of those who matter the most. Every household is unique and no plan prepared by an outsider can hope to fully cover your household completely. As with all matters pertaining to safety and survival, it is critical for YOU the reader to continue to research various aspects of disaster planning and preparation to develop a plan suited for you and your household. The information I've presented here is just a starting point and is based on my opinions and experience; as such they should NOT be taken as the ONLY sources of information available to you. There are large amounts of FREE information available from governmental and recognized non-governmental sources. You shouldn't buy a car, a laptop, or other

high value items based solely on one source of information. Is there anything more valuable than your life and the lives of your loved ones? Do your homework, lives WILL depend on it.

Links to help design a household disaster plan:

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)  
[www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil)  
[www.readysandiego.org](http://www.readysandiego.org)  
[www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov)

*\*The information contained in this article is the opinion of the author based on their experience and education. As such it should not be substituted for proper research by the reader. ✎*

**Editor's Note:** This is the first in a series of articles about Emergency Preparedness by John Lally, NB6P, a member of ARES and the South Bay Amateur Radio Society (SOBARS.)

John served 26 years as a Naval Aircrewman in the U.S. Navy, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer in 2015. While serving on active duty, John served as Command Security Manager, Command Operational Security Manager, Command Emergency Planning Coordinator, and Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Officer. Following retirement from active duty John pursued a Master's of Science Degree in Homeland Security and Emergency Management, graduating with distinction in 2018. He was awarded national certifications in Homeland Security (2012), Disaster Preparedness (2013), and Threat Analysis (2015) from American Board of Certification in Homeland Security. Building on his national certifications, he achieved additional specialist certifications in Homeland Security/ Anti-Terrorism and Emergency Management awarded by California Office of Emergency Services. He also has been awarded specialist certifications in Critical Infrastructure Protection and Infrastructure Disaster Management by the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center. John is currently instructing Disaster Preparedness, Terrorism Awareness, and Crisis Communication for the City of San Diego Community Emergency Response Team as well as providing presentations to various community groups on these same topics.



Upcoming Events			
Event	Date	Status	Coordinator
Encinitas Half Marathon	3/29/2020 (Sun)	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Jay, SWR 046</b>
Campagnolo GranFondo (San Diego)	4/5/2020 (Sun)	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Michael, 062</b>
Lakeside Western Days Parade	4/25/2020 (Sat)	<b>Approved</b>	Pending
ARES Hospital Drill	4/29/2020 (Wed)	Information Only	
Giro Di San Diego (Escondido)	6/13/2020 (Sat)	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Michael ,062</b>
San Diego International Triathlon	6/28/2020 (Sun)	<b>Approved</b>	Pending
Touch-A-Truck	9/??/2020	Pending	
Trail of Terror	10/23 & 24, 30 & 31/2020	<b>Approved</b>	Pending
Silver Strand Half Marathon	11/8/2020 (Sun)	<b>Approved</b>	Pending

This list of Upcoming Events represents our anticipated event schedule for 2020. We need Coordinators for the events where a Coordinator is not listed. Anyone interested in coordinating any of these events, contact Vice-President John Wright, SWR 042, at [k6cpo@cox.net](mailto:k6cpo@cox.net)



