



Southwestern REACTer



JANUARY 2023





**SOUTHWESTERN
REACT, Inc.**

PO Box 632955
San Diego, CA 92163-2955

kk6sle@arrl.net

www.swreact.com

OFFICERS

President: Roger McCollough
SWR 098

Vice-President: John Wright
SWR 042

Secretary: Daniel Willan
SWR 061

Treasurer: June McCollough
SWR 054

Director-At-Large:
George Reeves
SWR 081

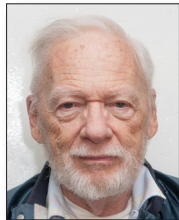
SWR's mission is to prepare for communications during emergencies and disasters. This preparation is accomplished through working community events such as: The Lakeside Western Days, and North Park Toyland parades, the Midnight Madness Bicycle Ride and Fiesta Island Time Trials, the Silver Strand Half-Marathon, 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 at the Mission Valley iHop restaurant. Any member is welcome to attend. Contact us for the address.

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

See the website for net information.



Didn't It Rain Children???

Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

**Fires, Quakes, Accidents , And now
It's Weather Events. Wow!**

Prologue

California, especially here in SoCal, has been suffering a long drought condition. Sitting here in my warm, dry "office", I'm reminded of the saying, "Be careful what you pray for". Well here it is and our ability to mitigate, protect, or serve will depend on needs and ability to adapt to the situation; experience, training and judgment will be the key.

Our Situation and Duty.

First and foremost, we are only human, without any super powers, yet driven with the human desire to help, and perhaps do something that others are unwilling to attempt. In the age of the cell phone camera, others would rather stand-by and record the event thinking others will step in to resolve the issue. In my experience, others prefer to be spectators, or simply not get involved. Much as the citizens of Ancient Rome did, at the Coliseum, that gathered to watch the Gladiators and wild animals fight each other, and selected citizens, to their death. Though times have changed, people are still, put in harm's way from a various of causes. Whether by accident, poor judgment, or acts of others, we have the duty and ability to perhaps provide aid and comfort within the scope of our training.

Limits? Of Course!

We all have "tools", both real (equipment), physical (strength and agility)), and mental (knowledge, training and judgment). With this in mind, **DO THOSE THINGS YOU KNOW!** Do nothing that worsens the situation or condition. Protect the victims from themselves and others if possible. And, if you are of a mind, pray to who or whatever you feel guides your life; Can't hurt!

Opportunities? You Judge,

Almost every day of our life we have the opportunity to change ours and others life: sometimes for the better sometime, well, not so much. But during an event, you are part of a team that, working together, can do what needs to be done to improve or correct almost any problem. Working together you have the power to do so much more than each one working separately. You are the judge of what you can and should do. Think about it.

Make it so.

Once in a while we need to rethink, renew, and remember the things we know have not been called to mind until they are useful. Most emergencies come without warning and require instant recall to maximize your performance. Review, through training and experience are coming back. We all need to refresh and renew. That means attendance at events, meetings, and, if possible, ours and related nets and discussion live feeds, such as Website link: <https://www.ratpac.us> . There are others of course. Simply check around and give them a try.

Future Live General Meetings.

We voted last year to have live General Meetings once a quarter. The Board will determine the schedule of quarterly meetings and, perhaps, when we can return to Face-to-face meetings. If you have an opinion or suggestion, talk to a Board member or ask to be added to the Board Agenda to speak at their next meeting. Thanks for listening. Read your REACTER for further info.

"Nuf said..."

LET'S GIT' ER DONE!!!

Use Of Amber Warning Lights On Vehicles

John Wright, SWR 042, Vice-President

I recently had occasion to do some research on the use of amber warning lights on vehicles in California and what I found out has a direct bearing on the members of Southwestern REACT. This article will clarify the use of amber warning lights on personal vehicles during Southwestern REACT events.

For years we've been operating under the assumption that we were covered under California State Law on the use of amber warning lights on our personal vehicles during events. From what I have read recently, this seems to be an erroneous assumption.

Information on the use of warning lights on vehicles in California is laid out in several documents, including a California Highway Patrol Information Bulletin dated April 8, 2021 and CHP Document 884. I will provide links to these and other pertinent information at the end of this article.

CHP 884 specifies what type of vehicles may display warning lights and specifies the color and direction of authorized lights. The list of authorized vehicles is lengthy, and covers a myriad of categories, but nowhere is there anything that could apply to Southwestern REACT.

Some team members are under the impression that we are allowed amber lights under provisions for Disaster Service Workers, but, unfortunately, this is not the case. Section 25259.1 is very specific about Disaster Service Workers and under what circumstances they may display amber lights.

In California, all government employees, (state, county and local) are considered Disaster Service Workers and some volunteer organizations, such as CERT and the Red Cross, are included in this category. REACT is not specifically listed.

Of interest is REACT International's position on vehicle warning lights. REACT International Policy Statement 1-01 " Weapons, Police Type Actions and Similar Activities," outlines RI's policy on warning lights. It reads in part "*RI generally discourages the use of hazard lights (flashing, rotating, fixed) on REACT-used vehicles, both team-owned and individually owned. However, these lights are not prohibited by RI. Motor vehicles and trailers used by teams in team activities must comply with the laws and regulations of their state.*"

The California Vehicle Code is very specific in what type of lights may be displayed on what types of vehicles. Section 24003 specifically states that no vehicle shall be equipped with lights that not specifically permitted by the vehicle code. The display of green warning lights is not permitted by the California Vehicle Code.

Section 24003 goes on to say "...nor shall any lamp or illuminating device be mounted inside a vehicle unless specifically permitted by this code..."

The California Vehicle Code is also very specific on when flashing warning lights may be displayed. Section 25268 states "*No person shall display a flashing amber warning light on a vehicle as permitted by this code except when an unusual traffic hazard exists.*"

Now, where does this leave us? Pretty much where we are now. Southwestern REACT follows the guidance of REACT International. The use of amber warning lights on team member vehicles is neither specifically encouraged or discouraged.

The purpose of this article is informational. Team members are encouraged to use good judgement and common sense when using amber warning lights on their vehicles.

Links to resources mentioned in the article:

[California Highway Patrol Bulletin, April 8, 2021](#)

[CHP Document 884](#)

[California Vehicle Code §25259.1](#)

[California Vehicle Code §24003](#)

[California Vehicle Code §25268](#) ↗

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

	KK6SLE	KK6SLE@ARRL.NET	
Date:	December 8, 2022	Report By	Daniel W SWR061
Called to order: 19:00	Board of Directors	In attendance: Yes/No	http://www.swreact.com
President: Yes	Rodger MC	Vice President: Yes	John W
Secretary: Yes	June Mc	Treasurer: Yes	June Mc
Director at Large: Yes	George	Editor: Yes	John W
Quorum: Yes		Webmaster: Yes	John W
Visitors:	Heather Wright		
Opening and Special Motions:	None		
Correspondence List	Reviewed		
Minutes of the last Board Meeting	Approved: Yes	Minutes of the last Board Meeting	Approved: Yes
Reports:	Treasurer:	Yes	
	Reactor Editor:	Yes	
	Webmaster:	Yes	
Unfinished Business			
Pending Elections: At the next General meeting – No ballots issued.			
December General Meeting: The December Meeting will be at the church; Face-2-Face. Pot Luck			
Election Change in By-laws: Suggestion from last General Meeting; change elections to every TWO years. To be discussed further			
Committee to review By-laws and Policy and Procedures – Form a committee to review and update By-laws and PNP. A workgroup to be created and documents review with suggestions submitted to BOD for approval.			
New Business			
No New Business			
Events			
Post Events	Event Date	Statue	Coordinator
Silver Strand ½ marathon	11/13/2022	Complete	George 081
Future Events	Event Date	Status	Coordinator
Touch-A-Truck	02/26/2023	Pending Request	TBA
San Diego Gran Fondo	04/23/2023	Pending Request	TBA
Lakeside Western Days Parade	04/29/2023	Pending Request	TBA
Good of the Team			
Nothing discussed			
Reminders			
	Date and Time	Location	
Board of Director Meeting	2 nd Thurs at 18:30	IHOP at 2169 Fenton Pkwy, San Diego, CA. 92108	
General Meeting	3 RD Thurs at 18:30	Zoom unless in person	
SWReact Net	1 st and 4 th Thursday 18:30	449.440, - offset, pl 107.2	
Meeting adjourned	20:15		

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

	KK6SLE	KK6SLE@ARRL.NET	
Date:	December 15, 2022	Report By	Daniel W SWR061
Called to order: 6:33	Board of Directors	In attendance: Yes/No	http://www.swreact.com
President: Yes	Rodger MC	Vice President: Yes	John W
Secretary: No	Daniel W.	Treasurer: Yes	June Mc
Director at Large: Yes	George	Editor: Yes	John W
Quorum: Yes		Webmaster: Yes	John W
Guests/Team	Michael Bailey Per Martin	Wayne Oliver Jim Patterson	Carl and Marilyn Jensen Heather Wright
Pledge of Allegiance:	Carl		
Opening and Special Motions:	None		
Correspondence List	See Agenda		
Minutes of the last General Meeting	Approved: Yes	Minutes of the last General Meeting	Approved: Yes
Reports:	Treasurer:	Yes	
	Reactor Editor:	Yes	
	Webmaster:	Yes	
Unfinished Business			
Elections Held – No opposing nominations – Voice Vote to elect Roger McCollough-President, John Wright – VP, June McCollough- Treasurer, Daniel Willan – Secretary, and George Reeves – Director at large. Motion to accept slate of officers by Carl J. Second by Wayne O. Motion carried.			
Election Change in By-laws: Suggestion from last General Meeting; change elections to every TWO years. To be discussed further. Per Martin sees no reason to change By-Laws			
Committee to review By-laws and Policy and Procedures – Form a committee to review and update By-laws and PNP. John Wright to chair the committee. He will send email to members to get a committee to work on this in 2023.			
New Business			
Net Control Operators to rotate the Net duties – George Reeves, John Wright, Mike Bailey and Per Martin to start in 2023 to rotate the net.			
FITT – Request received for FITT 2023 – dates are Jan. 29, 2023; April 9, 2023 and May 14, 2023. Motion by Wayne Oliver, Seconded by Mike Bailey to work all these events. Motion Carried.			
Events			
Future Events	Event Date	Status	Coordinator
FITT	01/29/2023	Approved	#081
Touch-A-Truck	02/26/2023	Pending Request	TBD
FITT	04/09/2023	Approved	#081
San Diego Gran Fondo	04/23/2023	Pending Request	TBD
Lakeside Western Days Parade	04/29/2023	Pending Request	TBD
FITT	05/14/2023	Approved	#081
Good of the Team			
Potluck dinner was held, visit with members. Enjoyed by all.			
Reminders			
	Date and Time	Location	
Board of Director Meeting	2 nd Thurs at 18:30	IHOP at 2169 Fenton Pkwy, San Diego, CA. 92108	
General Meeting	3 rd Thurs at 18:30	Zoom unless in person	
SWReact Net	1 st and 4 th Thursday 18:30	449.440, - offset, pl 107.2	
Meeting Adjourned	8:30		



Team members attending the in-person meeting in December. Left to right: George Reeves, SWR 081; Jim Patterson, 151; Wayne Oliver, 142; John Wright, 042; June McCollough, 054; Marilyn Jensen, 068; Per Martin, 053; Mike Bailey, 092; Carl Jensen, 067; seated Roger McCollough, 098. *Photo By Heather Wright*