



October 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. When you read this newsletter, the Tour de Cure LA for 2019 will be history. Mark, KE6ZRP, sent an OP Plan to all MARC participants. That gave everyone a good idea as to what is expected of MARC and its members.

Please join me for the MARC net on 9 October, 2019, Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM (1930hrs) on 2M, 145.440 PI 136.5 (440 frequencies available: see the inset on this newsletter). Our MARC meeting will be on Saturday 12 October 2019 at the Marie Callender's restaurant, 307 E. Katella Ave., in Orange CA. Breakfast at 8 and the meeting at 9AM.

During the October meeting John, KC6ZOZ, will cover any new items for the MS 150. This will take place on 19 and 20 October 2019. If you have not signed up for this event now is the time to take action. We in MARC and the ADA staff will need all the assistance that we can be provided for the tour de Cure LA. Make sure that you have all your gear for weather as it can be very unpredictable this time of year. Also, make sure that you bring your MARC safety vest to both the MS 150 and the Tour de Cure.



I did make a 135 mile round trip to Temecula and the Pechanga Casino for the WIN System campout. (No, I did not camp out.) I rode down to meet with Scott, K6IXQ. This trip was to promote MARC and how we in MARC provide assistance to various charity organizations. Scott furnished an EZ-Up and a table in one of the RV slots where I parked my motor to display how MARC uses a motorcycle as a mobile platform for Amateur radio and APRS. I explained how MARC helps various charity rides to include assistance to the participants and also Support and Gear duties. I hung several of our Volunteer t-shirts from the EZ-Up to promote and further emphasize

(Cont. Pg-7)

Monthly Net

Wednesday before the meeting
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

I decided to ride to see my cousin Jerry who has been in the hospital since June 25. Only 300 miles and most of that is freeway. Easy... I left on the 10th of September. Dark riding I don't like, but morning ride is maybe better than evening ride? I left around 5:30 am and yep dark. Dark and COLD... Heated vest and heated hand grips.

Got to Grand Forks in 5 hours. Walked into Altru Hospital and asked where Jerry Holmaas was... The woman looked at her computer screen.. "308!" "Thanks!" I replied... and walked to the elevator... I was wandering on third floor... "May I help you?" a nurse asked... "Yeah, I'm looking for 308" She smiled said, It's on your left... " I nodded and thanked her.

All sorts of activity was going on in the room that Jerry was laying in. His wife, Ruthie was still there... "Thanks for coming and seeing Jerry!" She shook her head.. "It's the first time he has been up in the chair in at least 3 weeks!" She then offered her hand for me to shake. "I have to leave, I am still working at Digi-Key, you know!" She waved and walked down the hallway.

I headed back to Jerry's room and we talked. " I thought I would be home, Summer is over and NO motorcycle riding!" I nodded... I stayed for about 2 hours... and we prayed before I left for home. Sad. Back home by 8 pm.

The next ride was on the 17th... Rode south to Independence Iowa. My nephew had gotten a trucking job with Walmart, Left home at 5:30 am and yep arrived at Justin's home at 9:30 am... however Justin had a shoulder problem and couldn't drive. His semi truck was sitting in his driveway. He had told me to look for the semi tractor and that would be his house.. I had ridden back in Memorial Day to Slayton, Texas to see him... He said he would have the outside light on... And when I finally came down that street there was at least 5 lights on 5 homes... Justin laughed... "I hope there isn't more than one semi tractor on my street!"

I tried all the doors.. and the A/C in his bedroom window was running... so I called my wife, Karen and talked to her and waited for Justin to wake up. Soon the front door opened.. "Come on in Uncle Tim!" Sleepy Justin grinned... got me a Water... "You said 10:30 so I figured I could sleep, besides this shoulder gives me so much pain that I don't get much sleep!" I shrugged my shoulders.. "Yeah I tend to get places earlier than I was supposed to."

EVENT CALENDAR

Oct 19 - 20 MS 150 Bay to Bay Ride

November 6 - 7:30 pm Monthly MARC Net

November 9 - 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.



Cont'd from pg. 2

Justin's Mom showed and then Justin's Dad... See I had told Justin that I would pay for lunch... "Heather coming?" I asked.. Justin nodded.. Mattie, Josie and Isaac too" Then Justin asked, "Where we going?" I had thought about the restaurant that they go to...

Ham radio data network used in California Wildfires

The ARRL reports the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN) has been employed to monitor California wildfires

The ARRL story says:

Two separate groups took advantage of the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN) to monitor wildfires in California.

The Pleasant Valley Amateur Radio Club (PVARC) in Ventura County CA employed the AREDN mesh to stream video from the Saddle Ridge Fire near Los Angeles from a repeater site overlooking San Fernando Valley. www.pvarc.club

The Mariposa Area Amateur Radio Organization (MAARO) used the Amateur Radio mesh to stream — via microwave — video from the Briceburg Fire near Yosemite National Park.

The Briceburg and Saddle Ridge fires are now under control, but archived streams are still available. This is the same network that was used to stream video from the Thomas and Woolsey fires in 2017 and 2018, respectively. — Thanks to Ben Kuo, AI6YR

Source ARRL

<https://www.arrl.org/news/view/amateur-radio-emergency-data-network-employed-to-monitor-california-wildfires>

"Pizza Ranch?" I asked.. Heather and her tribe showed up... "Oh Good, Mattie can get something to eat and get her to school by noon!" Heather laughed... "Uncle Tim you can ride with us. " I nodded.. hopped in the front seat of her van... "This is your retirement party and I want to pay for you, Uncle Tim!" beaming Heather smiled while driving... "Not happening... I am paying for all!"

The look of shock on my niece's face, "You are? Well I have this then!" She gave me a plastic Pizza Ranch discount card... We all walked into the Pizza Ranch.. the cashier started looking at the crew... 3 Seniors? how many kids? Isaac had to pay per lb or something like that.. Mattie was considered an Adult.. I suppose she can eat like one.. 14 years old... Total was over \$67... Not bad!

There was some crazy weather coming .. Rains have had their way with the Mid West. in August, Minneapolis/ St. Paul area had the most rain they ever had recorded since the early 1800's... So I decided it was time to go... And the family agreed.. thanked me for the meal and coming down.. I backed the BMW away from the semi tractor and waved good by.. BMW clock was at 12:30 pm... Arrived home by 5:30 pm... Rains hit around 8.

September 23 was the Ride for the Son. Commemorating those people that have passed on from this life to Eternity. Another Cold Day.. but the Sunshine was bright. I rode to Bill's Superette off of Alpine Drive and Highway 47. There was more riders that I needed to be introduced to. Pete rides Harley.. more hair on his chin than on top. Scruffy looking fellow with a grand daughter named Elizabeth... Some one had found heat packs and gave Elizabeth 2 of them.. Then there was two guys from southern Minnesota. Marty and Gary. Then the usual ones that I have ridden with. Road captain is Mike and his wife Penny rides a Spider. Penny would move to which ever lane we were moving to... and then Mike would move the motorcycle pack to that lane.

Cont'd pg. 4

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Cont'd from page 3

We rode to Garrison, Minnesota. Lake Mil Lacs is a huge lake where many a walleye has been taken... We ate a bar and cafe, called the Y... due to a Y in the road. Hwy 18 heads north west to Brainerd and Hwy 169 goes around the West side of Mil lacs Lake. The east side of that lake has highway 47.

Warmth of the building plus the meal was great. We hold hands and pray for our meal, thanking Jesus Christ for the safe ride. After our meal we were asked to stand as a group for picture... I am throwing puns and cracking jokes... y'know normal stuff... Flash of the camera came and...

"TIM LINDSTROM!" I am looking around ... who called out my name? I turned and looked at a smiling face... I didn't recognize him.. He stuck out his hand... "Remember me? I am Dan G.. from Dover Street in Fridley!" I was stunned... I hadn't seen Dan for over 25 years. "Dan! where did you come from?" He laughed.. "I live west of here close to Clarissa, moved to a Hobby Farm. 10 acres... about 9 years ago!" Dan exclaimed and continued, "I joined the Christian Motorcycle Association this past spring, found an older Goldwing but I can't find anyone to ride with, maybe forget it!" My mind is churning away... "Yeah I joined the CMA this past spring also... Well we are going to find some riding time for sure... got a cell phone.. i need your phone number."

"You can give your brother, Tom my phone number. I think its at least 20 years since your brother took me and my 2 sons to the Boundary Waters, after my divorce." I nodded... I had forgotten the closeness of my brother and Dan. We parted, me heading south on Highway 169 and he heading north west on highway 18.

Minnesota #27 crosses south of the big lake. I turned East and rode to hwy 65 and south for home. I also was helping a friend who is trying to sell his 140 acres of land off a funny name road.. Munklewitz...however the road stops and the last half mile to this property is called a Cart way... Not a road for a street tired motorcycle. I arrived at home and sent a text to my siblings on how Dan is a CMA person. Tom, my brother wrote back that he had lost touch with Dan when he had married and had moved to Bemidji, MN. My sister Becky lives east of Cushing, MN or 24 miles from Dan... We were all excited.

October 5 I left early for Grand Forks. Cold ride. Filling on fuel in Moorhead, MN... Temperature on the bank clock was 44 degrees. Winds were coming from the South East at 30 mph.. I KNEW I was going to in the blast on the way home. This time Jerry was in the nursing home that also has a therapy wing. I asked at the front desk... for his room number... first she was going to have me call Jerry... "Oh you want to See him?" She looked over her eye glasses... "136, go down this hallway to the nursing station and take a right.." I nodded.. "Thank You!" Jerry looked frail on his bed. Quiet in his room.

"Hello there!" Jerry's voice boomed. Again we talked of his ordeal. However this time he told me that he had hit the wall of frustration. "One night, maybe 8 days ago, I was praying and sleeping. Confessing and asking or telling God to do whatever He wanted with me! And you know Tim? Something clicked in my body... I think the Healing hand of GOD has touched me!" They had taken him off his rigid diet. Removed at least one medication from that regiment. As we were talking 2 Therapy nurses walked in. Jerry introduced me to them. "This is my cousin Tim Lindstrom, he rode his motorcycle to see me from Columbia Heights, MN.

One of the Therapy Nurses looks at me directly. "I know what you ride, A Harley Davidson!" I smiled, "Nope." She studied me.. "A Honda Goldwing." I just shook my head... "Suzuki?" Still shook my head... Then she put her hands on her hips.. stared at me and Jerry.. "What do you ride?" I smiled... "BMW." Then she says.. "Oh you drove your SUV here!" I laughed... "The story of BMW is this, Back in World War 1 the Germans lost the War.. so BMW had to stop making airplanes... so their next project was motorcycles... The first year was 1923.. boxer engine with a drive shaft... The cars came out later."

"I didn't KNOW about BMW!" The young Therapy nurse replied. "And what type of motorcycle do you have then.? She asked. "I have the longitude in line 4 cylinder crotch Rocket" She shook her head and proceeded to work on my cousin. Jerry needed to get his muscles working so they had a contraption for him to walk behind. One Therapy nurse beside him and the other pushing his wheelchair for him to rest. I was watching a miracle... he hadn't walked for 2 months. His right big toe had been amputated. *Cont'd pg. 6*



My Latest Project

I'm always playing around with ideas for my bike – some work out, some don't. But for me it's always about the journey more than the destination.

My latest project relates to the GPS's on my bike. The use of the plural will become obvious shortly. A couple of issues back I shared my exploration into the two newest Garmin GPS's designed for motorcycles – the Zumo 396 and Zumo 595. I ended up with the 396 for the reasons I described and have been using that for a while – including on a couple of events. I had to make some adjustments in how I use this device over others I've used, but overall it's a good unit – except.....

This past weekend – we in the SoCal area had an ADA event. As is usual, our GPS guru, Bill Douglas, K6WBD, got the route information from the ADA organization and turned that into route slips in Excel and .gpx files for our GPS's. I proceeded to load those files into Basecamp (on my Mac) so I could upload them into my 396. At least that was the plan.

When I plugged the 396 into my computer, the GPS screen show the normal picture indicating it was connecting to my computer. Unfortunately, it never showed up on the computer.

A side note here – it is significant whether you're using a Windows PC or a real computer (Mac....;-). Garmin has started doing something a little different with their GPS's – at least some of them. They have changed how the device shows up on a computer – has to do with MTP/Mass Storage. I can't fully explain it, but suffice to say, the GPS may or may not show up on a Mac. I have 2 new GPS's – the 396 and a DriveSmart 65 (for the cage – another story, another day). The 396 “may” show up on a Mac, the DriveSmart 65 will not. (However, Garmin put me onto a little utility that recognizes Android file systems – and that allows me to see the files on the 65. Because, apparently, they use the Android OS, at least on that device.) With the 396 – there's a setting in one of their hidden menus that can be changed to

allow the 396 to be visible on the Mac. To clarify – when I say “visible” I'm talking about through the file system – Finder on the Mac and Explorer on the PC. In both cases, they will show up in Basecamp – assuming everything is working properly. Herein lies the rub.....

The 396 was not showing up under any conditions. I tried different cables, different ports, even different computers – another Mac and a PC – Nada, Nyet, Nothing!!! So, Garmin (and I) finally decided it was the unit – and a problem with the USB internals on that GPS. This was Thursday before the event on Sunday.

I can't say enough for Garmin – they agreed to overnight a replacement unit to me – at no charge for shipping, so I had the replacement on Friday. (I did have to give them a credit card for the advance replacement – but I get that back once they receive the old unit.)

So Friday I got the new unit and got it updated – sorta..... Turns out this unit has its own problems. For some reason – I could do the upload of the waypoints from Basecamp to the 396, but when I tried the routes – Basecamp would just shutdown. Of course – this is on the Mac. And it doesn't happen with my other GPS (and older ones) or on the PC. So, back to Garmin – and there's another replacement on the way.

In the meantime..... I had decided to see if I could get the DriveSmart 65 to work on the bike. The 65 is a beautiful GPS – very large, very bright and clear. However, not designed for Motorcycles – there isn't any kind of secure mount for this unit. And it is designed to work with a simple USB Mini cable. (Why Garmin is still using Mini USB is a mystery. One fellow said it is because of the higher power requirements. I suspect he's misinformed – I'm not aware that Micro USB is any less capable at delivering power than Mini USB???)

So, I set about (my “latest project”) figuring out how

Cont'd. From Pg. 4

We waited for the Therapy people to leave the room. Started praying and praising God and was interrupted by ... "Jerry you have an appointment so we need to get you going now." I watched the driver push Jerry' wheelchair into the van... I walked to where I had parked the BMW and was surprised that the van was gone. The BMW started but the Warning light and Brake Failure light was flashing. I had the electric vest on as well as the heated hand grips ... Figured the battery is over 4 years old and maybe I need to charge it .. So I turned off the electrics and rode for 15 minutes... then pulled off I-29 Freeway and shut down the BMW... Then fired it right back up again.. Warning lights flashed until i was moving.. and stopped.

Arrived back home by 8 pm. Darkness was closing in by 7 pm... Glad to be back home. All the miles this past 8 weeks... and there has been this SOUND coming from the rear end... Wavering sound... So I checked a few U tube videos... seems the final drive is going. Yesterday I replaced the rear tire with the new tire that I had mounted on the RT... Some of the sounds disappeared but I still could hear something. Checked ebay and found a final drive for under 180 bucks. Free shipping...

When leaving on the Rally trip which I wrote about last month the odometer on the BMW turned to 48,000 miles. I had changed oil at 47,900... so this past Monday I changed the oil again at 52,000 miles...

Winter is coming ... most of my friends store their motorcycles, waiting for Spring or even for the sand to be washed off the roads in April... maybe I will find a dry day to ride. I know my electric vest is shot... I had a HOT spot where the connection is for the wire attaches to the power plug...

take care, enjoy your days, GOD bless

Tim Lindstrom, ab0ts
Columbia Heights, MN
BMW K1200RS 52,050 miles

100,000 BMW Prayer Miles by Timothy

Cont'd from page 5

to mount and use the 65 on my motorcycle. For two reasons – 1) In case the 396 problem was not resolved and 2) Just because.....:-)

So the first part of the problem was mounting the unit. I played around with a lot of ideas and ended up just using the small ball mount that the unit is designed to work with. In my box of “stuff” I found a rubber coated mount that I was confident would work on the bike – i.e. the GPS would not come off the mount while riding. (It turns out that part was correct – stuck on their nicely. But, stay tuned.....). You can see in the picture below the little square mount with the ball on the end. I actually also fabricated a plate inside that storage area to give it extra stability and strength. As I said – worked great.

The second part was to get power to the unit. I already have 12v via an Anderson PowerPole to the front handlebars. I use that to power the 396 using the motorcycle cable that comes with the 396. However, my plan was to mount both GPS's (there's that plural again) – on the bars, along with the head for my Yaesu 350. So, I now have a need for both 12v (the 396) and 5v (the 65) up front. What to do, what to do.....??



I did some looking at the 396 motorcycle cable and it turns out it's different from previous Zumo cables (550 and 660). Those earlier cables have several wires – for power, microphone, speaker, data etc. The cable for the 396 only has 2 wires. If you look at the contacts between the mount and the device (2 little brass pins), there are only 2 contacts. So, I assumed those would only be power. I assumed correctly – and it turns out it's only 5v power. Looking at the original Garmin cable

– one end has 2 leads (12v input) – the other end is the proprietary connector for the mount. In between is a voltage converter from 12v to 5v. So, my thought was – why not find a way to eliminate the 12v lead and converter and just supply 5v to the unit.

Another goodie in my “stuff” box is a USB cable – with a standard USB-A connector on one end (like you plug into

the computer) and a generic 2 conductor on the other end. (See the pix.) So, after very serious thought (and a little dissecting) I cut the Garmin cable about 6 inches below the mount connector, added a 2 conductor power plug – and added the matching female jack to the USB cable. So I end up with a USB-A on one end to a female jack, connected to a male plug – that goes to the Garmin unit. Now I'm set with both Garmin units needing only 5v, USB power.

That led me to the internet.



I searched around and found a box similar to what I wrote about in an earlier article – a box that plugs into 12v power, but then supplies both a 12v aux port as well as a couple of 5v USB ports. A while later with some wiring and box fabrication, I ended up with the little box you see in front of the handlebars. It's not completely waterproof but should be water resistant. But, then, I'm in Southern California where it seldom rains – and I don't ride in the rain anyway – if I don't have to. So.....

The end result is – I can plug 2 USB 5v devices into power (the 2 GPS's) and still have a 12v port available should the need arise. In my case – if the cable for the 396 I made up doesn't continue to work. I can always fall back and use the original cable (I've already mentally justified spending the \$30 for a replacement cable should the need arise.....:-)



So – I joined the event this past Sunday – with 2 GPS's as you see mounted along with the Yaesu FTM-350 and was a happy camper – for a while. Until the 396 went bonkers. It suddenly started zooming in and out on the map (a view of the entire western hemisphere was not entirely useful for this event...lol). And it would jump from one screen to another – all by itself. Ultimately, I guessed it was reacting to sun/heat because if I turned it off for while – it would work again – for a while. And late in the day it started working just fine (a lot of shade on the routes.). So, another reason to send it back.

-John Beckwith N6JCB-

(Pres. Desk - pg. 1)

the events that MARC has assisted with in the past.

Please check your MARC safety vest to insure it is serviceable for the Tour de Cure and MS 150. Mijo and I will have several extra at net control to issue to our "guest" riders so they can be easily identified as riding with our MARC group.

John F. Reynolds

President MARC

Johnw5jfr@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, 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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