



Southwestern REACTer





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

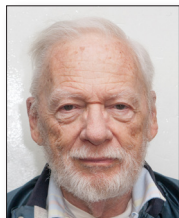
The Southwestern REACT board meeting is held the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Alvarado Road Denny's Restaurant. Any member is welcome to attend. Contact us for the address.

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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Topic Tango

Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

What To Talk About That Makes A Difference

Prologue

Here we are again, to talk about those things of concern or information of value, to outreach to you, at the beginning of each month. I admit that it is sort of a one-sided forum, but opens a door that I invite ALL OF YOU to enter. The last several General Meetings have been lively and responsive to the items that were brought forth. "Hooray!!!" "GO TEAM!!!"

So where do we go from here?

Our Situation and Duty.

Consider this:

1. Consider current hazardous fire and general weather conditions.
2. Summer is almost over but Item #1 lasts well into Fall.
3. We have few events scheduled to aid refreshing our experience "muscle memory" to react on short notice.
4. Any Team need to have ALL members "on the same page" to provide peak performance.
5. Friendship should be part of membership.
6. Other?

That said: What needs to be done? Where, when, how? Amateur Radio is a service per FCC Regulations. Often considered a hobby, but we do what we do, as a service to our communities, I believe, as we all should, do it well. So what can we do to improve on the six items above?

Limits? Of Course!

We all have lives to live, so it is up to each of us to prioritize each of these items. So what priority do you give to REACT activities? I have often said (all too often) to post each known upcoming event to your calendar(s) when they

are announced, to prevent, later, posting something less important there.

Example: Order these items in more to less importance:

1. Get a haircut
2. Mother-in-law in town this week. Visit her today
3. Wedding anniversary.
4. Event: Parade
5. Neighbor's Bar-B-Que

There is no right answer, I suppose, but you get the idea, that is my suggestion.

Opportunities? You Judge,

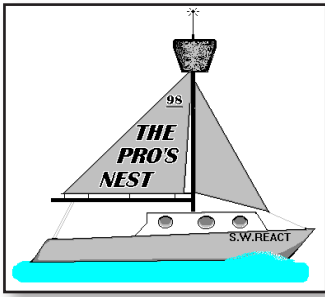
Simply said, you make the opportunities, by your input at meetings, messages to the Board, even a brief article to the REACTER Editor on something of your interest, history, or??? Maybe some sort of Summer/Fall get-together? It's in your hands to make a better team.

So what is my topic to write about today---Wait---There is no room to write anything this time, Maybe next month

Make it so.

"Nuf said..."

let's GIT' ER DONE!!! ✈



The Pro's Nest

Roger McCollough, SWR 098

Memories of Things Past

This series of articles was created to pass on items to increase your knowledge of technical items of interest in the world of communi-

cations. But tonight, an item I received from Facebook, triggered a piece of our SW REACT history I felt the need to comment about. So here is that trigger and my response.

In a posting about Cabrillo National Monument, Dennis Yard, from ARES, referred to a visit to an old Coastal Defense location known as Battery Ashburn, one of a number of artillery sites along our coast; that brought back a memory of our part in that history; This is that history. [Note: Updates and notes added]

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Here is a little history of SW REACT. In the early hay-day of CB and REACT, we had a retired small school-bus that we stripped and made into a mobile communications vehicle for use at events. At that time boaters used CB in-lieu of the much more expensive VHF marine radios. After a near-fatal medical emergency, off-shore somewhere near the entrance to San Diego bay, one of our Channel 9 monitor operators coordinated with the Coast Guard in locating the solo stricken and confused boater in heavy coastal fog. [Note: The sailor was rescued and transported to Naval Hospital where he recovered from some sort of heart issue. The operator was, at the same time, providing land-event link to an event ongoing in Mission Bay. The search and rescue operation lasted into the evening about 6+ hours.]

This led to the creation of our "Sea Watch" operation, where volunteers, during daylight hours on weekends, would set-up, atop Battery Ashburn; complete with our communications bus, a generator and a phone-line, providing a safety communications link to land for boaters having only CB. It was a great view up there, protected from the wind, in a vehicle with windows all around; sort of like an airport control tower. Ahhhh, Memories.

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Well there you have it. Maybe, sometime, we should discuss her (our radio monitor) efforts and decisions to communicate to a person hallucinating. Needless to say, strict communications procedure and cooperation from others was important to her success.

I hope this look-back in our history was informative and encouraging for all to be ready to respond with personal initiative; a valuable asset to our Team. ✈

EDITOR: Here is a link to information about Battery Ashburn. <https://cnmvipvoice.org/history-of-cabrillo-national-monuments-bunker/>

There is also an excellent book about the history of Point Loma entitled "A HARBOR WORTH DEFENDING — A Military History of Point Loma" By Barry Alan Joyce. ©1995, Cabrillo Historical Association.



COVER PHOTO: "What is this?" you might ask... "And how does it relate to this issue?" Well, you're about to find out...

Batteries And Bunkers

John Wright, SWR 042

Other current Southwestern REACT members have connections to the batteries and bunkers of Point Loma as well.

Back in the 1990s, I was a volunteer with the Fort Guajarro Museum Foundation. It was an organization that was excavating the site of the original Spanish fort and other historical locations on Ballast Point. My involvement with this group also led to visits to other historical sites on Point Loma, including some of the gun emplacements and also the historical houses along Officer's Row on the base. The houses were part of the original Fort Rosecrans installation.

Prior to that, when I was still in the Naval Reserve, I was in a couple of units that conducted operations at different locations on Point Loma. One unit had facilities in a bunker on the southern end of the point overlooking the new lighthouse complex. I can't remember the exact location and I'm unable to find any evidence of it on Google Maps.

Another unit I was attached to conducted operations from Battery Humphreys, which sits on top of the point, south of the old lighthouse. In fact, getting to the battery's location requires driving through Cabrillo National Monument right past the old lighthouse (and all the tourists.) During one of our operations, some of our personnel assisted National Fish and Wildlife Service biologists in hanging a nest box for Peregrine Falcons on the cliff below Battery Humphreys.

And, of course, when I was on board ships, we used the new lighthouse as a navigation marker going in and out of the harbor.

So we all have our connections to Point Loma.

If you ever get to San Francisco, there is another extensive bunker and gun emplacement complex in the Marin Headlands to the west of the North end of the Golden Gate Bridge.

And, there's also some old gun emplacements at Fort MacArthur in San Pedro. I have a connection to that area as well. At the south end of San Pedro is Point Fermin Park. In that park is the old Point Fermin lighthouse. During WWII, the light was extinguished and replaced with an observation room. This was used by the US Navy until 1948. During the Vietnam War, the Navy took over the observation room once again to train sailors for Harbor Defense duty in Vietnam. You'll never guess who one of those sailors was... Yep... I trained in the Point Fermin Lighthouse tower prior to being sent to Vietnam in 1967-68.

The observation room, colloquially called the "chicken coop" was removed and the lighthouse restored to its original condition prior to its 100th anniversary in 1974. It was opened to visitors in 2002.

The cover picture shows the lighthouse with the observation room on the top of the tower. ⚡



Another photograph of the lighthouse from a different angle before its 1974 restoration.



The restored Point Fermin lighthouse as it looks today.

Southwestern REACT Board Meeting, July 3, 2025

Mike Bailey, SWR 092

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

Call to Order: 1845 hrs.

Special Motions: None.

Visitors: None.

Minutes: Minutes of Last Board Meeting: read to the Board. No changes, motioned to approve by Roger. M/S/C.

Correspondence: Roger/June: None.

Treasurer's Report: June

1. Starting Balance as of May 31, 2025: \$ 3,276.58
2. Ending Balance as of June 30, 2025: \$ 3,256.59

Secretary's Report: June.

1. Nothing to report.

REACTOR Editor: John, VP.

1. No update as John was not present.

Website Manager: Per

1. Deferred to Unfinished Business Section.

Unfinished Business:

1. New General Meeting Structure and Agenda Changes: Consensus was that it was well received. No complaints
2. Training Options: Ideas for different subjects:
3. Ability to program one's radio on the fly, i.e., to be able to program frequencies outside of the established band plan. Per suggested surveying the membership for types of radios and creating "cheat sheets" for programming radios.
4. This brought up issues of the Comm plan needing updates—cross banding options for example. Per will discuss with John, who is in charge of the Communications Plan.
5. Bicycle Injuries and Information transfer: Mike will work with Koz on protocols on information transfer on injured information and develop a training moment on likely bike injuries given how often we work with Koz.
6. Going over the new briefing form for events to ensure the correct information is relayed.
7. Traffic Control training.
8. Per will put the new Briefing Form on the website.
9. Website Domain Renewals: Per is in the midst of switching over to the new host and will back up the info.

New Business:

1. Event Reports and Publication: Based on a recent event involving two cyclists who collided, the need to report and record what occurred was discussed including how we worked with other agencies, medical aid rendered, with the goal of protecting the event sponsor and SW REACT. Recording of the time for conversations by Net Control will aid in maintaining a time line of events. Recommended the development and use of an Incident Report with all of the details of the incident while the After Action Report would remove the specifics/identifiable information and look at the incident in the context of evaluating the overall event. Mike will discuss the options with Jennifer of Koz to see how they handle such incidents.
2. Address Change: REACT is paying \$200 per calendar year for rental of USPS mailbox. An alternative option would be to use a board member's address. Mike to look into using his post office box as a potential address for the organization.

Upcoming Training Moments:

1. For July's General Meeting: Going over the New Briefing Form, June to facilitate.
2. For August's General Meeting: Will forego training.
3. For September's General Meeting: Mike to go over bike-related injuries and their management.

Completed Events:

1. Giro di San Diego, June 7, 2025
2. San Diego International Triathlon, June 22, 2025

Upcoming Events:

1. Next event is the San Diego Triathlon Classic on September 14th. Per is to coordinate.

Meeting Adjourned: 2053 hrs. ✍

Southwestern REACT General Meeting Minutes, July 17, 2025

Michael Bailey, SWR 092

The meeting was called to order at 1839 hours.

Present: Roger #98, John #42, Mike #92, June #54, Dan #61, Tyler #50, Jim #151, Carl #67, Marilyn #68, McKenzie #37, and George #81. Quorum was present.

Visitors: Tom Kimmelman, K1KKO

Special Motions: None

Comms Challenge: None.

Upcoming Events: Next event is the San Diego Triathlon Classic to be coordinated by Per on 9/13/2025.

Brief Sharing: John Wright recently attended the Chula Vista Fire Fighters Pancake breakfast as part of SOBARS, a recognized volunteer organization with the Chula Vista Fire Department.

Training:

1. June presented on the proposed Event Briefing Forms to see which best meets our needs. One is a form that does not have the drop-down boxes but allows a direct narrative entry for each of the categories and has added some additional elements such as emergency medical procedures, a preliminary roster of people working the event, etc. John has submitted a form similar to our traditional briefing form as a pdf fill-in rather than using a drop-down menu which was problematic. John will fix some items on the pdf fill-in identified by Roger. Both forms will be on the website and will be the choice of the event coordinator.

Treasurer's Report: (June #54)

1. The report was sent out with the meeting agenda. (Starting balance as of May 31, 2025 was \$3,256.59. As there no payments and deposits, the ending balance as of June 30th is \$3,256.59.)

Secretary's Report: (Mike #92)

1. As per prior discussion, any new correspondence will not be listed on the agenda nor reported on in the General Meeting unless it is significant.
2. In addition, the Board has elected to reduce expenses by no longer renting the current post office box as there is little correspondence of significance. As a result, Mike has volunteered the use of his P.O. Box going forward. The current address will remain active until December 31, 2025.

REACTer Editor: (John #42)

1. John reports that the current edition was emailed. He once again requests articles of interest to the membership as he may have to go to quarterly editions due to a lack of material. He needs submissions after the first of each month.

Webmaster: (Per #53)

1. Per was not present, no updates.

Unfinished Business:

1. George reports that he has t-shirts from the last event he coordinated that he will be getting out to those team members that participated.

New Business:

1. Tyler has developed a letter to go out to our current event organizers asking for their support through the addition of the Southwestern REACT logo to their event website, social media, or printed materials to increase our visibility and community awareness. It also tactfully asks for additional financial support if possible. He has submitted this letter to the Board for review and approval. John suggested that one form of publicity would be to add Southwestern REACT to the sponsor list printed on t-shirts.
2. McKenzie Jackson updated us on her current situation. She remains in the hospital until a long-term care opening occurs. She currently is located in Room 609 at the UCSD East Campus facility (Alvarado Hospital) and welcomes visitors.

Meeting was adjourned at 1930 hrs. ✎