



Southwestern REACTer



APRIL 2021



JK



**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

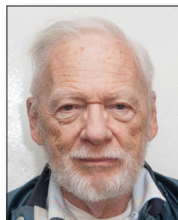
SWR's mission is to prepare for communications during emergencies and disasters. This preparation is accomplished through working community events such as: The Lakeside Western Days, and North Park Toyland parades, the Midnight Madness Bicycle Ride and Fiesta Island Time Trials, the Silver Strand Half-Marathon,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



Spring Has Sprung

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

And The Restrictions Are Slowly & Finally Falling

Is Life In A Cave Ending?

For the past year, each of us has been living in a lifestyle change; sort of a restrictive cave. Recently I rolled away the stone from in front of my cave to peek out to see what the world was now. I was reminded of the story of Noah and the flood. As the flood surrounded the Ark, all that Noah could see was water seemingly covering all the earth. As the story goes, a dove returned with a twig from a tree, indicating somewhere, the land was beginning to reappear. So as I surveyed the land outside my cave, I saw signs of life as we once knew it. Oh, much has changed with our lifestyle, but values, future events, and things that bring us joy and reward were returning, and I found the air outside familiar and refreshing.

So Let's Get Real.

Fortunately there is no flood outside and we are not living confined in an ark, lost in a flood, didn't you kind of get that same feeling over the past year, with places we couldn't go to or things we couldn't do; I felt it and I'm sure you did also. I say it's time to get our lives back; don't you?

My articles throughout the past year have often suggested, reminded, and pointed out the need for you to refresh, renew, and repair your talents and equipment. I have pointed out training seminars and information sources for your personal benefit, and the need and ability to respond if you are called upon. I am primarily concerned, of course, if you are called upon as part of the Southwestern REACT Team, to support us. But as a trained responder and communicator, you might be called upon, by events and/or others,

to provide support to their efforts. You, of course, will decide how, if at all, you can offer any needed support. You have always had the ability to decide who and when you will respond to others needs; I hope that was made clear to you from the start.

So What Do You See Outside?

As I said at the beginning "The Restrictions Are Slowly and Finally Falling". No, not all of them, or all at once, but change, it is a-come'n, and we (EVERYBODY) HAVE GOT TO BE READY for what comes next!

The local threats that existed before the stay-at-home order was issued year, until now, continue to exist and could appear any time; perhaps tomorrow. Our duty has been, and will always be, not a member of the "Bystander Bunch" or the "Technically Incompetent", or "Misled Minions" that converge where they are least needed. If you look back on past events that you have worked, you should have come to realize that our role at an incident or event is both communication and leadership. It has always been our duty and role, when called, to provide those elements as "middle management", and protect and serve the event and its organizers.

So What Do Our Organizers Think Of Our Efforts?

If they have never worked with us before, they are often surprised by what they thought would be volunteers, only running around with radios, doing something for the event. For those that we have supported before, they invite us to be part of their organization and planning, and expect us to do what is our thing as in the past. The Board and I desire and expect all Team members support this reputation in all future responses. And while doing this, let's get smarter, and have fun doing it.

And By The Way...

In the past few years, we have lost some very valuable members for various reasons. So I am issuing a BOLO for new or returning members to learn and support what we do; OUR MISSION. The more trained members

we have, will make yours and the team's work easier.

"Nuf said..."

LET'S GIT' ER DONE!!! ⚡

Southwestern React Board Meeting, March 11, 2021

Submitted By Jay Pistiolas, SWR 046, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Roger McCollough at 19:09

Quorum Check – Five (5) Board Members present & Two (2) guests (Jim Patterson, Dan Willan)

Special Motions – None

Board Meeting Minutes – Move to file

Correspondence List – Reviewed

Treasure's Report – June McCollough reported a balance of \$6075.64 as of Feb. 28

REACT Editor – Current issue is out

Webmaster – Website is up to date

Unfinished Business – Zoom Business

New Business – Adding Board Meeting minutes to the website

PAPA System, support?

Team Repeaters, Linked to Palomar and eventually 060 and downtown

JOTA, Non interface events

Post Events – None

Upcoming Events – TBA

Good Of The Team – Ideas and meetings

Meeting Adjourned at 20:36 ⚡

Southwestern React General Meeting, March 18, 2021

Submitted by June McCollough, SWR 054, Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Roger McCollough at 18:39

Quorum Check – Three (3) Board Members- Jay Pistiolas was excused, Five (5) General Members and Two (2) Guest – Jonathan Burston & Victor Ashbaugh

General Meeting Minutes – Accepted and ready to file with correct of 19 members renewed rather than 29.

Correspondence List – Reviewed

Treasurer's Report – June McCollough an ending balance of \$6075.64 as of 2/28.

REACT Editor – Latest issue is out – John gave information on REACT repeaters, ARRL and Nets in San Diego area to Jonathan (New Ham).

Webmaster – Website is up to date

Unfinished Business – Zoom Account Ideas for use of it for exercises and other meetings.

New Business – Board approved that Board meeting minutes can be posted on the website. Support of repeater groups that we use for events and nets. – Dan Willan will put together a list of Repeaters TEAM uses.

Team Repeaters – Metro REACT has four repeaters that they are linking. 449.600, 449.060, 449.260 and 147.060. All are in San Diego County and can be made stand alone for use for events.

JOTA – VOAD Team is exploring working of distance events to help keep our skills up.

Roger reminded VOAD that we have members to work with them on Communication events. Also discussed RATPAC list of seminars <http://tiny.cc/ratpac.ss>.

Post Events - None

Upcoming Events – None at this time - Bike Rides are going to be Virtual.

Good Of The Team – Tri-folders are being revamped with update information.

REACT International has formed a committee for the 60th Celebration for Summer of 2022. Anyone interested in helping should contact REACT International. Meetings are starting this year.

Meeting Adjourned at 19:54 ✈

New FCC Fees To Improve Propagation

Washington, April 1 - The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced plans to use much of their proposed amateur radio license fees to improve propagation for U.S. based amateur radio operators. The agency has received criticism in recent years over the poor conditions of the ionosphere, a layer of the earth's atmosphere that contains a high concentration of ions and free electrons and is able to reflect radio waves for propagation over long distances.

"Users of the amateur radio service regularly complain to us about poor band conditions, and I'm not saying you get what you pay for, but there could be a connection" cited Frank Laire II with the FCC's Part 97 Relations Office. "The new license fees will be used to improve the condition of the ionosphere and we expect to see propagation, particularly in the upper HF bands, steadily improve over the next few years" according to Mr. Laire.

However, this announcement was not well received by some. A member of "MF And Down" (MAD), an amateur radio group that operates exclusively on 160, 630, and 2200 meters, spoke on the condition of anonymity and held nothing back.

"For the FCC to claim to use license fees to fix up the ionosphere is absurd, a waste of money, and will do nothing to improve the bands we enjoy" he said, then went on: "These new license fees will merely be used to

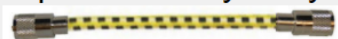
ruin our enjoyment of the hobby. As is typical with the FCC, they're not happy until we're not happy. Whatever."

No specifics were provided on exactly how the FCC plans to augment the ionosphere, but the Commission admits to facing some challenges. "The ionosphere over the U.S. and its territories is ours to work with" said Mr. Laire "but care must be taken to avoid affecting areas which are under the jurisdiction of foreign governments." It was noted that signals transmitted from within the U.S. would be improved, but not those being received from elsewhere.

It is not clear on how long it will take before the effects will be noticed by amateur radio users although the agency reported that the funds will be put to use right away. "We anticipate that this new revenue from the license fees will allow the ionosphere to be in much better shape by 2024 or 2025" predicted Mr. Laire.

Courtesy Clark Burgard, N1BCG

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