



Southwestern REACTer



OCTOBER 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

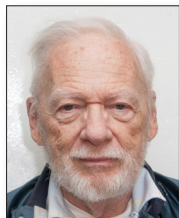
The Southwestern REACT board meeting is held the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Alvarado Road Denny's Restaurant. Any member is welcome to attend. Contact us for the address.

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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On Old Hallowed Ground

Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

Is The President Going To Play On His Harp?

Prologue

In the hey-day of CB radio, Southwestern REACT had over 150 members and had some sort of activity (not necessarily an event) weekly: work party, training, meeting, ongoing monitoring of Channel 9, something fun to get together, etc. We did this as a TEAM! Enter the March of Time and technology, and of course, the work of Big Brother, the FCC and rule changes. I'll recount this in another column later.

The move to GMRS meant a new radio (\$\$) and paying for a new license (more \$\$) so membership dwindled, but in time we got a repeater and site that increase our coverage which was a plus. Step in the FCC rule change and we lost our GMRS license and our repeater. So that left Amateur Radio as an answer. Again members were faced with a new radio (\$\$\$), a new licenses (\$\$\$) and tests, if they were not yet licensed. That caused the membership to, again, dwindle.

So there you have it. That's Our Problem.

Our Situation and Duty.

The answer to the sub-title question is; "sort of..." The picture has indeed changed over the years. The biggies are attendance and response. I've said that (sadly) all too often with no response to my messages, which make me wonder: ARE YOU OUT THERE? I'm trying to keep this viable. Elections are only two months away and, sooner or later, I may not be able to serve. Maybe a new author for this column may help. Don't get me wrong, I intend to do the job as long as you vote that way. I have a bunch of years with the team and will continue to do so as long as I'm able. I'm again asking for your help to:

Increase response to meetings, nets and, of course, events. Please don't leave our Event Coordinators "Out to dry" in finding volunteers for events.

Communicate to the Board if you have a problem with health, equipment, knowledge, transportation, time, etc. Again, COMMUNICATE! That's our skill' you demonstrate that at every event.

Increase membership to help spread the load. Do any of your family or friends possibility have an interest in what we do? Have you ever invited someone to go to an event with you? We need to encourage the growth in Amateur Radio.

Maintain our reputation for leadership in our operations at events. At almost every event our members have had to step-up and coordinate a fix or provide our experience to solve a local incident. We have experience, training, and background to represent the requesting agency.

Enjoy what we do and show it.

Limits? Of Course!

What are yours?

Opportunities? You Judge,

If you don't know now, perhaps should reread the above and use more of your imagination.

Make it so.

Future Live General Meetings.

December 18, 2025 at the church. Finger food or ??? accepted.

"Nuf said..."

let's GIT' ER DONE!!! ✈

Vice-President's Two Cents Worth

John Wright, SWR 042, Vice-President

I felt it necessary to add to the comments Roger made in his column this month. I agree with everything he said, but I'm going to put it in a little stronger terms.

The attendance at the last couple of team events, specifically the September in-person meeting and the Fiesta Island Time Trials last Sunday was pathetic. At both events there were the five board members and two, count them, two regular members. Coincidentally, it happens it was the same two regular members that showed up to both events.

Now, I fully understand that members have commitments other than REACT and that not everyone can attend every single event, but as Roger so clearly stated, members need to keep the board updated on their status. When we don't see or hear from members for months on end, we start wondering what's happened. We also understand that health issues could be preventing members from attending events as well, but again, it's a matter of communicating with the team officers.

Why is this important? Because we have obligations to fulfill. We're winding down to the end of our operating year, but staffing events is still critical.

Coming up in November we still have the Silver Strand Half Marathon (<https://www.silverstrandhalf.com/>) and the last Fiesta Island Time Trial. Normally those are two events that get good coverage, but this year they both **TAKE PLACE ON THE SAME DAY**. That's going to stretch our coverage as it is and if we have a low team member turn out, it will affect our ability to do our job.

Now here's the biggie:

Everyone should have received my e-mail regarding the Bike MS Bay to Bay event. We were asked to provide radio operators at the various rest stops for this two-day

event, which stretches from Carlsbad to San Diego. It's similar in makeup to our usual bicycle events that we cover so well during the rest of the year, just with an extra day tacked on.

What's important about this is that the request didn't come from the National MS Society, but from a Regional Director of REACT INTERNATIONAL. The board discussed this at length at the October meeting and eventually voted to approve the event, with myself as coordinator.

Right now, I have six people committed to working the event. Four are SWR members and two are from the ham community at large. Some want to work only one day, Sunday, which leaves us with needing people for Saturday. If you possibly work one day or the other, (or both) it would be greatly appreciated. And yes, we're aware that the Hamtastic event at Fiesta island coincides with the MS event.

Keep in mind that International is watching us on this one and we don't want to be perceived as falling on our faces. And, if we do a good job, the MS Society might be inclined to make us a more regular part of their events, which is a return to those years Roger spoke of.

As always, we're open to feedback from the membership. Everyone should have a copy of the roster with e-mail addresses and phone number of the board members, so let us hear from you. ✍

After Action Report, Fiesta Island Time Trial, September 28, 2025

Michael Bailey, SWR #92

Event Position: Event Coordinator for SW REACT.

Observations: Despite the I-5 detour due to construction, all Team members arrived early for the 0615 hrs. briefing. Two cancellations by Team members prior to the event stretched the available manpower but all critical areas were covered. Seven team members were present including Roger and June McCollough, John Wright, Per Martin, Larry Bierma, George Reeves and myself.

Notable Occurrences:

- Turnout was very good for the time trial with 104 registered participants although there several no shows. The time trial was otherwise uneventful with no accidents. One cyclist sustained a flat tire but finished the course by walking to the finish line.
- Runners, joggers and pedestrians were less of a problem than in prior events but many were intercepted at the Start and advised to stay off the roadway. When asked as a request and politely, all complied.
- Per set up a cross-band radio with a large antenna at location North One. With him was Larry who set up his own cross-band repeater and extended antenna to test his system. The cross-band system worked well and the shared information and cooperation now means we have two working systems available for future events.

What Didn't Work:

- Not all Team members had updated their radios with the new Comm Plan and thus were unable to access the cross-band repeater.

Work-Arounds, Solutions:

- In the field re-programming of the radios allowed access to the cross-band repeater. Having access to the manuals for radios in the field allowed for a quick re-programming and resolution.

What worked Well:

- The cross-band repeater using Team channels #4, 5 and 6 allowed for solid communications throughout the island. Using channel #6 for the north side of the island and using channel #5 for the middle and south side of the island was found to be effective.

Suggestions for Next Time:

- Larry will be able to replicate the cross-band repeater system for our next FITT scheduled for November 9th. The band plan will be recreated for that event.
- The next FITT will run concurrently with the Silver Strand Half-Marathon. Unfortunately, that means the Team will be split and there are not enough Team members to support both events. Over the next month, every effort should be made to enlist additional support through ARES personnel and "FRIENDS OF REACT" to supplement team members for both events. ✈

Editor's Note: *The revised communications plan is available on the Southwestern REACT website at the following location: <http://www.swreact.com/react-communications-plan.html> There is a link to a downloadable pdf on that page.*

Southwestern REACT Board Meeting, September 4, 2025

Mike Bailey, SWR 092, Secretary

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

Call to Order: 1844 hrs.

Special Motions: None.

Visitors: Heather Wright

Minutes: Minutes of Last Board Meeting: Published. No changes other than the misspelling of McCollough moved by June, seconded by Per. Approved.

Correspondence: Roger/June

- None.

Treasurer's Report: June

- Balance as of July 31, 2025: \$3,026.70
- Check for \$19.99 for Go Daddy website renewal
- Balance as of August 31, 2025: \$3,006.71

Secretary's Report:

- As the Board Minutes are published in the REACTer prior to the Board's review and approval, it was determined that a watermark be included indicating that the minutes are a "DRAFT." Once approved by the Board, the watermark may be removed.

REACTer Editor: John, VP.

- REACTer published and emailed out. John plans to cease publishing the Board and General Meeting minutes as of January 1, 2026 as part of the REACTer. There will be a reference and a link to the website for the minutes rather than including the minutes in the REACTer.

Website Manager: Per

- Dates of the triathlon have been updated.
- The Communications Plan was updated with the new channels.
- The website will continue to undergo a change in formatting as time permits.

Unfinished Business:

- Update on P.O. Box change – Mike reports that the postmaster of the post office where the box is located requires documentation from SW REACT authorizing the change. Mike developed a letter for Roger to sign and will deliver to the postmaster.
- New Communication Plan – John recommends sending the plan out to everyone so radios can be appropriately programmed in time for the upcoming events.
- Policy review of Event Reports and Publications: Roger suggested setting up guidelines for what should be public (located in the REACTer) vs. what may be confidential (containing identifiable information, names, potential litigation issues). John recommended a detailed report for the REACT Board and the event sponsor while a summarized, abbreviated report could be published and used for training purposes. This led to a discussion of availability of AAR for future coordinators. Per suggested keeping a digital copy on Google Drive to be able to distribute to Board members and future coordinators for reference. It was noted that AAR are not always submitted. Board will have an expectation to submit an AAR via solicitation of input from participating team members. John suggested needing to train membership on a format and how to write an AAR.
- The Secretary was directed to contact Koz about recognizing SW REACT's contribution to their events by including REACT's logo on event t-shirts and their website.

New Business:

- Reminder to the Board to send all reports to the Secretary on the Monday prior to the General Meeting to ensure they are sent out to the Team members in time.
- June noted that the four remaining events will need a certificate of insurance (COI) generated by REACT International prior to the events. Mike will contact John Capodanno to have those generated.

Training Moment:

- Challenge for the September meeting to be done by John utilizing questions from the Tech, General, and Extra question pools. Per will be doing the training on the New Communications plan while Mike will be presenting on Bicycle Head Injuries.
- Past Event Reports: None for this month for review.

Upcoming Events:

- San Diego Triathlon Classic on 9/13/25 coordinated by Per.
- Fiesta Island Time Trial on 9/28/25 coordinated by Mike.

Meeting Adjourned: 2026 hrs. 

Southwestern REACT General Meeting Minutes, September 18, 2025

Call to Order: 1840 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance Lead by John Wright.

Attendance: Roger #98, June #54, John #42, Per #53, Larry #84, George #81, and Mike #92. Quorum achieved.

Comms Challenge: John

John presented 4 questions from the Technician Exam pool and selected team members to answer.

Recent and Future Event Discussion:

SD Triathlon Classic – Per coordinated. Event went well, no problems, no injuries.

Next Event: FITT, 9/28/25

Mike to coordinate. Asked for volunteers for Net Control.

Training #1: Per

Introduction to the updated Communications Plan and discussion of the changes.

Training #2: Mike

Presentation on how to respond to bicycle accidents involving head injuries was postponed due to technical difficulties with the projector. It will be presented at a future meeting.

Secretary's Report: Mike

The Financial Report from the Treasurer was received today via email. No other reports or submissions have been received.

Last General Meeting Minutes: Published in the REACTer. Motion to approve by June, Per seconded, M/S/C.

Treasurer's Report: June

Checking Account Balance as of July 31, 2025: \$ 3,026.70

Charge for GoDaddy: \$ 19.99

Balance as of August 31, 2025: \$ 3,006.71

Webmaster's Report: Per

None.

Discussion Items:

New PO Box: Mike

Operational as of last week. The current post office box will continue to the end of the year but will not be renewed. The remaining time will be used to transition over to the new PO Box.

Need for Event AARs

Guidelines for AAR Report will be addressed in a future training. The template for AAR's is on the website.

Team members will provide input to the Event Coordinator to compile. Once compiled, it would be go to Secretary for filing and the REACTer Editor for publication.

SW REACT Logo on event T-shirts: Mike

Jennifer Stephens of Koz reports that the t-shirts for the events through the end of this year have been already printed so there is no opportunity to have the logo added. In addition, future T-shirts will have reduced advertising or sponsor information so a SW REACT logo will not be added.

However, Koz is willing to add the REACT logo to their event page along with a link to the SW REACT website. Mike will link Per to the email string with Jennifer to facilitate getting the logo and link to Koz.

General/Open Discussion: No additional discussion took place.

Next live meeting scheduled for December 18th at 1830 hrs.

Adjournment: 2015 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Bailey, SWR#92
Secretary