



May 2019

Public Service on Two Wheels

Dedicated to providing service to the community while combining the two hobbies of motorcycling and amateur radio

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From the President's Desk

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Tour de Cure, San Diego. The morning started off very cool but was quite pleasant by the end of the day. MARC was provided with a nice area to set up net control, very close to our location from last year. The ADA staff provided MARC with several boxes of SAG gear and water bottles for the SAGs and motors. Alvin, KD6UZM, Mijo, KF6BEB and I made the trip to North San Diego County on Friday afternoon/evening where we spent the night so net control could be set up and on the air at the early start time of the 100 mile ride. The three of us had a very enjoyable dinner at a Korean BBQ/Sushi restaurant near the motel.

I hope you can join me for the MARC net on Wednesday 8 May at 1930 hrs. I will be on the N6USO repeater, 145.440-PL 136.5. (This repeater is also available on Micro Node 9663.) and is linked to both the Sunset Ridge, 449.880 – PL 146.2 and the Santa Anna Ridge 445.480 - PL 131.8 repeaters. Our MARC meeting for May will be on Saturday the 11th, at the Marie Callender's restaurant in Anaheim just a few blocks east of the 55 freeway on Katella. At this meeting, we



will review the Tour de OC from the 27th of April.

Jeff, KB6SUP, the new newsletter editor has called for articles to be submitted a few days earlier than Bonnie, KD6OFQ, did. Jeff is involved in several other clubs and has other interests therefore he needs a few extra days to publish this newsletter. Let's all pitch in and help.

Now, a bit ahead of the fact, I thank everyone who worked the Tour de OC. Scott, K6IXQ, does a lot of work coordinating this event for MARC but he is also the organizer for the entire tour. Thanks Scott.

The past two weeks I have been dealing with vertigo and arthritis in my

(Cont. Pg-3)

Monthly Net

First Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. All frequencies linked.

145.440 PI 136.5 Sunset Ridge
449.880 PL146.2 Sunset Ridge
445.480 PL 131.8 Santa Anita Rdg
IRLP Node 9663

Monthly Meeting

Second Saturday of the month at 8:00 am

Marie Callender's
307 E. Katella Avenue
Orange, CA

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Bluetooth and Ham Radio

I've been playing around with Bluetooth and Ham Radio for some time. For two reasons – if it works, it's sure a lot easier than running a bunch of wires all over the place. And secondly, more recently, I've been looking for way to hear better when I'm working the radio. Like some of us, my hearing has been in steady decline since my days flying helicopters and riding motorcycles. So, working events, whether on a bike, car, foot or net control, I need to find a way to hear better if I'm going to continue this hobby.

My first experience was several years ago when I bought a used Yaesu FTM-10 from a past member (Andy, W6AJB and his wife Pat, KI6ETG). Pat had mounted the radio on her bike, but apparently had problems opening a repeater once the RPM got above about 1000. I mounted the radio on my 2007 HD Heritage Softail and it worked like a champ. At that time it was an entirely wired solution – but a simple one. Just one set of wires from the radio to my helmet – with a PTT mounted on the handlebar (a trick in its own right on that bike.). While this was setup I played with Bluetooth a bit and got it to work, but wasn't confident it was reliable. (More on that in a bit.)

Ultimately I got a Yaesu FTM-350 (predecessor to the current FTM-400). I have mounted that on several vehicles including the current 2009 HD Heritage Softail, a 2007 Goldwing, a Toyota Sequoia and an RV. While I had it mounted on the Wing and the 2009 HD (both hard wired) – I found I had good luck pairing the radio with my Sena Headset (SMH10 at the time). Eventually I've used the 350 paired with the Sena on a couple of our events with excellent luck.

More recently, I mounted the FTM-10 on the current 2009 HD (I'm reluctant to put the 350 – read "expensive" – on the Harley for any length of time – but it has worked well, so far.). I've worked a couple of events and done a couple of rides with Mark, KE6ZRP (Zippy) and found that it loses the BT connection frequently. Don't know why that is – and certainly not a problem with the 350.

So, going forward, I will revert to using the 350 on MARC events or anytime I need reliable comms on the bike.

Now, beyond basic BT connections between the radio and the Sena headset, I still want to find a way to use BT for other operations when I'm not on the bike. So I started rooting around and found that Pryme makes BT adapters for various radios. Basically you plug their adapter into your radio (primarily HT's) and you

(Bluetooth - cont'd page 6)

EVENT CALENDAR

| | |
|------------------|--|
| May 8 - 7:30 pm | Monthly MARC Net |
| May 11 - 8:00 am | Monthly MARC Meeting Anniversary Photos - Wear Your MARC regalia |
| June 5 - 7:30 pm | Monthly MARC Net |
| June 8 - 8:00 am | Monthly MARC Meeting |

Interested in Joining Us?

If you live in the Southern California area, you are invited to join us at our monthly meeting, usually held on the second Saturday of the month at Marie Callender's, 307 E. Katella Avenue.. Meeting and breakfast begin at 8:00 am.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Our meeting was attended by 11 members. Must be the time of year for conflicting other events! The net draw winner was John E. KC6ZOZ
The door prize winner was Kim F. KI6MRQ
The single pot winner was Bill D. K6WBD
We have 62 members [primary plus family] who have paid through 2019 and beyond, down a significant number than in years past. Remember, as has been done before, any renewals from 1 April on, the dues equal the number of months left in the calendar year. If you have not yet renewed, there is still time! Feel free to send any questions to me at Ginger White [email kre8vme@yahoo.com].

May 2019 will be our anniversary meeting, to be held on 11 May at the Marie Callender's Restaurant 307 E. Katella Ave. in Orange. Breakfast at 8AM, meeting at 9AM. Hope to see everyone there! John R. W5JFR will be leading us, and may have a special anniversary prize!

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,

Ginger White
Secretary/Membership

San Diego Tour de Cure Finishes First

I would like to thank everyone who helped out with the event. It was a very uneventful day which makes for a good event. No major problems.

The ridership was down this year, but the ADA still made almost \$200K they send there thanks to everyone and say they could not do the ride without us. Next year they are going to be at a new venue. They don't know where yet but well keep us posted.

Jim KD6REA - SDTC Coordinator

(Pres. Desk - pg. 1)

left shoulder. Both are being dealt with on my own terms. The vertigo isn't bad during the day unless I lean back too far or try to stand quickly. Then the world starts to spin. At night I wake with the bed spinning. No I wasn't drunk when I went to bed, just feels like it. Just take it easy. The shoulder can be painful at times. I think the weather being hot, cold, then hot and cold again, has a lot to do with the soreness. I haven't let either stop me, just slowed down some. I have been busy in my garden. It is all roto-tilled and fertilized. I have started to return the drip system to water the plants but nothing planted as of yet. I have also managed to remove the carburetor from my 4 wheel ATV and had it rebuilt. Now to return it to the vehicle and see if I can get it running after a three or four year hiatus. The problem there was I let it sit too long with old gas in the tank. With ethanol in this newer gas formula, the tank rusted and some of that got into the system and plugged the jets in the carb. Not to mention the old gas really gummed up the jets. I will have to remember to use Stabil or some other product in the gas to keep it from turning to varnish again.

The May meeting will be our MARC anniversary meeting. I will stop by Comet one day next week and see if Mick will be able to share the cost of a new SBB 7 mobile antenna or something similar as a special prize at our meeting. I would hope others will be generous with offerings for the door prize table and indulge in our 50-50 to make this a memorable anniversary.

Now to finish preparing for the Tour de OC. Mijo's net control box, my extra vests and signs. Oh yes also I need to make sure the motor is prepped and ready.

John F. Reynolds

President MARC

John W5JFR@roadrunner.com

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Visit our Website: www.MARC-HQ.org

Spring Delights

Spring is almost here in the 5 state area region. Minnesota the Dakotas, Iowa and Wisconsin. Yes, Spring does start March 21 but for this area its late April or even May before we see green sprouts of grass coming!

Flood Run is in the middle of April. Started in 1965 when a dozen Motorcycles headed from Minneapolis to Winona, Minnesota to help with sandbagging. 54 years later the road from Prescott to LaCrosse has motorcycles. Each town along this hwy 35 caters to the riders, from cafes to bars are welcoming the dollars signs as well as Spring!

I have signed up with Christian Motorcycle Association. The chapter I am part of is called Rev Riders or Rev Elations. The president of our chapter gave the report that we would be heading to the town of Nelson instead of Maiden Rock... due to Flooding! We had a supper back on Tuesday and the details were given to us.

My friends agreed to ride together to Nelson. Duane asked me when should he show up at my house for the ride south.. I said"9 am". Duane nodded and smiled. The weather we have had this year has been tough... although Winter didn't start snow season until February 4! Some of the Flood Runs are more Snow Flake runs! However this year the sun started heating up the Tundra early!

I knew Duane might show up early to my garage door. So I headed for the nearest gas station and filled the BMW. Then rode back home to wait. spot cleaning the machine and checking the bike's tires. I had noticed that the phone I carry had a message that Duane had called. Called back of course... "Hello? Tim? " Sandy (Duane's wife) answered. "Duane filled the air in the inner tubes on my bicycle! I'm ready for the Flood Run!" She laughed... I KNEW she was teasing. "Yeah, you should be able to Float across the rivers, Sandy!" Silence... "What?" Sandy asks... "I will get Duane, hold on."

"Tim! Bob wants to go with, OK with you?" Duane asked. "Sure, when are you coming over?" I asked. " Well I am working some on Bob's Goldwing, We will be leaving at 8:30." I turned of the phone and stuck it into my pocket, got the rag and cleaned the rims and waited. Duane is a serious rider, Bob on the other hand is a free spirit. go with the flow... usually Duane is waiting for Bob or leaves without Bob... He can strike up a conversation with anyone. Easy going nature...

Rumble of Kawasaki came from the south entrance of the alley. Both riders nodded at me... dark glasses on in this bright Spring day. The engines idled waiting for me to start the BMW. Closed the garage door and down the alley we rolled. Duane would be leading this time. Bob followed and I at the end. We headed north on Hwy 65 to 694. I was looking at Bob's Wing and noticed the license tab for this year is expired! February on the left side and right side was 19... oooh boy.. I have no communication with these guys... Figured we will be stopping soon... then maybe... Riding east on 694, then south on 35E which goes through St. Paul. South on hwy 52 to the lower loop 494 east to old hwy 10/61 south through Cottage Grove. Bright sunshine streamed. We took Old 10 to Prescott, Wisconsin and south on hwy 35, a 2 lane road following the Mississippi.

The River gets wider as we meander the gentle curves and hills of Wisconsin. No buds on the trees yet, meaning seeing the hills and streams. Farm land where there is prairie between the bluffs along the River. Lake Pepin is basically a wide spot in the Mississippi River. Every 5 miles there is an Scenic OverLook/Rest Area... Turn signals blinked right ... and we slowed and stopped... only to see a Wisconsin Sheriff car sitting in the same parking lot! Duane was smiling as he walked up to my motorcycle... "Ahh we have a slight problem, Duane." His eyes widened... I pointed at the back of the Goldwing..."Go and check out the back side of that motorcycle!" Duane shook his head.. "I don't see anything wrong, Tim." I nod... "Look at the license plate." Duane looks... "We aren't leaving this parking lot until AFTER the Police Car Leaves!" Bob pointed to his

(Cont'd pg. 6)

TEAM RUBICON And HAM RADIO

This past December I deployed with Team Rubicon to continue the cleanup and help from Hurricane Michael. (If you haven't seen first hand the destruction a big hurricane can wreak – you can't begin to appreciate it.). Prior to that I was on the phones taking calls from people affected by Harvey and Maria.

For those who are not aware – Team Rubicon is an all-volunteer organization made up of about 2/3 veterans and another 1/3 those who just want to help out. (<https://teamrubiconusa.org>)

Their motto is – Disasters are out Business, Veterans are our Passion. TR started in 2010 when a 7.8 earthquake hit Haiti. 8 veterans basically said – We have skills that can help out and do it quickly. So off they went to Haiti where they put in countless hours helping folks affected by the earthquake. Current numbers amount to almost 90,000 members on the rolls.

In my case, for Harvey and Maria, I answered phones from my house from people in need in the Houston and Florida areas. Trees down, houses flooded, whatever. A hotline was setup and TR, along with other volunteer organizations, took calls and entered their needs into a centralized database. From there, many volunteer organizations could check in and see who they could help. Ultimately TR put hundreds of folks on the ground (and in boats!) in these two areas – helping to muck out flooded home, clear debris, cut down trees that created a hazard or affected homeowners. Whatever was needed. In fact, TR is still in Houston helping with the rebuilding process for those who may not have other means.

This past December I deployed to the Gulf Coast and spent my time mucking out a house (the water line was

about 5 feet up the wall) and doing Damage Assessment – meeting homeowners, evaluating the damage and getting their needs into the system. During my time there we had about 250 folks on the ground doing everything under the sun. And TR has been there constantly since Michael hit back in October.

They are exceptionally well-organized group and I'm constantly impressed with how well everyone gets along, and the job gets done (they're favorite saying is – GSD – Get Shit Done!)

All this brings me to my point – I finally found some folks in the organization who are trying to ramp up the Ham Radio element in Team Rubicon. It's an obvious need given they are frequently on the ground very quickly after a disaster occurs. (Think Katrina and 9/11 – where all other comms were down for lengthy periods.). TR is running Ham Radio licensing classes and on April 20th I'll be helping out with a Workshop discussing protocols, planning, Net Control, tactical calls etc. to new, or prospective hams in TR.

I would encourage anyone who would like to help to check Team Rubicon out. I've been through several training classes with the – both online and in person. Regardless your background or interests, there's probably a place where you can help out.

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Thanks for "listening".
John Beckwith, N6JCB
Jbeckwit47@gmail.com
Westchester, California

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(Spring Delights - pg. 4)

head..."Sometimes I feel there is something expired in here!" he chuckled. "I figured I had better stay behind you for that reason." I said.

20 minutes later the Police Car started and drove north, we headed south and rode the next 45 miles to Nelson, parked the motors across from the booths for CMA and AMA. Walked over and shook hands with fellow CMA riders. Duane and Bob checked out the information on the tables.. we kept watching the stream of motorcycles coming down the hill from the north. Time was around 11 am... "Want to go for a walk, Tim?" I nod. Bob and Duane on a skinny sidewalk.. and me stumbling along on the grass or walking behind these guys. I suggested finding Nelson's Creamery... Walked into the old building that has vines all over the sides... however even the vines haven't grown leaves. I instructed the friends to check out the blackboard for what they wanted for lunch. Then order and pay and they will bring it out for us. Hot Cheesey Chili Soup warmed our bodies. Then walked back to the crowds of people.

Stopped at another tent booth or canopy. Circuit Riders. They were giving out small Bibles and cookies. Talked of weather and all the riders. Walked to the CMA Booth.. I noticed another rider from our small clan had made it. Walked over and talked to John who has an 82 Honda. Asked "When are you going home?" "Well, I am on call for work, my backup is done at 2 pm, so I should start back soon, but I need to find a sandwich!" He headed for the food line, he shows his arm band that is supposed to give him a discount... The ladies smiled while shaking their heads.. he had his sandwich and we found a rocking picnic table... there was a couple sitting across from each other sitting... "Careful, this tables wobbles!" The couple said... "Yeah that is why I am sitting on this side so John can sit down and eat... kind of a ballast!" Milling crowds, all in black leather or dew rags. Me in my Riderwarehouse YELLOW Darien gear.

I wanted to help at the CMA booth but didn't realize that I was supposed to be trained first. hmm... next time. John thought he should head home... and I decided I should ride with him. Duane said, "I want ice cream cone, Bob and I are staying." I nod "Talk at you later, Duane." I hopped on the gray BMW a break in the streams of motorcycles came as I headed left or north. John ahead of me. We had the wind to behind us and a group of Harleys coming up behind us. I moved over to the fog line and smiled as the Rapping engines whine. Further north the less er noise... however the bunches of Motorcycles coming at us! I think 5000 motors.

Stopped for fuel in Prescott... then figured the fuel milage... 55 mpg! I haven't seen that kind of gas saving for a long time.

Arrived home at 4 pm. Temperature was above 80 degrees. Yep, Spring has arrived in the snow belt!

Tim Lindstrom, ab0ts
Columbia Heights, MN
2004 BMW R1150RT 56,400 Miles

(Bluetooth from Page 2)

pair their adapter with "any" Bluetooth headset – specifically ones designed to be used with cell phones etc. – 2 way comms. I put that in quotes because obviously there are going to be exceptions, but so far I've had great luck pairing with Bose Noise Cancelling BT headphones and Beats BT headphones. I find the Bose NC headphones solution particularly attractive because of their ability to knock down "noise" – while still allowing voices to come through. And then to be able to hear the radio right "in" the headphones.

A point of interest here – I also have a pair of Bose "Hearphones". With my inherent hearing limitations (and I've been through 4 – now 5 – sets of hearing aids) I was reading about the Hearphones and how they help with "conversation". I was skeptical, but knew I could take them back to Fry's if I was dissatisfied. However, they work extremely well. Better than my first 4 sets of hearing aids – by a significant margin. More on the Hearphones another time.

(Cont'd Page 7)

(Bluetooth from page 6)

So, using the Prymeblu BT adapter (I have the BT-502 for my VX-7 and FT2DR – both use the 4 pin TRRS plug) I can keep the radio on my belt and wear a BT headset (as mentioned above). The 502 has a PTT button built into it – so I just clip the 502 on my belt next to the HT and I'm set to go.

Now here's the fun part. I indicated earlier that I had little luck with 4 different sets of hearing aids (all covered by insurance). All are supposed to be "high end" – and are supposed to be good at hearing voices in noisy environments. Well, so much for that idea. They've all been little more than amplifiers. (FYI – all are Phonak units.).

However, after much prodding by my wife and other veteran friends I applied for VA disability for hearing loss – obviously from my years of flying eggbeaters. To my surprise, I was approved for a 10% disability (which brings in a little spending money each month as well.). But that also means I'm eligible for hearing aids under the VA program. Yeah, right, what can they do that all these other folks have not accomplished? Well, guess what – these really do work! I'm still not 100% in noisy environments, but considerably better than all the previous aids. And as good as the Hearphones (while not being nearly as "obvious" – with the Hearphones it's obvious I'm wearing "headphones"). But wait, there's more.....

When I got these Oticon hearing aids from the VA, the Audiologist also got me a couple of other goodies. These hearing aids are fully BT. So, they pair with my cell phone. So, now, all my outgoing calls are on my cell phone – because the audio is right in my ears. WONDERFUL!!!

In addition, he got me a device I plug into the audio out from my TV so now I'm getting 95% or better dialog from my TV. (I was using a regular BT headset previously, but those totally block out my wife – good news, bad news....lol – (Yeah that's her over on the couch waving frantically trying to talk to me....:-). So, another benefit of these hearing aids from the VA. But wait, there's Still more.....

These aids also come with a little multifunction device – primarily a microphone. Again they talk directly to the hearing aids via BT. So, I can give my wife this microphone and she can talk to me from across the room (there's that TV thing again...;-). But wait, there's Still more.....

This "microphone" can pair with other BT devices and transfer their signal directly to my hearing aids. See where this is going? I plug the Prymeblu adapter into my radio, pin the microphone to my shirt, pair it with the Prymeblu adapter and, voila, my radio is now talking directly (well, indirectly through the adapter I guess) to my hearing aids. So, my HT is on my belt. My Prymeblu is on my belt next to it. My microphone is on my shirt where it will pick up my voice – I'm now getting my Ham Radio directly in my ears – no additional headphones.

I tested this out recently when Zippy and I went to the Yuma Hamfest and it work wonderfully. Admittedly I haven't "stress" tested it yet on an event or such, but so far so good.

A side note – While the Yaesu radios (10 and 350) can both do BT – I've never had any luck at all pairing them to traditional cell phone type headsets and I've tried several – with both radios. But it works well with the Sena headsets. I'm sure it has to do with what protocols they're all using, but that's my experience.

A final note – Mark/Zippy has also setup his new radio on his Hog with BT to his Sena headset and it is apparently work well for him as well. I'll leave that to him to publish more info.

So, these are my experiences with BT and Ham Radio. It's been an interesting journey – one that is not over I'm sure.

John, N6JCB

jbeckwit47@gmail.com

SIGN UP PLEASE

Jeff Gallagher WB6ALR

I would like to remind everyone of a few important communications issues. These will have an impact on whether you will or will not be receiving future communications from the club officers and fellow members.

Our long time listserv, MARC@nxport.com is going away (if it hasn't already). The club made a decision some time ago to move to a new "group" mail site that will better serve our membership.

Our new group mail site is hosted by groups.io and can be found at

<https://marchq.groups.io/g/main>

This list is much easier to use and has more features such as file and photo storage, and an event calendar.

To enroll, go to the link and click the signup (or login if you are already an io group member) and signup with the group.

While our website address remains the same, we have an entirely new format for the website. This "blog" type format will make it easier to update and add timely information. Please take the time to visit us at:

www.marc-hq.org

IN MEMORIAM

Rich Blackburn, N6TAX,, was a MARC member for many years however health has kept him from our MARC events the last couple of years and he has passed away. Please keep Rich's family in your prayers. Services were held in Riverside April 25th.

Classified Listings

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Netgear AC750 WiFi Extender.

Dual band WiFi - Fast Ethernet port connects a wired device like TV, game console or streaming player to your WiFi network - External antennas for better coverage and more speed - Compact AC750 wall-plug WiFi booster is small and discreet giving 750 mbs throughput to your devices. Asking \$20.00 or trade for ?? - Jeff KB6SUP ocpd44@gmail.com

Classified listings will run for one month. You must submit an updated listing for each issue.

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