



Southwestern REACTer



JULY 2025





**SOUTHWESTERN
REACT, Inc.**

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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

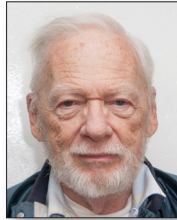
The Southwestern REACT board meeting is held the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Alvarado Road Denny's Restaurant. Any member is welcome to attend. Contact us for the address.

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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Someone Once Said: Actions Speak Louder Than Words"

Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

They were never at the "San Diego Big Boom"

Prologue

Notwithstanding the loudness of our 4th of July fireworks explosive sounds, today we address the quick responses and actions our team members performed to critical emergency problems at the last two events. This comes as no surprise as this has been the norm as far back as I can recall. You all should be proud, as I am, on the team's improving the outcome when called upon. Job well done all! Did we learn anything? As we have said from the beginning, by working these events, WE LEARN. So here we go.

Our Situation and Duty.

My question to you should probably be "Are you current, ready, and in all ways prepared? Really?" Probably not. We all have lives with our family and friends; I do. As mentioned before, we have twelve general meetings to activate, refresh, update and otherwise renew our SW REACT storage locker of our brain. To keep our travel-time to a minimum, we only hold four live, in-person March, June, September, and December each year; all others are on Zoom, and usually contain a hands-on Training Moment. Being part of these meetings helps keep things fresh.

Limits? Of Course!

As I said before, we all have lives to live, so how do you feel after working an event? As for myself and many others, the taste of success and shared review of the event with others, feels rewarding. Hopefully your experiences there are implanted in that "REACT brain locker" I mentioned earlier.

Opportunities? You Judge,

A program, that we are pushing, is submission of AAR's (After Action Reports) from event co-workers to our Event Coordinator for the event, to

summarize and use for training and discussion at a later General Meeting. An AAR guideline form, can be found on our website.

The Board is always seeking things to present to the Team, for their training and interest value. By the same thinking, Do YOU have something that fills that bill?

Make it so.

To be a team, any team, requires sharing, caring, and communicating with each other. The REACT concept was born on the team concept, so are you "Making it so"? Many of us have additional skills that have proved valuable at various past events. These skills have proven to demonstrate our unique value to the organizers; and are noticed.

Future Live General Meetings.

The face-to-face meetings provide a special opportunity that we wish to take advantage of. I can't stress enough, that you give them their value through partition; as giver and/or receiver.

So...

Let's serve our community and reward it and..... HAVE SOME FUN DOING IT!

We hope you stayed safe and enjoyed your Independence Weekend.

"Nuf said..."

let's GIT' ER DONE!!! ✈

After Action Report, Giro di San Diego, June 7, 2025

Michael J. Bailey, SWR #92

Event Position:

Coordinator & Rover #1

Observations:

This year started off overcast with a low marine layer at Ryan Park. Set up with the new Go-Kit was quick and easy with John explaining the steps as he went along. Koz events supplied an adequate working space though WiFi was not available. APRS units were provided to Rover #1 and #2 by John Wright as an experiment to see if this capability could be utilized in this rural environment. Turnout was lower this year in almost all ride lengths.

Notable Occurrences:

The marine layer caused severe fog at Rest Stop #3 which limited visibility to 50 yards or less. This resulted in one cyclist being grazed by a vehicle. Luckily, he was superficially injured and was able to continue the ride. A westbound van did not see bicyclists crossing Hwy 76 until the last minute, skidding to a stop, nearly hitting 4 cyclists. CHP officers filled out an accident report and positioned vehicles both west and east of the intersection with full emergency lights on until the fog lifted to alert oncoming traffic to this potentially dangerous intersection.

What Didn't Work:

The APRS system did not work and appears to be the lack of digipeater connectivity in the rural area and/or programming issues. It was a very useful experiment to see if this capability would work with the terrain issues.

Editor's Note: Further research revealed that the issue was the lack of digipeater/igate stations in the vicinity.

Jim's mobile unit could not transmit from the parking lot of Rest Stop #3.

The nomenclature for the Rest Stops was an issue, particularly when explaining it to cyclists. For most cyclists, Rest Stop #2 was their first stop and their fifth stop again identified as #2. John suggested the use of place names rather than the numbering convention used.

Work-Arounds, Solutions:

Following the accident, Travis (Rover #2) deployed his vehicle with flashing lights just east of Rest Stop #3 to increase the visibility of the intersection and left hand turn into the Rest Stop. Don moved to the west side of the road to verbally warn oncoming bikers to be careful crossing the intersection.

Tom Kimmelman, K1KKO, the volunteer stationed with Jim Patterson at the Palomar General Store/Rest Stop #4, had a mobile rig with a mast and portable antenna which was able to get a very clear signal out from that location.

What worked Well:

Self-deployment. Having the orientation session for team members and volunteers online several days ahead of time gave people time to prep and then deploy individually, potentially saving driving time.

Valley Center Repeater Coverage. The communications between all of the units were good as each of the rest stops could get a good signal into and out of the repeater, VCARC, 146.235+. Net control, due to the location, had significant path noise but was readable throughout the event. While not necessary, it was nice to have the Palomar repeater, K6RRR, 449.260-, available if needed.

Weather. Despite the fog at Rest Stop #3 and resultant accident, the temps were cooler overall so there less dropouts because of dehydration, electrolyte disturbances and cramping. This reduced the number of transports to rest stops and SAG van transfers.

Suggestions for Next Time:

The visibility issues caused by the fog/low marine layer at the intersection of South Grade and Hwy. 76 caused one cyclist to be hit by a car and others to barely avoid collisions. The CHP officer completed the accident report noted that that there should be signage on the westbound lane east of the intersection with flashing lights in the fog and will make that a condition of permitting for next time.

To hit the repeater, a mast with antenna is needed at Rest Stop #4/Palomar General Store. A mobile mounted antenna does not have the height to get a signal over the berm/hill so the southwest of the rest stop. In addition, the volunteers operated from the porch next to the front door of the store which had a lot of traffic from cyclists, locals, visitors and event staff creating a lot of nearby chatter which made their voice transmissions difficult to hear sometimes. Recommend placing the REACT team members on the small parking lot to the south of the general store to be away from the noise of the store/event and giving them a higher elevation to operate from.

Further exploration of APRS and troubleshooting the

units provided will be useful for tracking in the future. However, as Larry Bierma noted, he did not have good coverage for APRS in the backcountry but had it south of Mt. Woodson while traveling along Hwy. 67 to Rest Stop #5. He suggested consideration of phone apps such as Apple's "Find My" as he had cell phone coverage throughout the area and noted that my wife could track me during the event.

Patrick Goodin recommended that the SAG van and mobile repair vehicles have magnetic signs on them indicating it is a Koz SAG or repair vehicle. It was not readily apparent that a SAG van or repair vehicle was part of the ride to cyclists and our team members. Vans are rented for the event by Koz and so no permanent signage is on the vehicle. Magnetic signs would easily correct this issue.

It was also recommended that SAG wagons/repair vehicles check in with the radio operators when they pull into a rest stop in order for net control to track where they are. In addition, they should give the radio operator an estimated time of departure or inform operators when they depart.

Cyclists desiring SAG transport to Start/Finish should have a designated place to wait at each rest stop and should remain there until the SAG van arrives.

REACT Team members should be reminded that when reporting incidents involving motorists—harassing

cyclists, throwing items at cyclists, spreading thumb tacks on the course, weaving in and around cyclists in a dangerous fashion, or creating safety concern for cyclists, that Team members should get as much info as possible to include:

What actually happened?

Description of the vehicle involved (type, style, color, make, model, license info, etc.).

Description of the driver (male, female, clothing, hair color, etc.).

Direction of travel of the vehicle.

Having an enlarged course map at each of the rest stops would assist riders in knowing where they were in relation to the rest of the ride, allow them to look for shortcuts to reduce their ride, reduce questions to the REACT Team members and event staff and reassure riders they were where they needed to be.

To reduce confusion on the radio, consider the use of place names for the rest stops instead of the current numbering system.

This report will be distributed to the Board, to the membership and to future coordinators via the website. ✨

After Action Report: 2025 San Diego International Triathlon (6/22/2025)

Roger McCollough, SWR #098

Event Position:

Event Communications Control/Ruococo Park/SW corner of Harbor Drive and Pacific Highway.

Observations:

As usual, Koz Events placed our work site away from most congestion and noise. However, the previous night, the grass field adjacent to our site, had been heavily watered and forced additional traffic into our area. An E-Z-Up, a table, and chairs were furnished.

The Event Supply truck was next to our location which created a problem when workers would off-load or store behind it, blocking all foot and wheeled traffic, forcing traffic into the flooded grass or into our space. We were forced to insist this be relocated to the side to allow traffic to pass, explaining to them that this was still an open park and blocking the free passage on the

sidewalk could be a violation of their event permit. It took numerous contacts to finally clear the sidewalk. Event planners need to make this clear to their workers, as it may jeopardize getting future permits.

Some equipment issues came up but were solved.

Notable Occurrences:

Any emergency is the time where all-hands need to be on their A-game. The Electron position (Per) was faced with two cyclists' crashing with one being serious, requiring a 911 response, while the racers were cycling through the area, creating a major situation and traffic control effort on our part.

What Didn't Work?

Communications coverage with Electron was a spotty handheld location, where small changes of position

determined if communications were to succeed. {See Work-around below}

Work-Arounds, Solutions:

The Electron location communications were later moved to the Mission Hills (Channel #9) repeater that proved to be L/C (loud and clear). Earlier, if communications failed, we resolved with cell-phones. This arrangement should be considered for this location in future planning. Anyone using this alternate channel should announce their Tactical call and “on Alternate” to assist control replying on it.

What worked well?

Communications worked well for all locations except Electron, which were spotty. The new Team Go-box

radio functioned without problems. Location was distant from the major event announcers and half-way across the field from the live band.

Suggestions for Next Time:

If the event staff has rented radios, that we receive one for our location. Texting their staff often gave a slow or no response. For routine traffic, this may be acceptable, but sometimes we need to notify or get timely answers. ⚡

Southwestern REACT Board Meeting, June 5, 2025

Mike Bailey, SWR 092, Secretary

Attending: Per Martin, John Wright, Roger McCollough, June McCollough, Mike Bailey – Quorum Achieved

Call to Order: 1849 hrs.

Special Motions: None.

Visitors: Heather Wright, Jim Patterson

Minutes: Minutes of Last Board Meeting: Change of one word on page 2, New Business, General meeting format, the word “itinerary” changed to “template.” M/S/C. Executive session minutes were reviewed.

Correspondence: Roger/June

State of CA Registry of Charities Renewal forwarded to Treasurer for action

Treasurer’s Report: June

Balance as of , 2025: \$

Ending Balance as of : \$

Secretary’s Report: Mike.

Nothing to report.

REACTer Editor: John, VP.

Roger was unable to submit an article for the REACTer due to health issues. Per will submit an article instead. REACTer will be sent out late.

Website Manager: Per

Deferred to New Business.

Unfinished Business:

APRS: John will have 2 units available for the two Rover units for the Giro di San Diego on June 7th. This will be a test of this technology in a rural environment and may be useful for future events as well.

General Meeting structure/format: John suggested moving training moment first then do the business portion. Correspondence list should dropped from the general meeting but keep the pertinent correspondence in the Board meeting. Per proposed a format and time guidelines for in-person and zoom general meetings which was distributed to the Board. Board agreed to the new format and will initiate the change for the next General Meeting, June 19th.

Mileage reimbursement from Koz: Jennifer Stephens of Koz offered to reimburse team members for their mileage when supporting the riders on the Giro di San Diego and the San Diego Gran Fondo. She offered the option of the Team determining the mileage and forwarding the collective amount to Koz Events or to have the individual team members coordinate directly with Jennifer. The Board determined that individual team members acting in the capacity of a Rover could elect to have their mileage reimbursed but would coordinate directly with Jennifer.

New Business:

Per provided a template. Per recommends using a Word format with free text. Board concurs and will implement starting with the next SD International Triathlon. The event coordinator will have the option of using the traditional format or the new template depending on which format best suits the event.

Website Domain Renewals: Our SSL security certificate for our website has expired. We have GODADDY Personal website Builder and it expires tomorrow. We need to renew the domain hosting and SSL certificate. Per presented the different pricing and features for different plan options. He recommended Option #2, WordPress managed basic which includes the SSL certificate. M/S/C.

We are paying \$20 per domain name per year for maintaining 3 additional domain names that are not used. Board elected to discontinue those domain names upon their expiration.

Toll Road Hazard: George Reeves notified the Board that he received a fine when he used a toll road during the San Diego Gran Fondo. He reported that the toll collection devices were inoperative and he drove through and made the payment online but received a fine nevertheless.

Roger noted that a Zoom briefing for the Giro de San Diego went well yesterday and that this should be an option for all event coordinators to use for their upcoming events.

Training Moment:

For the next General meeting on 6/19/25, Per will present on crossbanding and John will demonstrate the new Go-Box.

Upcoming Events:

Giro de San Diego, June 7th, Mike Bailey coordinating.

San Diego International Triathlon June 22nd, George Reeves coordinating.

Good of the Team: No items.

Meeting Adjourned: 2035 hrs.

SW REACT General Meeting Minutes, June 19, 2025

Mike Bailey, SWR 092, Secretary

Called to Order at 1833 hrs.

Attended: Roger McCollough, June McCollough, Tyler Klein, John Wright, Per Martin, Larry Bierma, Jim Patterson, Don Dodson, Daniel Willan, Mike Bailey.

Visitor: Heather Wright. 10 members present, quorum present.

Comms Challenge: "In so many Words" – a challenge in describing different events with as few words as possible." Per led the exercise with the goal of how to be succinct yet give complete information.

Event Prep and Discussion: San Diego International Triathlon is occurring this Sunday, June 22nd. Scheduled 6:00AM briefing at Starbucks at Liberty Station. George, the coordinator for the event, did not attend tonight and could not brief the team. Per and John shared observations and challenges of this event from prior years.

Brief Radio Experience Sharing:

Larry shared his experiences with APRS. He built a GPS device that plugs into a standard Baofeng. It works but for much of the Giro di San Diego, there was no coverage. Even in the urban San Diego, there are few digipeaters and i-gates to connect to. Roger suggested forming a work group to study options and alternatives to APRS for tracking team member positions during events.

Training Moments#1: Per discussing crossband repeating with his mobile unit. Various scenarios were discussed on how to deploy a crossband repeater.

Training Moment #2: John demonstrated the set-up and operation of the newly designed Go-Kit.

Reports were sent out to the general membership this afternoon including:

- Board Meeting Minutes of 6/5/25
- General Meeting Minutes of 5/15/25
- Treasurer's Report of 5/31/25

- Webmaster's Report 6/16/25
- After Action Report from the Giro di San Diego of 6/07/25

John noted that the General Minutes of 5/15/25 needed approval of the membership. John made the motion. M/S/C.

Questions/General Discussion:

Discussion of the status of REACT International as team members have not received newsletters, emails or other interactions recently. This led to a discussion of dues, perceived benefits for those dues, and alternative affiliations.

Tyler brought up the issue of recognition by the event organizers. He recommended that if we work an event, we could ask for recognition by the organizers during the event as well as on the event website for purposes of recruitment, public education, donations, etc. He will develop a proposal and forward it to the Board.

Adjourned: 2031 hrs.

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
SWR QUARTERLY IN-PERSON MEETING	03/20/2025 (THUR)	COMPLETED	N/A
Fiesta Island Time Trials	03/30/2025 (Sun)	Completed	TYLER 050
Campagnolo San Diego Gran Fondo	04/06/2025 (Sun)	Completed	LARRY,
Lakeside Western Days Parade	04/26/2025 (Sat)	Completed	DAN, 061
Giro De San Diego	06/07/2025 (Sat)	Completed	MICHAEL, 092
SWR QUARTERLY IN-PERSON MEETING	06/19/2025 (THUR)	COMPLETED	N/A
San Diego International Triathlon	06/22/2025 (Sun)	Completed	GEORGE, 082
San Diego Triathlon Classic	09/13/2025 (Sat)	Approved	TBA
SWR QUARTERLY IN-PERSON MEETING	09/18/2025 (THUR)	SCHEDULED	N/A
Fiesta Island Time Trials	09/28/2025 (Sun)	Approved	MICHAEL, 092
Silver Strand Half Marathon	11/09/2025 (Sun)	Approved	PER. 053
Fiesta Island Time Trials	11/09/2025 (Sun)	Approved	MICHAEL, 092
SWR QUARTERLY IN-PERSON MEETING	12/18/2025 (THUR)	SCHEDULED	N/A

EVENT NOTES:

1. The proposed return of the Toyland Parade in North Park has been cancelled.
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 Southwestern REACT quarterly in-person meetings have been added to this list . Please note and put them on your calendar.

With the San Diego County Fair winding up, it's time for a joke:

Q: Why couldn't the radio signal ride the roller coaster at the fair?

A: Because it was a SHORT wave!

(Stolen from the internet...)