

Southwestern REACTer

MARCH 2026



The next FITT is March 29th. Sign up now!



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*Southwestern REACT, Inc. is
an affiliate of REACT
International*

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:
Larry Bierma, SWR 084

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

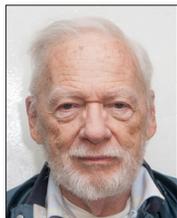
The Southwestern REACT board meeting is held the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Alvarado Road Denny's Restaurant. Any member is welcome to attend. Contact us for the address.

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.

REACT Team Net

See the website for net information.

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We Welcome All

Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

The Fruits Of Our Open-door Policy: The Background

Prologue

Over the years, the team has had a desire to welcome any licensed Amateur to join us at our upcoming events. Today we will discuss why we have such an open-door policy. Some of you may have been introduced to Southwestern REACT (SWR) because of this.

Our Situation and Duty.

SWR, following the history of REACT International, was formed to serve the growing Citizens Band (CB) community in the U.S. Its growth was fostered by permitting limited licensing 2-way vehicular radio communications, without being a business, purchasing a costly mobile phone service, being a member of a public service agency, or a licensed amateur radio operator. The ability to talk to friends, family, or fellow motorists was, for the first time, history of communications in the making.

REACT lead the growth by creating volunteer teams, throughout the nation, to serve their community with the implantation of Channel-9 as "THE CB EMERGENCY CHANNEL". In time the 27 meter CB band became unusable with skip, cross-border traffic, disregard of the FCC Channel-9 provision, and unreliable coverage that prompted the additional growth into the GMRS service and the ability to use the more reliable coverage, without skip or unlicensed users (mostly).

Our third comms system change came with changes of the GMRS rules and licensing that cancelled our GMRS license renewal options. At that point amateur radio became communications option. Since then, the GMRS rules have been revised several times and are still in use in some communities where they can get and afford a radio site.

So Why The Open-Door Event Policy?

1. Amateur Radio is a FCC service that elsewhere provides that we are, in part, an education operation.
2. SWR would be an example of service operation and procedure.
3. By inviting potential and active amateur radio operators, we provide an opportunity to those interested, to observe and participate in our events; exchanging options, planning, and experiences.
4. Be a relatable and active part of the San Diego Amateur Community.
5. Demonstrate that the former SWR as a CB group has become a trained group of Amateur Radio Operators serving the community. By the way, you can hear a lot of the worst of old CB type traffic on certain amateur repeaters.

Opportunities? You Judge.

To be clear, we have evolved over the last fifty years and our beginning is the basis of our growth, not of who or what we were. Our membership experience spans weeks to decades in the radio world. As mentioned before, we share the reasonability to help create the best in operators and practices. The Board constantly seeks opportunities to reach out at gatherings and meetings to "Tell our story" to anyone that will listen. Your voice to your contacts could help.

Make it so.

I'm proud of who and what we have done and who we are. PLEASE JOIN ME

Future Live General Meetings:

6:30 PM (1830) PDT, March 19, 2026

"Nuf said..."

let's GIT' ER DONE!!! ⚡

Events 2026			
Event	Date	Status	Coordinator
Fiesta Island Time Trials	02/15/26 Sun	Completed	MIKE, 092
Touch-A-Truck	03/01/26 Sun	Completed	PER, 053
Fiesta Island Time Trials	03/29/26 Sun	Approved	JOHN, 042
Campagnolo San Diego Gran Fondo	04/19/26 Sun	Approved	MIKE, 092
Lakeside Western Days Parade	04/25/26 Sat	Approved	TBA
Giro De San Diego	06/06/26 Sat	Approved	MIKE, 092
San Diego International Triathlon	06/28/26 Sun	Approved	TBA
San Diego Triathlon Classic	09/12/26 Sat	Approved	PER, 053
Fiesta Island Time Trials	09/27/26 Sun	Approved	TBA
Silver Strand Half Marathon	11/08/26 Sun	Approved	PER, 053
Fiesta Island Time Trials	11/15/26 Sun	Approved	TBA

How To Sign Up To Work An Event

John Wright, SWR 042

It's easy...

It occurred to the team leadership that perhaps not everyone understands how to sign up for an event being worked by Southwestern REACT and what the obligations involved are after signing up. So, here's the procedure:

Clicking on the name of the event above will take you directly to the Southwestern REACT website page for that event. There you will find a description of the event, including what the duties of persons working the event will be. If, after reading the description you wish to work the event, click on the green button. That will open an e-mail in which you indicate your desire to work the event. When you send that e-mail, it will go to the REACT member coordinating that event. You are now signed up. Make sure you put the date on your calendar.

A few days before the event you will receive a briefing form that will give all the necessary information needed to work the event, including date, time, location, and reporting time and location. Final in-person briefings are held at the time and place indicated on the form. Attendance at these briefings is mandatory for any last minute information and making position assignments.

If, for some reason, you are unable to make the event, let the Event Coordinator know as soon as possible.

If you are reading a printed copy of this newsletter, the same information can be accessed through the Southwestern REACT website at www.swreact.com and click on the EVENTS tab. ✈

After Action Report, Fiesta Island Time Trial, February 15, 2026

Michael J. Bailey, SWR #92

Event Position: Coordinator

Observations: There was a good turnout with all individuals who had signed up with the exception of a new trainee who called in earlier indicating he was ill. Eight team members were joined by Kikko Kimmelman, K1KKO, a "friend of REACT." Fiesta Island was pretty empty prior to the race with only one unauthorized vehicle on the island which was cited and towed. The team was briefed and deployed to the usual locations. Hector Valtierra, a provisional member, was paired with his mentor, George Reeves. A total of 55 riders participated in the time trial, a significantly lower turnout than normal. The event was uneventful and was finished by 0830 hrs.

Notable Occurrences: Walkers and joggers on the course continued to be an issue and several had to be told to get off the pavement to avoid the bicyclists. There is no signage at the isthmus so people run or walk onto the island not knowing that this is a closed course.

Some bibs were not adequately secured to the riders and would fold over obscuring the number. Thus, they could

not be identified.

What Didn't Work: The sand berms varied in height across the island and are highest at the north end. The height of the berms prevented adequate simplex operation as handhelds and mobile antennas could not rise above the berm height.

Work-Arounds, Solutions: By utilizing portable antennas either on top of the berm or at least exceeding the height of the berm allowed signals to be communicated well.

What worked Well: Placement of net control at Youth Camp (the highest point of the island) with a strong mobile signal allowed good coverage over the island. By using antennas that exceeded the berm height, net control could communicate with each assigned areas. This approach did not require the use of the Mission Hills repeater nor a cross-banding approach used previously. This allows greater flexibility of communication options for the future.

Suggestions for Next Time:

Recommend to SDBC that signage be posted at the isthmus during events that tell joggers, walkers, and runners to stay off the road/pavement during the event.

Recommend to SDBC that riders be advised to securely attach bib numbers to their clothing to ensure visibility during the time trial. This should be checked at the start by staff.

Given the finding that larger antennas can be used for placement on berms or next to are effective for simplex communications, future team assignments and Comm plans for FITT can incorporate this as an option. ⚡



An unidentified recumbent rider at the November 2025 FITT.

Used by permission, Willie Sakai, @jadecoastphoto

2026 Lakeside Touch-A-Truck, After Action Report

George Reeves, SWR 081, Coordinating

On Sunday, March 1st, SW REACT provided communications for the annual Touch-A-Truck event, sponsored by the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce. The event was held under clear skies and 80 degrees from 10:00 until 3 pm, on the Rodeo Grounds on Mapleview and Ashwood Streets. The crowd in attendance numbered at least a thousand over the course of the day; Approximately 40 large vehicles, from trucks, bulldozers, graders, and law enforcement equipment were on display, as well as several dozen vendor booths.

REACT Team members in attendance were John Wright 042 (Net Control), Larry Bierma 084, Daniel Willan 061, Per Martin 053, Hector Valtierra 058, and George Reeves 081 (Coordinator). Primary Operating Frequency utilized Team Channel 5 (Triple Nickel) simplex, which worked quite well over the entire rodeo grounds.

There were no incidents of note, except one attendee who was slightly overcome by the heat. She was provided with cold water and subsequently fared well on

her own.

Most units were involved as Rovers, observing the entrances and fence lines, answering questions from the attendees, and providing for the public's general safety.

Interface with the event's coordinator, Marya Rodriguez, was a pleasure, as always, and the day went very smoothly.

One small item I will be discussing with her and the Chamber, will be to address the need for traffic control at the end of the event, be it from Sheriff's RSVP, Traffic Units, or possibly another agency vetted to direct traffic leaving the grounds.

In closing, I wish to express my thanks to those who came out to work this event...our experience and training was evident, and appreciated by all! ✨



Leave it to George to find the pretty girls...

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