



Southwestern REACTer



SEPTEMBER 2025



SOUTHWESTERN REACT, Inc.

PO Box 19989
San Diego, CA 92159-0989

kk6sle@arrl.net
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

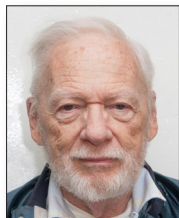
The Southwestern REACT board meeting is held the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Alvarado Road Denny's Restaurant. Any member is welcome to attend. Contact us for the address.

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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Change

Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

An Inevitable Part Of Our History

Prologue

Amateur radio has been a part of radio growth and development from its earlier stages. From spark-gap transmitters and crystal detectors to whatever was added today or will be added tomorrow. Some of these current state-of-the-art developments have been discussed in my "Pro's Nest" articles that appear from time to time. Of course many changes have occurred to the Team; many before most of you joined the Team. I hope I can, in the future, recall for you some of the most interesting or rewarding events in an occasional column I intend to call "REACTIONS" or "RE-ACTIONS", or...

Our Situation and Duty.

Today we face an avalanche of changes. New technology, event type and number events varies from year to year, as does the membership number and experience.

Change!

On the technology front is:

- The addition of a digital component to our tool-box while retaining our primary Analog operation as the standard.
- Selection a recommended or standard digital type.
- Maintaining the level of training in the use of all available technologies.
- Encouraging the continued use of FRS as a short-haul Tactical Comm System
- Determine if there is a viable tracking system, such as APRS, without requiring a cost to members to upgrade.

Limits? Of Course!

Cost, of course, is the large and limiting factor. At last check, none of us

has become or knows a generous millionaire to support our radio needs (dreams). What we have now works, but relies on experience, training, imagination, creativity, and of course, LOTS OF LUCK.

Opportunities? You Judge.

Members should have a willingness and/or interest to engaging in the new stuff available. Sharing with others is an unwritten rule in the ham community. Do you share? Our nets and meetings are a golden opportunity to increase our knowledge base. There should be time for "Sea Stories"; stories of past glories and flubs that are our background. The world needs some humor and we all have a few to share. Nobody is perfect! That leaves me with this thought.

Make it so.

While I'm here, let me remind you...

Future Live General Meetings.

When : 6:30 PM, the Third Thursday of September, better known as 9/18/2025. BE THERE and SHARE.

Where: The church at 2650 Melbourne (Serra Mesa area)

So...

73 From me for now.

"Nuf said..."

let's GIT' ER DONE!!! ✈

The following article is a report on hams supporting a bicycle event in Minnesota and gives a good comparison to how Southwestern REACT operates under similar circumstances. REACT team members will notice the differences and similarities between how this event was conducted and how we conduct our events.

Reprinted with permission, August 20, 2025 ARES Newsletter.

Amateur Radio at Minnesota's *Tour of Saints* Bike Event

Erik Westgard, NY9D, ARRL Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for Events, Minnesota Section

In Central Minnesota near St. Cloud, there has been an organized bike event in the area for at least 50 years, supported by amateur radio for much of that time. The event has recently had in the range of 500-1000 riders, and has three routes/courses of 18, 35 and 50 miles. Local businesses, including an orchard and bakery, support the rest stops.

Summer weekends in Minnesota are busy, and the local St. Cloud Radio Club, WOSV, was hinting it was short of operators, and particularly SAG (Supplies, Athletes and Gear) drivers. I have never actually driven a SAG, and it seemed a chance to learn a new skill and return the favor to many out-of-state clubs and hams who drive in to support out big urban marathons.

One of the strengths of amateur radio at events is our ability to organize directed nets. These can solve many problems and predate the Incident Command System, but are the same underlying idea. Somebody takes over as Net Control and it does not matter who they are or where they are from. This system again worked perfectly here.

In the weeks before the event, Chris Schultz, KCØYFX, was helping to organize volunteers. We work together on nine days of annual MS Society bike events, and he knew it all. The ICS-205 revealed we had good radio coverage (two VHF repeaters and a simplex channel) and reportedly we would be driving rented large crew cab pickup trucks. (For the MS events, we prefer passenger vans with trailers for bikes. These are becoming rare, though, as trailer towing with rented vehicles is not always allowed).

Schultz is also an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Events in Minnesota (such as in the City of St. Paul) are often required to have formal medical, crisis and weather plans. Bits of first aid training can be helpful in the operations/safety role that we often have. Shortages of medical volunteers are ongoing. The idea is the event provides basic support and you call 911 for more serious problems.

I packed my first aid bag; several were provided by the club. I grabbed a pair of waterproof Baofeng handheld

radios, speaker mics and a magnet mount antenna. These radios have impressive battery life and USB-C charging capability and cost \$20 if lost. The idea was that setup would take a mere five minutes.

The night before the event, we were asked to bring coolers for ice and water and were informed there was no 12V lighter socket in the newer GMC trucks. Instead, there is a 115V AC outlet and USB A and C sockets in the center console.

One helpful hint regarding SAG operations: use street addresses. The 911 system uses these as well. I conducted beacon-to-APRS® using APRSDroid and the Internet/TCP function.

Chris and I were assigned to the Cold Spring rest stop, which was hard to get to due to road construction and we had to drive the course a bit. Riders tended to ride abreast and we spent a lot of time in the oncoming traffic lane which was nerve-wracking.

Our rest stop had a donut truck, and the local ham and bike mechanic had a canopy but no spare chairs. We had perfect weather and luck. There were few, if any, injuries or wrecks. As this stop closed down, we were asked to retrace the route, look for/assist stragglers, and pick up the signs. The Baofeng radio was disappointing: the squelch was hard, even set at 1. I prefer a softer squelch that lets you catch more of the radio traffic in weak signal areas. But old radios are unhappy without a supply of 12V.

Lessons Learned

1. Radio-on-a-chip equipment is a "no" after this event.
2. Magnetic-mount antennas are fine and quick to set up. Bring a 5/8 wave whip over a quarter wave antenna.
3. Races and events are using the Ride with GPS app/website more. But it was complicated to use.
4. Driving is a full-time role, so a navigator in the right seat is still a critical requirement.
5. Bring lunch for a seven-hour shift, along with a box of medical gloves.
6. I like street addresses, numbered mile markers,

and named rest stops. The common natural conflict between numbered rest stops and mile markers (rest stop one at mile five) is not a best practice.

7. The event used wrist bands versus numbered bibs. It was difficult to tell easily from a distance who was a participant versus a random

rider out for a ride; to ensure the correct person was picked up; and for logging.

8. Magnetic signs and flashing yellow lights are a good reminder to motorists there is a bike race underway. ⚡

Southwestern REACT Board Meeting August 7, 2025

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

Call to Order: 1844 hrs.

Special Motions: John Wright was designated as a Life Member #623 for REACT International. He received a plaque and a membership card.

Visitors: Jim Patterson, Heather Wright.

Minutes: Minutes of Last General Meeting: Published in REACTer. No changes. M/S/C.

Correspondence: Roger/June

1. REACT International sent the plaque and special ID card for John Wright.

Treasurer's Report: June

1. Balance as of June 30, 2025: \$3256.59. No income.
Ending Balance as of July 31, 2025: \$ 3,026.70

Secretary's Report: June.

1. Nothing to report.

REACTer Editor: John, VP.

1. REACTer published and emailed out. Printed copy mailed to Wayne.

Website Manager: Per

1. Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business:

1. APRS - John to consult with Larry and develop a presentation for a general meeting on phone APRS apps for potential events in the future to track team members.
2. Official Briefing Form - Two versions are available and both will be uploaded to the website by Per. Event coordinators will have the option of using either one.
3. Policy Review of Event Reports and Publication - Will table until the next Board meeting due to limited time this evening.
4. Event "Sponsor" Expectations: Pre-event letter reviewed and approved. There will be a pre-event conference to set expectations of what REACT will be expected to do during the event.
 - a. Traffic control - Training on traffic control was discussed though some members may not feel comfortable in that role. John motioned to check in with John Capodanno to see if it is covered by our insurance. Seconded by Mike. May wish to explore insurance options with Koz and other sponsoring organizations. Mike to reach out to Koz and FITT sponsors. M/S/C.
5. P.O. Box change. Mike authorized the use of his personal P.O. Box. The new address will be:
P.O. Box 19989
San Diego, CA 92159-0989

New Business:

1. Presentation to Palomar Amateur Radio Club on September 3rd in Carlsbad. Purpose is to familiarize PARC with REACT. Will use prior PowerPoint presentation that had been developed years ago for the ARRL Convention. John Wright volunteered to present along with Mike Bailey.
2. REACT Logo request to be put on event T-shirts. There is historical precedent according to Roger with the thunder boat races. Mike volunteered to check with Koz to see feasibility.
3. Changes to COMMS Frequency Plan - Per proposed several changes and formatted the chart to enhance readability. He added an additional 3 frequencies to allow for cross band repeat functions. The board had no objections to this change and it will be posted on the website. The changes and functionality will be assessed after the next FITT exercise in September.
4. John presented test questions from the FCC Amateur exam pool to be used for Challenge portion of the general meeting.
5. Motion by Per to cancel the General Meeting in August. Mike seconded. M/S/C. This will be announced on the net.

Training Moment:

1. John has offered to talk about vacuum-tube electronics at an upcoming General meeting.

Upcoming Events:

1. Calendar of upcoming events was reviewed.

Meeting Adjourned: 1955 hrs.

Southwestern REACT General Meeting August 21, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 1838 hrs.

Comms Challenge: None

Event Prep and Discussion: Discussion of 9/14/2025 San Diego Triathlon Classic (Bike Ride only). Per Martin briefed the members present that it is the bike ride portion of the Triathlon. Time is 6:15 am to 9:45 am. Members present that are available to work it are: Roger, June, George R., Larry, Richard, Per. Per requested that each member brings a whistle. Channel for event will be Channel 9. Talk in will be channel 1. Briefing sharing with other radio related things will be sent out as event gets closer.

Training Moment None

Quorum check Members Present: Roger #98, John, #42, June #54, Per #53, Dan W.#61, Larry # 84, Carl # 67, Marilyn #68, George R. #81, Richard #57 **Quorum Present.**

Questions/Approval of Submitted Reports

Treasurer's Report: (June #54) Report was sent out with the meeting agenda. Stating balance as of June 30, 2025 was \$3,256.59; no deposits were made; 3 payments were made for a total of \$229.89; the ending balance as of July 31st is \$3,026.70

Secretary's Report: (Mike #92) Minutes of the July 17th General meeting was moved to accept by Carl #67; seconded by June #54 Minutes were accepted as published.

REACTer Editor: (John #42) Need articles for the next REACTer.

Webmaster: (Per #53) no Report.

AAR: None

Questions/Comments addressed to board: Question regarding dept. of Justice check for \$50.00, June #54 explained in was Registry of Charities (State of CA registration)
Next meeting will be Sept. 18th in person. Bring a snack for break.

New Life Member of International React: John (#42) was been approved as **life member #623**

SW React-new PO Box effective now; PO Box 19989, San Diego CA 92159-0989. The current box will be in use until December 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 19:18 hrs.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

June McCollough #54
Acting Secretary

