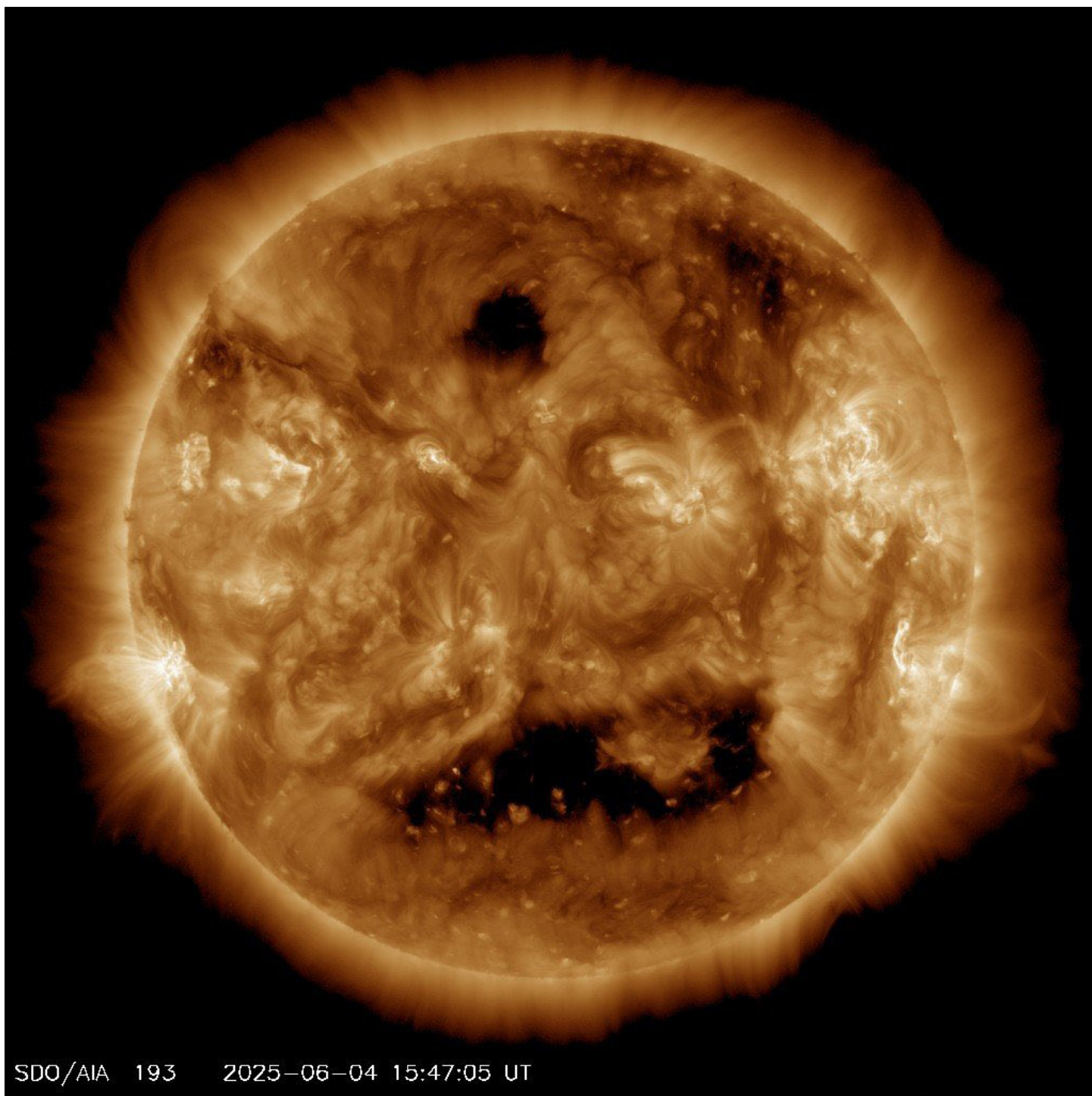




Southwestern REACTer



JUNE 2025



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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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Banding Together

Per Martin, SWR 053

Southwestern REACT got started (1966) a few years before the heyday of CB Radio (11m, 27 MHz). There was a need for emergency communications that was not being satisfied by phone booths, no matter how many Superman's were around. The transportation department added emergency call boxes (wired in 1962, two-way radio in 1970) along the freeways in Southern California, giving much better access to anyone with wheels.

Mobile telephones came along (1983), but they were large, expensive and heavy (The Brick), and not widely adopted. By 1989 these cellular phones were light, much smaller, and much more useful. But the network of cell towers had somewhat spotty coverage. In 1994, members of Southwestern REACT were sent up to assist with (CB radio) communications during recovery from the 6.7 magnitude Northridge earthquake. As cell tower coverage improved, the always-present SW REACT team on CB Radio channel 9 was no longer needed.

The mission changed. Instead of 24x7 coverage, the group shifted focus to supporting community events where radio communications might be needed. Radio had the advantage of sending messages to the entire team and did not require individual phone calls to each person. Amateur Radio UHF/VHF was the perfect tool, except for a pesky requirement to learn Morse Code and pass a knowledge test. When Morse Code was removed from the requirements in 2008, it became a bit easier to obtain a ham radio license. It is still a good idea to learn Morse Code, but sw REACT team members do not use it in accomplishing their mission.

With the melding of the Internet with

cell phone smart computers, many more communications modes are available. Why not just switch to text messaging or an app such as ZELLO or SIGNAL? This would certainly accomplish the one-to-many messaging that is needed by a team in the field. During the widespread electrical blackout in San Diego, we discovered the hidden limitation, cell towers without power. The transition to cell phones has likely reduced our ability to communicate in a widespread disaster. Cell phone calls direct to satellite may help, but who are you going to call? GB? CQ?

Thus, we come to the heart of the matter. It is not just sufficient to practice good communications and radio discipline. Ultimately, we should consider what resources would we need in a disaster, and how we can band together with others for our mutual benefit. We cannot expect our government to have a ready supply of groceries and home repair items. Earthquakes and wildfires are a good reminder to be prepared. But from a mutual support perspective, the use of radio for communications is critical. The regular ham radio field events, running on batteries and alternate power sources, help us maintain proficiency and check equipment. Likewise, providing radio support for other community events forces us to practice good communications, both in clarity and prioritization.

Thank you to everyone who has made it a priority to equip themselves and practice short- and long-range radio communications. You are our mutual support backbone. We need you. ✈

Southwestern REACT Board Meeting, May 1, 2025

Michael Bailey, SWR 0902, Secretary

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

Call to Order: 1843 hrs.

Special Motions: Jim Patterson was made a special advisor to the Board for this meeting only via motion by Per and second by John.

Visitors: Jim Patterson.

Minutes: Minutes of Last General Meeting: Published. No changes, moved by June, seconded by Per. Approved by majority vote.

Correspondence Received: Roger/June

Domain Name Service, company wishing to renew domain name. Advertisement.

W5YI Licensing Services. Advertisement

Correspondence Sent: None.

Emails Received and Sent: 2 mails received reference Richard Westray's passing and obituary. Emails acknowledged.

Treasurer's Report: June

Balance as of March 31, 2025: \$3706.43

Ending Balance as of : \$3,276.58

Secretary's Report: Mike

Nothing to report.

REACTer Editor: John, VP.

Soliciting input.

Website Manager: Per

Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business:

3 ID cards awaiting distribution: McKenzie, Bob Taylor and Walter Wallenborn. June will continue to arrange for delivery.

Renewal of Team "Club License" has been completed. John to print out and add to Go-Kit.

Coordinators/Co-coordinators: All remaining events have assigned coordinators.

New Business:

Recommendation for full membership: Richard Miller SWR #57T. John motioned, Per seconded. Unanimous recommendation for full membership to the membership to vote on at the next general meeting.

APRS Tracking for Events: John Capodonna had recommended Zello Work for tracking team members during events. John Wright investigated and noted it requires cellular coverage which is not present in all locations for our events as well as a monthly charge per user. John W. recommends APRS and submitted a written proposal to the Board. The APRS technology uses a digipeater/i-Gate. This will have to be tested for our upcoming events such as the Giro de San Diego to see if coverage for the course is available. John recommends consulting with Michael Bradbury, N2DDS, to see if this is feasible. Will continue to explore this technology.

General Meeting format. John recommends training moment to be ahead of the business portion of the meeting. Roger suggests a new itinerary be developed. Per recommended having discussions with event coordinators during the meetings including review of prior After Action Reports. Per also recommended a "Comms Challenge" to encourage ability to develop work-arounds for hypothetical challenges in the field. He also suggested exercises to succinctly summarize communications. Team sharing of ham radio experiences outside of REACT. Recommendations for Zoom meetings to be done in an hour or less.

June presented an inventory List of remaining items. The new Go-Kit items will be added. The purpose is to review the list for what is useful and what can be disposed of.

A tripod bag was purchased by June for the Go-Kit. This will be added to the list of items as part of the Go-Kit. John also acquired ID tags for the items used as part of the Go-Kit.

The Board entered a closed session from 1952 to 2031hrs.

Training Moment:

Two topics for the next in person meeting “Go-Box Demo” and The Art of Crossbanding. To be presented together at the next General Meeting.

Upcoming Events:

Giro di San Diego on June 7th coordinated by Mike Bailey.

San Diego International Triathlon on June 22nd coordinated by George Reeves.

Meeting Adjourned: 2044 hrs. ⚡

Southwestern REACT General Meeting, May 15, 2025

June McCollough, SWR 054

Call to order at 1845 hrs.

Present: Roger McCollough, Per Martin, June McCollough, Larry Bierma, and Richard Miller Quorum met.

Visitors/General Members:

Secretary’s Report: Minutes of the last General Meeting are in the REACTer. Last Board Meeting minutes were just sent to the Board for review and edits.

Correspondence List:

Treasurer’s Report: Ending balance as of April 30 is \$3,756.43.

REACTer Editor: No Report REACTer out.

Webmaster Report: Per – Website is up to date

Unfinished Business:

Distribution of the 2025 ID Cards: June Still has 8 ID Cards to get to members.

Renewal of Team “Club” License: Still Pending.

Tracking Method: Still in progress.

SD Granfondo need a Coordinator for in 4/6/25 – Larry Bierma stepped up to help with the event.

New Business:

Audit Committee: Committee met and approved the financial review. The report generated by June will be submitted at the next Board meeting.

Team Inventory: June sent the list to the membership. No decision made

Report of Training Period: Richard Miller, new member, SWR057T. Richard started probation period at Feb. General Meeting.

Team feedback on Psychological First Aid – Team members present agreed that it was good and helpful on how to approach the issue.

Training Moment: Training moment was on hold as not a good attendance.

John Wright will present the Go Box as the next training moment.

Per will also discuss the cross band repeater.

Completed Events:

FITT (Fiesta Island Time Trials) – The event went well outside of the cross band repeater going down for a short period.

Touch a Truck – Thank you email was received from Lakeside Chamber for our help. Need to work on better understanding of our mission at this event. New location worked well, easier to control entrance of guests.

Upcoming Events:

FITT 3/30/25 Sign up to help Tyler Klein to coordinate it.

A coordinator is needed for the Campagnolo San Diego Gran Fondo that occurs 4/06/25.

Lakeside Parade 4/26/25 Daniel Willan will be coordinating it.

Meeting adjourned at 2040 hrs. ✈

For The Good Of The Team, Three Items...

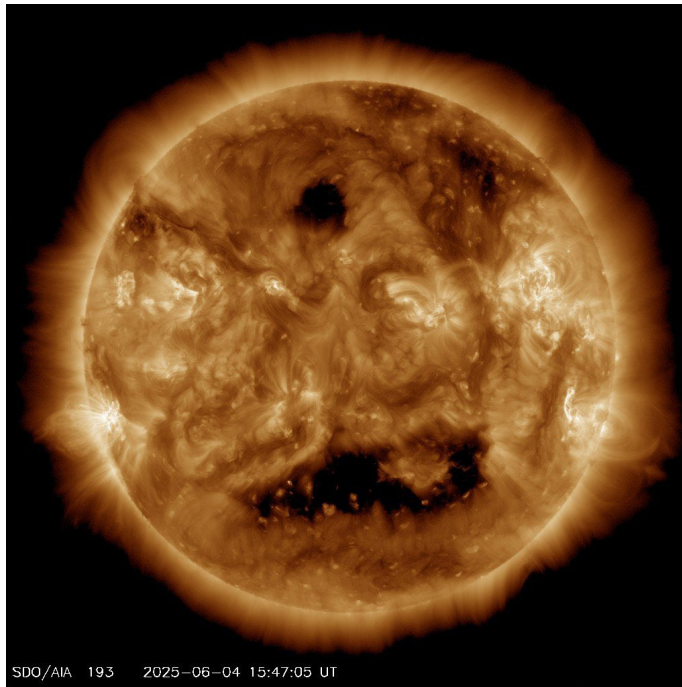
Per Martin, SWR 053

1. Hopefully this news will be welcome. Radical changes are underway. The traditional SWR meeting format has been tossed out the window. How is this possible? What kind of madness is this? Yes, we are revamping the meetings to be fun, educational, and allow event coordinators to lead discussions about upcoming events. Any official business will be conducted very briefly at the end of the meeting. Please join us on June 19 (third Thursday) at 6:30pm to witness our new General Meeting format. The orderly Rules of Robert might not bother to make an appearance.
2. Based on recent experience, the SWR Board welcomes the use of ZOOM meetings to brief team members a few days before an event. This eliminates the need to gather in one place for events that have time-staggered shifts or widely dispersed locations. For events that are not widely dispersed or have common start times (FITT, parades, triathlons), we will likely continue to have a final briefing at the event prior to start (instead of ZOOM).
3. The event briefing documents will no longer be limited to the one page format that we have been using. A multi-page word template has been created as a guide for future briefing documents. It will be up to the coordinator to choose the format that is most appropriate for that event. ✈

| Upcoming Events 2025 | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Event | Date | Status | Coordinator |
| Fiesta Island Time Trials | 02/23/2025 (Sun) | Completed | TYLER 050 |
| Touch-A-Truck | 03/02/2025 (Sun) | Completed | GEORGE, 081 |
| SWR QUARTERLY IN-PERSON MEETING | 03/20/2025 (THUR) | COMPLETED | N/A |
| Fiesta Island Time Trials | 03/30/2025 (Sun) | Completed | TYLER 050 |
| Campagnolo San Diego Gran Fondo | 04/06/2025 (Sun) | Completed | LARRY, |
| Lakeside Western Days Parade | 04/26/2025 (Sat) | Completed | DAN, 061 |
| Giro De San Diego | 06/07/2025 (Sat) | Completed | MICHAEL, 092 |
| SWR QUARTERLY IN-PERSON MEETING | 06/19/2025 (THUR) | SCHEDULED | N/A |
| San Diego International Triathlon | 06/22/2025 (Sun) | Approved | GEORGE, 082 |
| San Diego Triathlon Classic | 09/13/2025 (Sat) | Approved | TBA |
| SWR QUARTERLY IN-PERSON MEETING | 09/18/2025 (THUR) | SCHEDULED | N/A |
| Fiesta Island Time Trials | 09/28/2025 (Sun) | Approved | MICHAEL, 092 |
| Silver Strand Half Marathon | 11/09/2025 (Sun) | Approved | PER. 053 |
| Fiesta Island Time Trials | 11/09/2025 (Sun) | Approved | MICHAEL, 092 |
| SWR QUARTERLY IN-PERSON MEETING | 12/18/2025 (THUR) | SCHEDULED | N/A |

EVENT NOTES:

1. The proposed return of the Toyland Parade in North Park has been cancelled.
2. The Silver Strand Half Marathon and the last Fiesta Island Time Trials both occur on the same date, creating a scheduling conflict.
3. The Southwestern REACT quarterly in-person meetings have been added to this list . Please note and put them on your calendar.



COVER PHOTO: Poor communications lately? Propagation gone away? The Sun hasn't been feeling well lately...
Photo: NASA

The Sound of Static

(To the "Sound of Silence" of course...)

Hello static my old friend
I've come to listen to you again.
Because a signal softly creeping
Left an echo of some code beeping
And the signal that had echoed in my brain
Still remains
Within the sound of static

In a darkened room I sat alone
With narrow filters on my 'phones
By the warmth of my kW amp
Turned down the RF as the signal ramped
When my ears were stabbed by the crash of a lightning strike
That split the night
And touched the sound of static

And in the pileup there I saw
Two hundred people maybe more
People talking without speaking
People listening to the code beeping
People sending songs that voices never shared
And we all dared
Disturb the sound of static...

(Author Unknown)