



# Southwestern REACTer



MARCH 2019



Long-time Southwestern REACT members Marilyn and Carl Jensen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 23, 2019. Congratulations, Marilyn and Carl!



## 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 8:00 PM on the 449.060 REACT/ARES Repeater with a negative offset and a PL tone of 88.5 (Mt. Otay)



## In Search Of The Enterprise?

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

### Beware: The "0's" and "1's" Are Marching Our Way

I attended a few meetings recently at various clubs and organizations. I often go there to listen to the guest speakers, who often speak about new or developing interests in the amateur world. The current hot topic seems to be the DMR service (Digital Mobile Radio). "The magic word I often hear is "code-plug". Code-plug, a term created by Motorola many years ago, has come to mean the values in the options that we put in our radios for frequencies and features.

In DMR radio, locally several hams and clubs are developing their own code-plugs for different repeaters in the San Diego area and throughout the world; yes world. Anywhere the Internet goes, the DMR system is available (with the right radio equipment.) At count there are 18 DMR repeaters listed in San Diego. A listing of San Diego amateurs shows we have more than 250 registered DMR users (several of which are REACT members); is this on the REACT horizon? In talking with Roy Gallagher, KR6RG, about their 8 repeaters, they have already added two talk groups for ARES use in San Diego. The first talk group is for ARES operations, and the second, "known as "hang-out", will be a local ARES chat channel.

It's definition time, for the word "Talk-group". It can be best explained, in old telephone terms, as if it were a pair of wires in a very large cable, and that pair was a "party line" (real old telephone term).. Anyone attached to that "pair", is on a talk group. For identity purposes, each talk group is assigned a title for identity purposes. An example, used commonly in this area, is "So Cal" or "So Cal-1".

There seems to be no question that ham

radio is falling in love with digital stuff. When we moved from using crystals in our radios, (1-2 for each channel used), to the development of the transistor and IC circuits that tune with great accuracy, to the digital circuitry, now used in all our radios. I guess that the time has come for all those "0's" and "1's" to become our "data-voice" between our radios. Whether DMR, D-Star, System Fusion, or any other of the Digital Systems will become the prime method of radio transmission, is yet to be determined; others may be on the horizon.

When we step into HRO, and look into the various counter displays, we see handheld radios, from various manufacturers, loaded with a mixture of different features. When we bought our first radio, we looked at all the literature, spoke to our radio friends, and read the reviews and articles in various magazines, to find that very first NEW radio. It probably wasn't long before some new feature caught our eye that we just could not do without. Does all this sound familiar? Remember the war between VHS and Beta-Max? Well here it comes again, only now it is digital radio. Fortunately, some of these radios, because of their worldwide acceptance, and number of manufacturers, are often less expensive than their current analog versions.

The ham world is changing faster than we can keep up with it. There was a time (I'm told) that your average ham knew all the tubes used in radios, their circuitry, and function. Then came the time when World War-II ended and all those lovely military radios became surplus, and hams rode the crest of that wave. You all know the history of the development of the radio world since then until now, to the point that even

engineers have a grasp of only a small percentage of what is out there now, so don't be surprised if you feel a little lost---YET! Pick your spot and stay tuned. Or maybe it is time to "Beam us all up, Scotty."

"Nuf said..."

**let's GIT' ER DONE!!! ↗**

## When All Else Fails...

By Jay Pistolas, SWR 46

Recently, we went to Big Bear with a group of 4 wheelers and had fun in the snow. It was icy in spots so even with four wheel drive and off road tires, people were sliding all over the place. All in all we had a great time.

At the end of the run, we all went our separate ways and we decided to head back to San Diego while a few others camped out at the campsite. Unfortunately we got a bit lost and were told by a guy from our group to take this trail to the main highway but it was iced over and three of the members of the group almost slid off a cliff and warned us not to go that way. A few other trails were iced up or locked by a gate. Our option was sleep in the back of my truck for the night with a few other folks for the snow run. I had blankets, food and water, first aid kit etc., so it was not a big deal to do that but our preference was to head for home. I decided to get on the ham radio (living in Southern California I have over 100 repeaters programmed into my radio.) I can communicate all over So Cal, including Big Bear. I got on the repeater and asked if anyone was monitoring. I got several call-backs and I told them if they could direct us to Hwy 18. (Since we were in the mountains, we had no GPS that was working and no cell service.) One

ham operator even offered to open a gate for us since he had a key. The operator, named Kevin, (I forgot his call sign) was at home, he looked at his map and told us which trail to take to Hwy 18. He told us certain landmarks to look for and he said he would monitor the frequency until we made it to the highway. Kevin said the trail would be icy and to go slow and yes it was hairy at times, about 4 inches from a cliff drop off. Kevin even offered to come out in his truck if needed.

After 45 minutes, we got to Hwy 18, keeping with in touch with Kevin along the way. I thanked him countless times on the air and others for their assistance. The "moral of the story" is that I'm proud to be a licensed Amateur Radio Operator and it's times like this that ham radio comes to the rescue when all else fails

Before you head into the back country, consider getting licensed and your ham radio, because it can save you. Don't rely on GPS or cell. They are worthless in these situations.

I sent a message to the Big Bear Amateur Radio Club, acknowledging Kevin's assistance. Thanks and 73! ↗





### Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Status
Encinitas Half Marathon	03/31/2019 (Sun)	Approved
San Diego Gran Fondo	04/07/2019 (Sun)	Approved
Lakeside Western Days Parade	04/27/2019 (Sat)	Approved
Giro di San Diego	06/15/2019 (Sat)	Pending Approval
San Diego International Triathlon	06/23/2019 (Sun)	Pending Approval
Touch-A-Truck	09/??/2019	Pending Date
Silver Strand Half Marathon	11/10/2019 (Sun)	Pending Approval

