



August 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

Hello all. Our summer break is over and it is time to get back to business. I shall start with a MARC net on 7 August, 2019. That will be Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM (1930 hrs) on 2M, 145.440 P1 136.5 (440 frequencies available see the inset on this newsletter). Our MARC meeting will be on Saturday 13 August at the Marie Callender's restaurant, 307 E. Katella Ave., in Orange CA. Breakfast at 8 and the meeting at 9 AM.

We have a few changes in our MARC staff. In June we were told that Ginger, KM6MIG, (our secretary/treasurer) and Bill, K6WBD, had bought property in Oregon. Ginger will be moving north before the summer is over and Bill will follow later when he can retire. Ginger will be missed. She has done an outstanding job since taking over from Bonnie. John, KC6ZOZ, will be assuming the duties of treasurer and John, N6JCB, will take over as secretary, keeping track of membership and what transpires at our meetings. Thanks to Ginger for all she has done for MARC and thanks to John and John for stepping up and filling in.

We need to prepare for our fall events Mark, KE6ZRP, has been trying to recruit members of the Glendale Hog club to help



with some of our motorcycle mobile duties as we have fewer and fewer motorcycle mobile hams on the road for these events. Trusted friends on motorcycles (with cell phones) can help to fill in where our MARC members are thinning. At this MARC meeting we will cover plans for the Los Angeles Tour de Cure and the MS 150 a month later. It is very important that we have all hands on deck to plan for these and other possible fall events.

How was your summer? Mijo and I spent most of our summer here in So. Cal. We are kept busy taking care of two grandchildren. When I have time, I work in my garden (with a lot of help from Mijo). We have picked a lot of squash, both yellow

*(Cont. Pg-8)*

### 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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**Minnesota Musings**

Looking forward to this trip or any trip. Planning and preparing. I had it set to leave after work on the 11th of June. Heading for the National BMW Rally which this year was held in Lebanon, Tennessee. First stop was to be Rowley, Iowa to see my brother in law and his wife.

I work seasonally for the City of Plymouth. Working in the parks and outside. Most of the time I am cleaning restrooms in 14 buildings through out this huge suburb... So I was almost done with work and noticed that the key for the Motorcycle is MISSING! So I tried to back track... y'know remember where I had been or where did I loose it?

Called my Supervisor.. "I have lost my motorcycle key! Can I drive the work van to my home and get the spare key?" Judd quick reply. "Do it but get back here quickly!" So I drove the Ford Transit to Columbia Heights... and then back again. Rush hour traffic and Red lights. Whew... The BMW had been sitting in its spot for the 9 hours... all loaded with Tent and sleeping bag and all the other stuff needed for the adventure. I tried to leave town... Rush hour was in full swing... Finally I texted my wife... I am heading back home and try to leave tomorrow! Sent the same message to my brother in law, Bert. Then hopped on the overloaded BMW and rode home.

Next morning I was gone by 6 am. However I decided to ride to Rockford, Illinois and stay with Paul and Marsha Plasters. boring trip on I-94... well until it started to rain... 250 miles of rain.. well some breaks which helped. I arrived at Paul's around 11 am. The screen door was latched and I hit the doorbell a few times... or yelled Paul's name... Finally I texted... I am at your back door. Finally Paul came semi walking/running. "I fell asleep, come on in sit down here!" The Darien pants were wet.. along with my jeans... I sat down and we talked of life. Marsha wasn't home... "Want to go to Dairy Queen for the 5 dollar lunch, Tim?"

Marsha came home while we were gone... she had sent a scolding text to Paul in regard to the house doors unlocked and the garage door opened... I commented that there was a study done at the University of Minnesota... Locked an expensive bicycle and yep the bicycle was gone... so the study people took an expensive bicycle and set it by a sign.. NO lock... and it sat there for days... Paul grinned " Yeah the criminals were watching for the other watchers on when or who was going to steal that bike!"

**EVENT CALENDAR**

- August 7 - 7:30 pm              Monthly MARC Net
- June 10 - 8:00 am              Monthly MARC Meeting
- Sept 11 - 7:30 pm              Monthly MARC Net
- Sept 14 - 8:00 am              Monthly MARC Meeting
- Oct 6 - All Day                  LA Tour de Cure
- Oct 9 - 7:30 pm                Monthly MARC Net
- Oct 12 - 8:00 am                Monthly MARC Meeting
- Oct 19 - 20                      MS 150 Bay to Bay Ride

**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.

Cont'd from pg. 2

Then next morning .. early before the daylight started I was back on the BMW. First thing was to lock the back door and then figure out how the garage door closes... no beam at the bottom of the door... Did I get everything? Well No... my baseball cap with the word.. diehard is still in the house... I will have to

## Tour de Cure LA 2019

The Tour de Cure LA is fast approaching, and there is much work to do this year to get ready for this event. The date is OCT 6, 2019 and the location is Glendale Community College in Glendale. These are new routes and new challenges.

One of the routes will take the riders all the way to Santa Monica and back. And there will be some areas where repeater coverage will probably not work. So your help will certainly be needed for this event.

Speaking of help, we have been working on asking other motorcycle riders to help out this year, and the response has been positive. AS always, it remains to be seen if new people show up for the event, but if they do, it would be awesome to have a good MARC turnout as well. They will have questions about MARC, and how we do what we do. What a great opportunity to recruit a couple of new members especially if we put a good face on!!

So please keep the date open and sign up at the next couple of meetings, where we will be discussing more about all the October events. Thanks for the support.

Mark Kanzler, coordinator

KE6ZRP

zippy

come back and visit the Plasters again! The clouds and all the rain had departed for the East.. South winds and darkness finally caved in the Sun shine. Bright Blue skies. South on I-39 to Bloomington, Ill. Then I 75 south to I-57 and I-24 which hooks up to I-40... Mile marker 238 was where I left the freeway and headed for the State Fair Grounds in Lebanon, Tennessee... Maybe its a county fair grounds. I see a trike.. asked the rider "Where do I go to get in?" He points right... Later I found out that I had only to cross that busy intersection... Oh well.

I had registered in January and got a deal on the price.. \$55. The registration building was a small almost a cabin type.. packed with people. A/C felts good. The volunteer scanned my paperwork... gave me the raffle tickets. and I was out of there... Texted Charlie... 'Yeah we are sitting along the tarmac by our Tents on the East side of the Tent Camping... I meandered around ...stopping and looking... a volunteer came up.."Need help?" I shook my head.. "I have their phone number and trying to read the texts..., thanks." Started the BMW and over to the left.. a skinny guy with a fishing hat and a sharp blue T shirt... waving at me... I nodded and waved back... Soon i had the RT sitting on its side stand... "Got any sidestand plate Tim?" I think the bikes will be OK.. although BMW seems to always sink!"

The tents were set so I set mine and we talked of what we planned to do. Charlie and Duane on their Concours and me their Token BMW rider.

We walked around and talked to friends from local rallies. Walked back to the campsite and sat around talking ... soon it was to bed.

Friday the 14th, Flag Day we wanted to do the "Tail of the Dragon". 170 miles from the Rally site. First stop was breakfast at the Waffle House. Then we headed East on I-40 Moderate speed ... until I decided to lead. Then Duane rolled by and we found fuel. Took some back roads and finally found the highway 129... stopped at a shop... "I need water," I said... Duane and Charlie agreed. Walked into the shop... all sorts of trinkets... jewelry... I needed a cap... The

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Visit our Website: [www.MARC-HQ.org](http://www.MARC-HQ.org)

Cont'd from page 3

cashier says, "If your're Military or Police there is a 10 percent off..." Duane looks at me... "Tell you what, Tim I will buy the cap and get the discount!" The lady cashier smiled.. "Well, isn't that special!" As she rings up the cap... "Yeah, right... the hacking I will be getting it would be BETTER if I had bought the cap myself!" Duane is shaking his head.. "Lindstrom!" The lady was chuckling... and giving us directions on the route we would be taking. "There is cameras and video guys along the curves.. then find your pics on the web!"

We rode south and soon we were carving or swinging between the left curves and right ones. Some of the curves had a camber off center. No grading of the road bed before laying down the tarmac! The right side was the mile markers and the left side had the .5 marker... Finally we were done with the Dragon. I pulled into the parking lot in Deals Gap. Hot Sun... Sure glad to have that baseball cap on my head!

Tree of Shame, full of motorcycle parts... with another warning sign... BEWARE OF FALLING MOTORCYCLE PARTS... versus the Falling Rock signs along that road... We walked into the gift shop and looked at stuff.. There was a cooler outside with Peach Tea or Pop .. with a place to put your money on honor jar. So I fished out a Peach Tea... Duane wanted that... I found a Lemonade... and sipped that while watching the motorcycles roaring and racing toward The Dragon. Finally I led the Kawasakis south... Duane rolled up by me at a stop sign.. "Michelle the GPS is saying we are going the wrong way!" I nodded . we stopped along a parking lot. Charlie walked to find a rest room. We sat in the shade and figured we were on the Appalachian Trail... Sure enough here comes 2 hikers... and they also were sitting under the huge trees. Looking out at the water.. I think it was a river. Duane was watching something moving... I couldn't see it... Duane jumped up and ran over and stomped the ground.. Charlie had just walked up... "What did you find?" Duane pulled out his jackknife and stabbed the ground... and pulled out a MOLE! He laughed... looked at the 2 hikers... "Want to take the first bite?" The woman Screamed... well both of them were feeling nervous about us... A van showed up... and the couple hopped into the van.. "Duane.. you KNOW the story of your Mole is going viral!" Duane laughed.. as he wiped off his knife.. "Got to keep the skills!"

We headed south and yep Michelle the GPS was right! So Road closed... Duane led as we reversed our direction.. yep backed to the Dragon, Yes we did it quicker. and soon we backtracked to the Freeway... I told Duane "No excitement or adventure with your Michelle, we could have found a different route. Found a Hardee's And ate... "Tim, you lead " I nod... Back to Lebanon. Duane rolled in front of me and signaled down the exit to the road that leads back to camp. We sat by our tents and talked of the day. "I think we rode close to 400 miles." i commented... Charlie agreed.

I had decided to ride to South Carolina and see relatives. Duane was interested but the church Service was at 9:30 Eastern time. Lebanon is in the Central time zone ... "I think I will ride to see my brother in law, Tim... in Evans, Inidana... Charlie was planning on heading out too. Back to work on Monday. We packed up Saturday morning. I shook hands with Duane. Charlie left before me. "I am so alone!" Duane whined... "Hey, You still can come with me, Duane!" he laughed... I rode.

I-40 East to Knoxville and Ashville, NC. Looking for highway 25... yep I turned too quick off of I-26... and finally back on the Freeway... and the Welcome sign with Greenville and Spartanburg... "Thank You Lord" I sighed... I had asked Cassie where I was to meet the family. My sister in law and her husband were on a cruise to Alaska... 2 of the great nieces were living in their grandparents house... Cassie texted. "Text me when you get to Mom's house.. mine is a disaster!" Took 5 hours to finally roll down the driveway and park the BMW. Texted Cassie."Bring your clothespin to hold your nose... I haven't showered today!" She texted.. .LOL... First thing I had to do is remove the packs... Cassie wanted a ride! She strolled down the driveway... helmet in hand.. "Its OK to for a light jacket?" She gave me a hug.. We rode Paris Mountain. I had wanted to give her a 46 mile ride.. her birthday was on the 14th and had turned 46... so we arrived back at the home of her Parents... "46 curves this time.' I said.

Family showed up... in the home of their parents that was gone... Something to think about, eh?

The real reason that I wanted to come to South Carolina was seeing John Barnett, Pastor of Community Bible Church in Easley, SC... So we rolled up on early Sunday morning. Christy was my

## 2009 Heritage Softail Radio Installation

After some trial and error, it looks like I've settled on a "final" installation of a radio on my Heritage Softail.

For starters, I've been intentionally not "permanently" installing a radio on the Softail, for a couple of reasons. For starters, it's a Harley. And Harley's do what – shake? Or at least vibrate?? Right? Secondly, I typically don't use the radio except for the events here in SoCal, or an occasional ride with some of our local members (emphasis on "occasional".) So, rather than expose an expensive radio to unnecessary wear and tear, I just install it when needed. And the setups I've used only take me about 15-20 minutes to install everything anyway. Since I've had the 2009, I've played around with a couple of things.

For starters I have 2 radios to choose from – Both Yaesu – FTM-350 and FTM-10. I've used both on a couple of bikes and used the FTM-10 on my earlier 2007 Heritage Softail. On that bike there was a little indentation in the left saddlebag that was a perfect fit for the body of the 10. So that was "permanent" back then. I then used a Ram mount for the head on the handlebar and had the necessary wiring to connect to a wired J&M helmet headset. Worked fine.

However, this time around, I wanted to try using Bluetooth, which both of those radios are capable of. So, I came up with a semi-permanent mount for the FTM-10. I made a plate that fits in the left saddlebag and used Velcro to hold the body of the 10 and the same Ram mount for the head on the handlebars. Worked just fine, except – for some reason the FTM-10 would lose the Bluetooth pairing with my Sena headset. When paired it was fine – all reports were good. But, without warning, they would unpair and I wouldn't know it – until I tried transmitting – and realized I was not keying the radio. So, the fix was to power the radio down and back up. Once restarted, it would automatically pair (the Good), but would



eventually unpair again (the Bad and the Ugly.) So, this was really not a viable solution.

The FTM-10 was my preferred solution for a couple of reasons – cheaper than the 350, and, theoretically, more durable. The FTM-10 was designed for off-road use – so they say at least. However, in addition to the Bluetooth problem it has a couple of other limits vs. the 350. It's dual band, but single transceiver – so only one frequency at a time. It does have Yaesu's "Dual Watch" which allows the receiver to check a second frequency about every 3 seconds, so there's



A second limit is the lack of APRS – which the 350 can do. Since we use APRS on all our events, I wanted to be able to provide that signal and, with the 350, I can do that without a second radio. I did work one event with the FTM-10 as the primary radio and I connected my FT2DR to a second external antenna to provide the APRS signal. It worked – sorta. But still not ideal. So, it was back to the FTM-350.

I worked a couple of events with the 350 and I would just set it in the left Saddlebag with some padding to

cushion the body. Then, again, mount the head on the handlebars with a Ram Mount.

I decided to finally make the jump to a “permanent” mount for the 350 body. So, I made a plate that attaches to the bike using the two saddlebag bolts. Then I attached the 350 mounting bracket to that. The only difference is – I added rubber grommets between the radio body and the mounting bracket – to provide at least a little isolation. (That meant I had to tweak the bracket just a bit to accommodate the extra width of the radio body plus grommets.)

In the process of doing this I also added a new power accessory which you will see in the saddlebag picture – to the left of the radio. More on that next month.

BTW – mounting an FTM-350 head with a Ram mount is no small trick. Both the 350 and the 10 come with mounts for the head, but they are nowhere near sturdy enough to be reliable on a motorcycle. I basically created a plate that attaches to the threaded hole on the back of the head, but also sticks to two protrusions on either side of the back using 2 sided tape. On that plate I attach the Ram ball.



Bottom line – my FTM-350 body is permanently mounted in the left saddlebag. But I still don’t keep the head mounted all the time. I just put it on when I plan to use the radio. We’ll see how

“permanent” this ends up being.

John Beckwith, N6JCB

Minn. Musings fr. Pg. 4

passenger... The previous evening I watched as Cassie takes the helmet and gives it to Christy... "When you get to church give that helmet to your Mom so I can get it back."... John walks over to us as we are removing our helmets... Shakes my hand. "We have 4 and half hours then I have something else to do..."

"Yeah I had heard that you were going golfing.. or what I think.. flogging.. John nodded... "Anything to do for Fellowship!"

John left for home to get his Goldwing. I went across the street to fill gas on and waited under the trees. John rolled up.. "Where is your Cup Holder?"

"I, - Well" i replied... "I have an Ice cold water for you, and NO cup holder!" He rolled on and I followed... for 120 miles of more twisted roads.. We went through Glenville and Hamburg. Ate lunch at Cashiers... "I'm paying for you, John." I said.. "Well, Tim I was planning on paying for you? so he sticks his elbow on the table.. and I had to do the same... Indian arm wrestling.. I touched his hand.. Alright, You win, but this means you have to come back so I can pay next time! John Exclaimed.

I had to be back home on Wednesday. Its 900 miles from Greenville to Rowley, Iowa... I was checking the weather maps and figured the best route this time was back on I-40... I -75 had water over the road... I tried to sleep. Woke up at 12:30 am... Finally realized that it was time to go... I had the BMW packed... I took my stuff out to the bike... Locked the garage door and tried to lift the beemer off the center stand... Too heavy... so I had to remove the packs and repack on side stand. Moon brightness plus smart phone flashlight... Finally at 2 am... I rolled up the driveway and headed north on hwy 25 and I-26... and back to I-40...Dark riding... yelling at myself... I stopped at a small county airport. One of the cinch straps was loose... Little did I know that ! So I worked that and waited for the sun to come up... Finally back on the road!

However Nashville had Road destruction."take Alternate Routes or ride hwy 70S.... which is Main Street through Nashville! Traffic lights weren't helping to move me from that fare City. And I was looking for I -24... and I can't figure out where as I had taken that route. Anyway sinking feeling as I

rode I-40 and it was going west but sinking south... Rest Area Map... Figured highway 48... and that came up. and exited... riding north on yep 2 lane roads Finally Clarksville , TN... called Karen while i ate my big sandwich.

Then back on the BMW. However! Road destruction.. Oil cooled engine was getting hotter.. so I exited to the rest area... and waited 20 minutes or for the traffic to loosen. Soon I was running smoothly again. Well until I got to St. Louis, MO....Wasted 2 hours trying to find hwy 61. The water from the rains was either standing or sitting... I had hoped to head north... I-70 was in road destruction. Rode west.. sinking feeling of taking I-35...Wait-aminute. what did that say...? Highway 61? A smile appeared on me tired face. The clock was closer to 6pm... I kept riding though. Rains were off and on... I texted Karen where i was as the gnats were biting and the rolling thunder I could hear... Started the BMW and rolled north. Hwy 218/27 the Sun came out for 20 minutes before it sunk. I was in Iowa... familiar area.

Iowa City.. I was so tired that I could NOT see any signs for a Motel. Circling around the neighborhoods and finally found my way south and west then back on 218/27..I rode into Rowley and stopped the BMW in the compound of Broughton. or my niece Heather who married into the Broughton family. Huge house on one side of the big yard and Mobile Home on the other side where Heather's parents live.

I set up the tent... and filled the air mattress slept to 6:30 am or 4 hours..."Tim! The door was unlocked, you could have come in!

I gave her a hug."I didn't want to wake anyone up!

Rode home, arrived at home at 2 pm... Karen was somewhere in the house.. I checked my messages... "Where Are YOU!?" I texted UR Prancive Hince is in the garage... You know .. that Cinderella story backwards.... The text "Really?" and soon the smiling face of Karen appeared...

Goals... 3700 miles in one week. Tail of the Dragon twice... The GOAL of getting over 500,000 miles in 40 years.. give or take...

73!

2004 BMW R1150RT, 58,300+ miles

(Pres. Desk - pg. 1)

and zucchini, some pickles and cucumbers and it looks like I will soon have some okra and a plethora of tomatoes. We did take a week in July to go to New Mexico, where I have family. No, we did not take the motorcycle. It is just too hot driving/riding through Blythe and Phoenix (105+ degrees both ways). We did take highway 60 all the way going and coming. If you have never tried that route it is a wonderful experience. After leaving Phoenix/Mesa going east, the traffic thins and the driving is easier. Then in Florence Junction the road becomes a two lane highway with little traffic making for a wonderful drive. There are many sights to see, Globe, Superior, Miami, Show Low, in Arizona and in New Mexico, Datil, Quemado, the big city of Pie Town, then Magdalena. Don't blink or you will miss both Redhill and Omega ( yes real [ghost] towns) as you pass through. Then home for a few days in Socorro. The first time you traverse this route, stop for photographs in the Salt River canyon, a miniature Grand Canyon, in Arizona and then the VLA, (Very Large Array) possibly the largest radio telescope array in the United States, located on the Saint Augustine Plains in New Mexico.

Please have a look at the for sale section of this newsletter. I still have the hand held and mobile Yeasu radios along with the power supplies that I have been entrusted to sell.

*John F. Reynolds*

President MARC

John W5JFR@roadrunner.com

## Classified Listings

### For Sale

Estate sale for a friend. Astron RS 20 Amp power supply \$50.00, Pyramid 12 amp Power supply \$30.00, Yeasu FT60 hand held (with new battery) \$50.00 and Yeasu FT7800 mobile with separation kit. \$125.00. All items plus postage/shipping if not sold locally. Contact John, W5JFR

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

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