



# Southwestern REACTer



MARCH 2025





## **SOUTHWESTERN REACT, Inc.**

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[www.swreact.com](http://www.swreact.com)

### **OFFICERS**

**President:** Roger McCollough  
SWR 098

**Vice-President:** John Wright  
SWR 042

**Secretary:** Mike Bailey,  
SWR 092

**Treasurer:** June McCollough  
SWR 054

**Director-At-Large:**  
Per Martin, SWR 053

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 first Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Friars Road Denny's 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.

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## **Vice President's Report**

John Wright, SWR 042, Vice-President

### **Filling In This Month...**

As I write this (3/6/25) our Team Treasurer, June McCollough, SWR 054, is in the hospital recovering from successful surgery for gall stones and undergoing treatment for pancreatitis.

The surgery was successful and June is resting and recovering nicely. At this time, she is not receiving visitors. She should be going home in the next day or two. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

In other news, we have completed our first two event of the year, the Fiesta Island Time Trials on February 23rd and Touch-A-Truck on March 2nd.

There are still some difficulties with simplex communications on Fiesta Island, but the new setup with the cross band repeater worked very well. We're still in the process of fine tuning our setup for the Time Trials.

Touch-A-Truck took place at the Lakeside Rodeo Grounds this year and it is a much better location than we've been at in the past. Because of the fencing at the rodeo grounds, we had better access control and parking was off-site so we weren't involved with it. We were located with other vendors behind the bleachers of the arena and were far removed from the racket of loud horns and sirens.

Our location afforded us the opportunity to field test the Team Go-Kit rebuild. The new lighter and more portable design operated flawlessly. More information on the kit will be forthcoming in a future REACTER issue.

Our next General Meeting, scheduled for March 20th, will be an in-person meeting at the usual location. On the agenda will be a hands-on demonstration of the new go-kit and, I believe, a brief follow-up to the prior presentation about cross-band repeaters.

Our next event is the second FITT of the year, on March 30th. Other non-REACT events coming up are the March ARES meeting on the eighth, an ARES Activity Day on March 29th. The Activity Day will take place at the park at the Kearney Mesa Recreation Center and will include a Gateway Communicator Class.

For those not familiar with the Gateway Communicator Class, it is a get-on-the-air hands-on class in the basics of using a hand-held ham radio. Instructors are usually available for most common HT radios and the class is taught in small groups. If you have a new hand-held radio or need a refresher in an older one, this is the class to attend.

That's all I have for this issue. Our President should be back next month. In the meantime, as he would say:

**"Lets git 'er done!"** ⚡

# Southwestern REACT Board Meeting Minutes, February 6, 2025

Mike Bailey, SWR 092, Secretary

**Attending:** Roger, Per, John, June, Mike – Quorum Achieved

**Call to Order:** 1841 hrs.

**Special Motions:** None

**Visitors:** None.

**Minutes:** Minutes of last Board meeting were published on the website for review. No changes, moved for approval by June, seconded by Per. Approved unanimously.

**Correspondence:** Roger/June

1. ID cards received today
2. Certificate of Insurance received for the first 2 FITT events. Will have to re-submit the last 2 events after the corporate insurance is renewed mid-year.

**Treasurer's Report:** June.

1. Starting Balance as of Dec. 31, 2024: \$3,671.43
2. Ending Balance as of Jan. 31 2025: \$3,656.43

**Secretary's Report:** Mike.

1. Sent a COI request for Touch-A-Truck to REACT International.

**REACTer Editor:** John, VP.

1. REACTer published and emailed out 2/3/25. This was a bit longer than usual but included some timely information regarding wildfires.

**Website Manager:** Per

1. Created a Google form to survey team members as to their intent for participation in working the various scheduled events. Demonstrated the compiled report from querying Board members.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. New Tracking Method: Roger. No updates as John Capodanno has been very busy with the LA County fires and that has been his priority. Will pursue this at a later time.
2. Audit Committee: June. Uncertain when this will be able to be pulled together but ideally prior to the March Board meeting.
3. Election procedure: Mike. The previous election procedure for Team officers went well using an email ballot. However, 2 team members share a common email and so only one vote can be registered per email. Mike consulted with Tyler who recommended that the 2<sup>nd</sup> individual on that email get a free email address (gmail) just for voting purposes. Alternatively, a paper ballot could be mailed to the individual for voting.

**New Business:**

1. Updated Event List: Only one still pending is Toyland Parade. No request yet.
2. ID Cards: Received and will be distributed at the upcoming events and the next in person meeting.
3. Team Inventory: June sent out the inventory to the Board previously. Equipment listed including CB and GMRS radios. A suggestion was made to sell unneeded equipment at the Santee Swap Meet. June will distribute the list to the membership for discussion on how to distribute or dispose of the unneeded equipment.
4. Trifold Brochures: We have 20 left but they need updating. John will email a copy to Board to review and update and make additional copies in time for the Touch-A-Truck event.
5. John noted that the call sign for the Team, KK6SLE, expires at the end of March. Will renew prior to the expiration but a new trustee is needed. John nominated Mike Bailey with a second by June. Unanimous approval by the Board members. Will need a copy of the minutes signed by all of the Board members to include with the application at the next Board Meeting.

**Training Moment:**

1. Psychological First Aid: Mike to present February 20<sup>th</sup> at the General meeting by Zoom. Roger has invited Red Cross and ARES representatives to the presentation. John Capadonna, REACT International has

also expressed interest in viewing it.

2. Go Box: John purchased the antenna, tripod, and case to carry them for the Go Box. Original budget was \$400 and with all items, current is \$420. Mike suggested that when final accounting is available, the Board could reimburse John for his expenses. This can be demonstrated at the March General meeting.

#### Upcoming Events:

1. The next event will be FITT on 2/23/25. Per to bring his crossband repeat radio and will try a taller antenna placed near the Fiesta Island's highest location at Youth Camp to see if better coverage can be achieved.
2. Wayne is meeting with the Toyland Parade staff tonight. The parade is tentatively scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup> and it has been requested that they formally submit an event request.

Motion to adjourn by June, seconded by Mike. Unanimous vote to adjourn at 1939 hrs. ✎

## SW REACT General Meeting Minutes, February 20, 2025

Mike Bailey, SWR 092, Secretary

#### Call to Order:

**Present:** Roger, June, John, Mike, Daniel, Per, Tyler, Larry, Richard Miller, George #76, George #81, Walter. Quorum met.

**Guests:** Bob Birch of Red Cross Comms, John Capadonna, President of REACT International

**New Member:** Richard Miller — Got ham tech license last year. He is a CERT member, member of ARES & SOBARS. He has applied for REACT membership and was assigned 57T as his unit number.

**REACTer Editor:** John - REACTer is out, lot of information on monitoring fire response, departments, apps for your phone—very timely.

**Webmaster:** Per - Website is up to date. Sent a survey to members and friends to collect volunteers for most of our events. Will relay a list of volunteers to each event coordinator.

#### Unfinished Business:

- New Tracking Method – no updates.
- Audit Committee — Has not met yet. George #81 and Tyler volunteered to meet with June. TBD.

#### Upcoming Events:

- FITT 2/23/2025 — Tyler is coordinating and will go out with the briefing tonight.
- Toyland Parade – Roger reports that Wayne has noted that the event is scheduled for December but there is some resistance from local businesses. Permits are pending. A formal request for REACT services has not been received.

#### Team Inventory: June

- List provided in email tonight. Please review and it will be discussed at the next Board and General meetings for disposition.

**General Information:** Roger reports that June and he attended the Yuma Hamfest was last weekend. There was a good exhibitor area and swap meet.

Next General Meeting is March 20th in person.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:58 pm. ✎



# The First Law of Dropped Screw Dynamics

John Portune, W6NBC (Reprinted by permission)

## Ham Radio corollary to the well-known law of the universe, "buttered toast always falls butter-side downward."

Richard Feynman, the well-loved outspoken American theoretical physicist, known for his work in quantum mechanics, was he, I believe, who said,

"There are two classes of people in the world, those who understand the full implications of the Second Law of Thermodynamics(entropy)and those who don't."

Entropy – all systems tend toward disorder – is easiest to see in ham radio in the way screws and nuts jump out of your fingers when you are working on a radio project. Clearly, they are the best handiwork of the Second Law. I put it this way, "Screws and Nuts have a highly perverse mind. I have been keeping my eye on them now for some time, and believe me, I know. "Here are the rules of screw entropy at your workbench:



1940 QST Cartoon

### **If You Drop One:**

- It will always roll farther than you think.
- If there is something it can roll under, it will.
- It rolls in the opposite direction of the sound of it falling.
- If it falls without making a sound, you will never find it.
- When it hits, it seeks for a hiding place that you "just can't quite reach."
- If you try to find it with a magnet, it will be made of brass or stainless steel.
- If it falls on a carpet it buries itself deep in the pile.
- If you watch it fall, it knows you are watching , and this time will forego its evil intentions.
- If you remove one, it won't be where you laid it on you workbench when you go to put it back.
- All screwdrivers in reach, when you want to put it back,will be one size too large or small. (Screws and screwdrivers are in cahoots)
- You will find it in your shoe when you leave the room.

### **Dropped from a ladder or a tower:**

- Big bolts and nuts will always hit and damage something, and favor the newest Mercedes, Lexus, or Cadillac in the parking lot.
- They will always bounce just outside your property.
- They love flower beds and dense ground cover.

### **Junk Box Corollaries**

- If you need four screws for a project, there will only be three in your junk box.
- If you need a 1in. screw, the longest in your junk box will be ¾in.
- If you need a 6-32 nut, all the nuts in your junk box will be 8-32.
- All screws in your junk box will be slot-blades if you need a Phillips
- Your local hardware store is always out of the size you need.

### **Conspiracy Demons**

- Solder hardens 1ms after a component is too hot to hold onto.
- If you spill something on your work bench, the only paper in reach to wipe it up will be your schematic.

Readers: send your own screw(y) rules to John Portune W6NBC, jportune@aol.com, 519 W Taylor St., Unit111, Santa Maria CA 93458. ✈



## Big Bear HamEscape™

April 25-27, 2025

Big Bear Lake, CA

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*(subject to change)*

Friday: ARES Bootcamp,  
POTA/SOTA Activation,  
Vendors and Exhibitors,  
Banquet.

Saturday: Seminars, Seminars  
and More Seminars,  
Workshops,  
Vendors and Exhibitors,  
Continental Breakfast.

Sunday: A Few More Seminars,  
Farewell Breakfast (possible),  
HamEscape Yard Sale.

...and more FUN still to be  
added!

***Big Bear HamEscape™ is an official ARRL sanctioned event!***

Join us for the Big Bear HamEscape™, a fun-filled event for amateur radio enthusiasts! Get ready for a weekend filled with exciting activities, informative seminars, and great networking opportunities. ARES bootcamp and POTA/SOTA activities are planned. Join meet and greets with author Gordon West, ARRL Orange Section, and YLRL. The event will take place at **Holiday Inn Resort**, located on Village Drive in beautiful Big Bear Lake, CA, USA.

**For more information:**

**<http://BigBearHamEscape.com>**

## Upcoming Events 2025

Event	Date	Status	Coordinator
Fiesta Island Time Trials	02/23/2025 (Sun)	Completed	TYLER 050
Touch-A-Truck	03/02/2025 (Sun)	Completed	GEORGE, 081
Fiesta Island Time Trials	03/30/2025 (Sun)	Approved	TYLER 050
Campagnolo San Diego Gran Fondo	04/06/2025 (Sun)	Approved	TBA
Lakeside Western Days Parade	04/26/2025 (Sat)	Approved	GEORGE, 081
Giro De San Diego	06/07/2025 (Sat)	Approved	TBA
San Diego International Triathlon	06/22/2025 (Sun)	Approved	TBA
San Diego Triathlon Classic	09/13/2025 (Sat)	Approved	TBA
Fiesta Island Time Trials	09/28/2025 (Sun)	Approved	MICHAEL, 092
Silver Strand Half Marathon	11/09/2025 (Sun)	Approved	TBA
Fiesta Island Time Trials	11/09/2025 (Sun)	Approved	MICHAEL, 092
Toyland Parade	12/06/2025 (Sun)	Pending Request	TBA

### NOTES:

1. This list includes the return of the Toyland Parade (North Park.) This is still in the formulation stage and is pending.
2. The Silver Strand Half Marathon and the last Fiesta Island Time Trials both occur on the same date, creating a scheduling conflict.
3. The Touch-A-Truck event will take place at the Lakeside Rodeo Grounds, rather than the previous location.

