



# ***Southwestern REACTer***



April 2018







**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

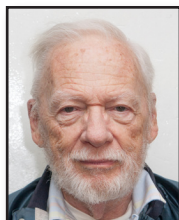
**Director-At-Large:**  
Jim Patterson  
SWR 151

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



We begin every day with a plan that will prepare us for the events of the day. We select what clothes to wear for the events to follow, the expected weather, and our style sense. We think ahead to expected events and needs, and even beyond to some limited unexpected "what if" events and decide if further preparation is warranted. We want to be prepared.

If you have had a course in Defensive Driving, you should recall that the act of being defensive is to expect the unexpected, to anticipate the hazardous actions of others and events. The consideration of defense requires a plan or preparation to avoid harm. It sounds simple and it often is, but not always, a natural response. Our preparation can be the taking of courses and training, such as First Aid and CPR, hoping

**Preparation**

By Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

**Our Need In Everyday Living**

to never need these skills, but ready when called.

Prepared, when called. The goal of Southwestern REACT, as I understand it. It is being prepared if and when called. We all have skills that we need to share, that all need and can use whatever the call might be. Practice leads to preparation. Training leads to preparation. Using our skills in the community leads to preparation. Our sharing leads to our preparation and our success.

Please ponder this short message, to strengthen OUR TEAM and all future success.

'Nuf said...

**Let's GIT'ER DONE!!!**

[pres@southwesternreact.org](mailto:pres@southwesternreact.org) ➤

**Encinitas Half Marathon**

By Carl Jensen, SWR 067

**March 4, 2018**

We woke up at 0-dark-30, some at 3 am, others at 4 to 5 am to meet at Denny's in Encinitas. Some of us ate Breakfast and others drank coffee. The briefing started at 5:30 am with assignments given. Each team member was given a position along with 6 new hams and 4 other friends of REACT.

Places manned and ready; the race started at 7:30 am and the team of Southwestern REACT functioned as a well-oiled machine. We did have difficulties along the way with communication on the course but it was no match for the team who overcame them using their radios, new hams included, and even by using cell phones. There were a few cramped muscles, a fainting

but no major medical problems.

All in all we had a very successful event, Thanks to the participants - Jim Patterson, Don Dodson, Jay Pistiolas, Daniel Willan, John Wright, McKenzie Jackson, George Reeves, Alan Dyer, June and Roger McCollough, friends of REACT Steve Ruesch, Michael Fletcher, and Craig & Cindy Wilcken and new hams Isaac Szmilowicz, Brian Krail, Steven Hensley, Jason Kliangerman, Alan Decker and Michael Huffman.

It was great to see so many new hams using their radios and gaining new experiences working with our team.

Thank you all for a job well done. We have an awesome team! ➤

## Encinitas Half Marathon Photos

COVER PHOTO: Runners on the course.

McKenzie Jackson



A lovely view of the ocean from a vantage point along the route.

McKenzie Jackson



Waiting for the runners at Water Stop No. 1.

Daniel Willan



And, here they come!

Daniel Willan



Runners passing Water Stop No. 1 and heading for the turn-around.

Daniel Willan

### ARRL: How Can We Help?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, I received this email from a reader:

*"Hi Dan,  
Hope you're doing well. I have a couple of questions about the ARRL. I've been reading your blog and other sources, and it's clear that the ARRL is in a little trouble. I have to say, though, that as soon as the current administration in D.C. notices that some of their friends can make money off of amateur radio bandwidth, the whole amateur radio service is in very serious jeopardy. The only way I can think of to counter that would be an organization like the ARRL, and I think there's really only one organization like the ARRL. Is that not true? If it is, how can we help?"*

I replied that it is true that there's only one organization like the ARRL. In the past, there have been groups that have tried to compete with the ARRL, but they've never really taken off. It's an incredible amount of work to set

up an organization like the ARRL and none of the alternatives have been able to get to critical mass.

The second question—How can we help?—is the big question. Here are a few thoughts:

Join the ARRL. If you're not currently a member, join. You'll have little or no influence, if you are not a member.

If you are a member, but your friends are not, encourage them to join. The more members the ARRL has, the more influence it will have. This is common sense, but the ARRL doesn't really seem to care about this. In the past, I've encouraged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of licensed radio amateurs (link 1, link 2). I honestly don't think this is asking too much, and I've never heard a good argument for them not to do this. They continue to ignore me, and the percentage of licensed radio amateurs that are ARRL members continues to decline.



Take an interest in ARRL matters and let your director and vice director know your views. Get your friends to do likewise. Get on the mailing lists for the board meeting agendas and minutes. To do this, log into the ARRL website, click on “Edit your profile,” then “Edit email subscriptions.”

Invite your ARRL elected officials—your division director, vice director, and section manager—to talk at your club meetings. Be prepared to grill them on issues that you think are important.

Run for office yourself. I ran for Great Lakes Division vice director twice. Unfortunately, I lost both times, but even running is a way to have an impact. I’d like to see the “loyal opposition” get organized and challenge the status quo, especially in divisions where I think the current director is making bad decisions.

Having said all that, there are ways to make an impact besides playing ARRL politics:

Get on the air. It’s easier to lose bands if we’re not using them. Encourage others to be active.

Be an Elmer to those that need it.

Teach classes to help those who want a license get a license and to help those who are already licensed to upgrade their licenses.

Be an ambassador for amateur radio, especially to related groups, such as the “maker” groups that have sprung up around the country. Make sure that they know about your amateur radio club and the classes and exam sessions that you offer.

I’d love to hear any other thoughts that you all may have on this. I really do think that at this point, we need to inundate the ARRL Board and staff with input from the membership. While they may have a long history of ignoring the membership and just going about their own merry way, now is really a time of change, and this might be the right time to set the ARRL on a better path. ➤

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*When he’s not getting all worked up over ARRL politics, Dan blogs about amateur radio at [KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com), teaches amateur radio classes, and works CW on the HF bands. He’s the author of the No Nonsense amateur radio license study guides and The CW Geek’s Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code.*

## Comments On Dan Romanchik’s Article

By John Wright, SWR042, Vice-President

For those that are unaware, the ARRL is the American Radio Relay League, billing itself as the “National Association For Amateur Radio.” The ARRL is the *only* national organization advocating on behalf of the 700,000 plus amateur radio operators in the United States.

The ARRL is the only thing standing between us and the taking of our spectrum by the government for commercial purposes. We have already seen, with the demise of Net Neutrality, what the current administration is capable of. If we were to lose our spectrum, the team would lose our ability to do our job.

In looking at our team roster, I see that about half of us are ARRL members. I would heartily recommend those

of you that are not members of the league seriously consider membership. The annual dues are currently \$49. For this you will receive QST Magazine, filled with lots of interesting information and articles.

The most important thing you get, however, is an organization defending our interests, and while they may not be perfect—no organization ever is—they are all we have.

For more information about membership in the ARRL and more of the benefits, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/membership>.

Let’s see if we can increase our ARRL membership to 75%! ➤

## Upcoming Events

The Preliminary briefing for the **Campagnolo San Diego Granfondo** bicycle event (03/08/18) has gone out. More operators are needed. If you haven’t signed up yet, contact Michael Bailey, SWR 092, to do so.

The next scheduled event is the Lakeside Western Days

Parade on 04/28/18. A signup sheet should be available at the next General meeting.

We have received an event request for the Descanso Horse ride, 05/19-20/18, and should be approving this event soon. ➤