



Southwestern REACTer



MAY 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

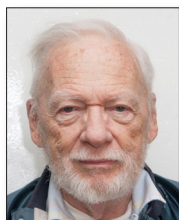
The Southwestern REACT board meeting is held the first Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Friars Road Denny's Restaurant. Any member is welcome to attend. Contact us for the address.

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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You Don't Know What You Don't Know

Roger McCollough, SWR 098, President

They Got It Off The Internet: It Can't Be Wrong

Prologue

We're in the communication business. But that only works if and when we communicate information is proven valid, not from rumor or judgement not based on actual facts. This also holds true in our personal thinking and response. That brings us to the observation that "You don't know what you think you know". I'll give you an example or two.

But first let's examine some other's thoughts on the subject.

Well-known philosophical take on this idea comes from Confucius, who said: "*To know what you know and what you do not know, that is true knowledge.*"

Another version comes from Nicolaus Copernicus: "*To know that we know what we know, and to know that we do not know what we do not know, that is true knowledge.*"

And of course, Socrates famously declared: "*All I know is that I know nothing.*"

Our Situation and Duty.

Recently I received a note, from a friend, about a study given to him and a group of his friends that asked about a certain capability. The friend, not knowing the reason for the study, assumed, wrongly, that it was leading him to be required to upgrade, so that he could then respond with a "Yes" to meet, what he believed to be, the required higher level of capability. But because he had heard in the past of a special response training for those interested, he would have to take the time and cost (if any) to remain active. He, like some others fell into the trap of "They didn't know what they didn't know". That's living in today's world of misinformation.

Some Guidelines: Of Course!

In the world of field operations that we operate in, it's difficult to "Fact-check" each time we key our mic. One judgement you might use is that it is not your job to correct others errors. By making clear who your information source is. Was it spoken, a written note, or a complete traceable written message (which you should retain a copy)? When in doubt; you should VERIFY. That is what your radio is for!

Have you reviewed the latest Southwest REACT Training Manual? We have the latest and greatest version updated by the REACTOR Editor, and available FREE, upon request.

Opportunities? You Judge.

I have said this before, but it is worth repeating: PRACTICE! Join in other nets; especially ours. Find a favorite repeater group to "keep loose" on your off-the-cuff speaking, good, polite and friendly operation. Take advantage of other events that you can participate in to learn and share skills, and... That is just a start. With your handheld, you can do this in any free opportunity, even if only for a few minutes. Every little bit helps, to make you be current and comfortable. You may even help a new ham over the fear of sounding "new". That was you once.

Make it so.

"Nuf said..."

LET'S GIT' ER DONE!!! ✈

From The Webmaster

Per Martin, SWR 053, Webmaster

Greeting from your SWREACT.COM webmaster! Part of my job is to provide any SWR reference information on the web site so that you can get it when you need it. As you probably know, we have the communications plan (frequencies, PL tones, channel numbers) on the web site, as well as our meeting dates/times, and event descriptions. Have you tried the little GREEN buttons on the event description pages? These launch a draft email for you to let us know you want to help with that particular event.

At the beginning of the year, I sent out a survey asking you to look at all of the events in 2025 and tell us which of those you might help with. I hoped this would be slightly easier than going through the event pages on the website and pressing the GREEN buttons. We are using your responses to that survey combined with the GREEN button emails to prepare a list of members for each event and passing that to our Team Coordinator (TC) for the Event. The one thing I find myself wondering is, did I tell anybody (via the survey, green button, or direct conversation with Team Coordinator)

that I would or would not help with the event? Perhaps sending a list to all of our members (in the week prior) showing who said yes might help remind us to let the TC know. We have no automation for this, but I am curious whether it would help you.

And finally, we have a variety of radios in the group. I try to bring my radio programming instructions with me to each event, just in case (JIC). For quick reference, it might be good to post a little guide on our website for each radio. To that end, please feel free to send me a list of your event-ready radios and model numbers. I will do some research (and perhaps some rewriting) to create a short guide for programming your radio. Of course, you will need to conduct your own independent scientific evaluation to see if the short guide is sufficient when viewed through the tiny screen of your cell phone or when printed/laminated and included in your radio kit. ✈

Southwestern REACT Board Meeting, April 3, 2025

June McCollough, SWR 054, Acting Secretary

Call to order at 1847 hrs.

Present: Roger McCollough, Per Martin, John Wright, June McCollough. Quorum met.

Visitors/General Members: Heather Wright.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the last Board and General Meeting are in the REACTer and on the Website. Last Board Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Correspondence List: Email request to John Capadonna for Certificate of Insurance for next 4 events.

Treasurer's Report: June reported Balance as of March 31st was \$3,706.43

REACTer Editor: REACTer out on 4/3/25. .

Webmaster Report: No changes made this month

Unfinished Business:

Distribution of the 2025 ID Cards: June still has 8 ID cards to distribute

Renewal of Team "Club" License: John has paperwork ready to mail in with change of trustee.

Tracking Method: No discussion has yet taken place with John Capadonna.

Need Coordinators – Larry #084 will be coordinating Granfondo on 04/05/25; will use help from Mike and George. North Park Toyland Parade 12/06/25 still working on it; we are waiting for an event request

New Business:

Audit Committee: Committee met and approved the financial review. We will get approval at the General meeting on April 07th.

Team Inventory: June will resent the list to the board to revise list with current Go-Kit and discuss what we do not have a use for and see if we can list on ARES Group IO and to team members.

Report of Completion of Training Period: Richard Miller, new member, SWR057T. Richard attended the last general meeting; FITT and checked in on the net.

Training Moment next in person General Meeting June 2025
John Wright will present the Go Box as the next training moment.
Per will also discuss the cross band repeater.

Completed Events:

None

Upcoming Events:

Campagnolo San Diego Gran Fondo 4/6/25 Larry #084 will coordinate it.

See SWReact.com for rest of upcoming events.

Good of the TEAM:

Discussion of reimbursing Rovers for gas for the two big bike rides we do each year. Board feels the team finances can't afford to as we have no source of income.

Discussion about how we can get team members to be more involved with meeting, events and nets. What we discussed was contacting members and see why they are not participating in things. Ways we can recruit new hams to participate with us and maybe join SW REACT.

What can we do to make the General Meeting more interesting to the members?

What can we do to reduce the cost to join SW REACT?

Ways we can contact and get new hams interested in SW REACT.

Meeting adjourned at 2022 hrs. ✍

Southwestern REACT General Meeting, April 17, 2025

Michael Bailey, SWR, Secretary

Call to order at 1845 hrs.

Present: Roger McCollough, Per Martin, June McCollough, George Reeves, Larry Bierma, Don Dodson, Walter Wallenborn, John Wright, Mike Bailey and Travis Collead. Quorum met.

Visitors/Special Motions: None

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the last General Meeting are on the Website. General meeting minutes from the last two meetings were accepted and approved by a vote of the membership.

Correspondence List: No USPS mail sent or received. Emails for the COI's for impending events to and from John Capodanno and the ARRL for renewal of the Team's station license, KK6SLE.

Treasurer's Report: Ending balance as of February 28th was \$3,706.43, no banking activity for March so the March 31, 2025 balance was \$3706.43.

REACTer Editor: No Report, REACTer is out.

Webmaster Report: No changes in the Website.

Unfinished Business:

1. Distribution of the 2025 ID Cards: June still has 7 ID Cards to get to members. She will deliver them for those attending the Lakeside Western Days parade.
2. Renewal of Team "Club" License: Still Pending. Mike updated the membership with his interactions with the FCC and the ARRL's Club Station Call Sign Administrator. The application was withdrawn and resubmitted to ensure that an additional 10 days was made available to process payment. Mike will continue to work with the ARRL to ensure payment and resolution.
3. Need Coordinators/Co-coordinators: Larry Bierma stepped up to help with the Gran Fondo and ended up being coordinator. Per volunteered to take the Silver Strand Half-Marathon as Mike will be doing FITT. Per also agreed to take on the Triathlon Classic. Mike to coordinate the Giro de San Diego. George will head up the San Diego International Triathlon. SW REACT does not have an event request for the North Park Toyland Parade but Wayne continues to attend the organizational meetings.
4. Team Inventory: June sent the list to the membership. This issue will be referred back to the Board for resolution. June has asked John to list the components used in the GoBox construction to complete the inventory.

5. As there is no further information about a tracking program for use during events from John Capodanno, this item will be dropped but may be revisited when information comes in.

New Business:

1. Audit Committee: Committee met on February 22, 2025 and approved the financial review of the Team's finances. December balance was confirmed and income/expenses were reviewed. The December 31, 2024 balance was verified as \$3671.43. In addition to June, Tyler, George, and Roger were present to review the documentation and approve the Audit Report. Motion to accept, seconded and voted approved.
2. Report of Training Period: Richard Miller, new member, SWR057T. Richard started his probation period at the Feb. General Meeting. He comes up for full membership approval in May. He worked FITT, worked the hospital drill today with SOBAR, and checked into the SW REACT net last week. Mike to call him to see if he has any questions about the training manual or the policies/ procedures.
3. Format for the General Meeting was discussed for potential improvements and efficiencies. It will be further addressed at the next Board Meeting.

Training Moment

1. John Wright will present the Go Box along with Per's "The Art of Cross-banding" at the June 19, 2025 General Meeting.
2. Consider changing the name of this segment and the timing within the meeting to improve attendance and/or interest.

Completed Events:

1. San Diego Gran Fondo was deemed a success and the membership thanked Larry Bierma for his leadership and for the After Action Report.

Upcoming Events:

1. Lakeside Western Days Parade is scheduled for 4/26/25. Daniel Willan will be coordinating it. He has asked for those requesting a specific route assignment to contact him.

Meeting adjourned at 1943 hrs. ✈

After Action Report Summary, San Diego Granfondo

4/6/2025

Larry Bierma, SWR 084

Observations:

Overall a successful event. All stations manned with multiple React units and friends of React. 430 Gran Fondo (100mi) riders, 398 Medio (60mi) and 252 Piccolo (35mi) riders.

Notable Occurrences:

Normal event contact (Jennifer) was not present. Team worked well with Kiana and Tobias.

What Didn't work:

There were issues with the rovers, and picking up riders between rest stops. If transporting need to tell Net Control where picking up, bib# & color and where dropping off. Some riders were making unacceptable demands about where to be dropped off (locations other than the rest stops).

Given the different courses (Gran, Medio, Piccolo), there was some confusion when reporting a rider in need of assistance. "Six miles past the second rest stop" is very different depending on which course the rider is on.

There was no clear understanding of where mechanics were available. In some cases there were rest stop volunteers that brought tools, but were not "official" mechanics.

Some riders requested Sag Wagon pickup, but then wandered off, delaying the Sag Wagon.

The pre-event briefing failed to request that periodic announcements be made of the use of the repeater. Additionally

the briefing did not give specific Tactical names for the stations. There was a mix of “rest stop #” and “water stop #”. Fortunately there was no confusion this time due to the stop #'s being consistent.

Work-arounds, Solutions:

Need to work on better coordination with Event staff regarding Sag Wagons and Mechanics.

Being able to track the Sag Wagons would be a great advantage. Mention made of placing a Team member in each Sag Wagon and/or using APRS. Event sponsors may need to provide additional SAG Wagons.

Need to emphasize the need to report bib numbers and color whenever reporting a rider status or making a request for the rider (pickup of mechanical assistance).

What worked Well:

Good communications with all stations. The new Go-Kit worked well and was easier to handle.

Suggestions for next time:

One thing to remember is always clear each communication with your call sign. Also, operators should always ask Net Control to contact stations directly. This keeps the net more organized and operating efficiently.

There needs to be a team discussion on what role the rovers take on. Are we there to assist repairs, transportation. Maybe something we should put on the agenda for one of the Team meetings.



Southwestern REACT operators June McCollough, George Reeves and Roger McCollough in the Start-Finish tent at the San Diego GranFondo, April 6, 2025.

Photo Courtesy KOZ Events.