



August 2020

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 MARC members

September is upon us, and I can tell that the days are getting slight shorter. Sundown comes a little be earlier every week now. But I hope that you are still riding when it is not so dang hot. Evenings are nice, and a good time to jump on the bike and go have an ice cream. At least that is what I like to do. We have no events scheduled for the remainder of the year, and we have no idea when we will be able to have an in person meeting again, so we will stick to the ZOOM meetings as a get together. In just a day or two, I will be riding with my HOG chapter and heading to Durango Colorado for the 4 Corners Rally. We will have about 12 people going, 3 gals on their own bikes, 1 couple, and the rest guys. Should be fun, and we are all planning on practicing safe distancing as we ride and when we get there. No wild bars, not crowded store, outdoor seating for food (we have reservations at all the stops) and will ride the Million Dollar Highway on Saturday. Lunch will be at the True Grit Cafe, where John Wayne filmed the movie. It should be fun, and I will have pictures when I get back. I will be posting to the MARC Facebook page



during this time. I hope you follow. I will also be monitoring from the bike DMR talkgroup SoCal as I ride using my Zumspot. Would love to hear from a MARC member. Will have the APRS running from the phone as well.

So have a safe rest of the summer, post to Facebook anything you might be doing, and thanks for being MARC.



(Cont. Pg-4)

Monthly Net

1st Thursday of the month @7:15pm
All frequencies linked.

MARC now uses the PAPA Linked System in the SoCal area. System is multimode. Frequencies & Info are at: PAPASys.org

Monthly Meeting

Members currently meet on ZOOM on the second Saturday of each month at 8 am. If you would like to join us, please contact Mark Kanzler KE6ZRP

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NEWS FROM THE TUNDRA

Still of the night while laying awake I sometimes hear the traffic on I-94. It might be 2 am with the quiet suburbs and towns that I can hear maybe 2 crotch rockets screaming down the highway. I-94 is at least 2 miles away to the West of the Mississippi River, heading North out of Minneapolis. Warbling sounds of a high pitched engine, straining or sometimes a miss shift!

Summer is waning. Dark at 5 am as I add the motorcycle gear, cargo net over my lunch box and Thermos in the side bag. Off I go toward Plymouth, MN to work part time. Paying for my Motorcycle en-devours, Either tires or trips. My Areostich 1 piece suit which I bought in April of 2006, yeah I still use it as a back up suit. The short zipper for the right leg had jammed. My wife Karen, suggested I take it in to Riderwear house in Duluth. Really? I was thinking it was time to retire it... At least 250,000 road grimed miles have passed around it!

I contacted Ben who lives and works in Eau Claire, Wisconsin if he would like to take a day trip to Duluth. We texted back and forth and finally set the day. August 4. I rode that morning East on I-94 to Hudson, Wisconsin. We met at the Menards a Hardware, Lumberyard and Groceries store that is in a few states here in the upper Midwest. Ben is a buyer and manager in their corporate office.

I meandered in the parking lot, noticed a Honda NC700X ... and Ben sitting on decking material looking down at his phone... he looked up and sauntered to his motorcycle, greeting me and smiling... popped the cover on the gas tank and pulled out his helmet. "Want to ride highway 65 before going north on Wisconsin 35?" I asked. Ben shrugged his shoulders... nodded his head... "Yeah, whatever!?" and grinned... Soon we were riding east on I-94 taking the New Richmond Exit and heading North. Sunshine and deep blue skies, some wind from the East... a good day to roll. North of Star Prairie the road runs alongside a river/creek. Twisted and turning. Some of the curves are sweepers.. Wide with plenty of pavement, then there is the warning signs for the deep and sharp curves... Yellow signs suggest 10 mph, depending on the gravel or stones... I at least try to double that. Further along this road there is Roller Coaster Hills. Stomach seems free to move up when running them... but not too much speed, can't sometimes see the bottom of the hills!

We stopped at Highway 8, turning left for St. Croix Falls. Traffic was mostly people heading for work. We rode by a few lakes and the cabins or rather houses that seemed to be crammed together... finally Wisconsin 35 and heading North. Memories flood the mind. My Dad built his own house decades ago. He purchased the lumber from a small town called Siren, Wisconsin. We

EVENT CALENDAR

MARC Net October 1, 2020 7:15 pm
 Zoom Meeting October 10, 2020 8:00 am
 MS-150 Virtual Ride October 17, 2020
 ALA Reach the Beach October 11, 2020 (Tentative)

Join Us for Coffee

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.



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would head for that town and the cabin of my Uncle Clifford. Then on the Saturday the trailer was filled with wood... Sunday we would drive home maybe 100 miles... leading a procession of cars... due to the speed.. er or lack of speed that my Dad would drive... 35 mph! All the weekenders going home behind us!

We rode through Danbury, Wisconsin. The further North we road the less cars met us. Bear country with bushes and marshes.. well swamps.. I remember taking a Letter Road from Highway 53 to this one I Highway 35... and there in front of me was this Black Bear! With the Sunlight behind him.. he looked huge! Didn't take more that 10 seconds and he/she ran off the road into the bushes.. Then later I see a sign. by a local Bar.. "Welcome Bear Hunters!"

Ben rode along with his bright headlights behind me. We had left Hudson, Wisconsin at 9 am... arrived in Superior, Wisconsin at 8:30 am... Taking the 535 freeway high bridge and noticing a huge... HUGE ship.. Iron Carrier dry docked.. Back into Minnesota and left on Superior Street, there it is to the left.. Areostich sign... backed the BMW to the curb and hopped off. 3 hours of 2 lane back roads. Ben came over as I removed the old suit from the saddle bag. We walked in. I had called previous day to make sure if the store was open. Covid has messed up most stores... I was assured that they were open... "Wear your Mask, please!"

The associate checked in my suit.. "Do you want an estimate?" I shook my head.. "Just repair it and shipped it back to me please." She nodded. "You do know we need to wash the suit before we do anything to it!" I nodded... "Do you want us to waterproof it?"

Got an Article?

Or a Ham worthy item of information to pass along? Please submit all articles and photos to ocpd44@gmail.com or jbeckwit47@gmail.com. Articles should be in RTF, PDF or plain text. Photos and diagrams should be in PDF, JPG, GIF or TIFF. Please limit size and please do not interlace photos with text as it must be extracted and re-inserted for use.

I agreed. "I need to keep Riderwear house busy!" I quipped.. Ben was looking around as I was ready to go find lunch... "They have more here than I had realized!" Ben said... We walked outside in the bright Sunshine. "Where to find lunch?" I asked. Ben shrugged his shoulders... "Sandwich shops might be the only place, or gas stations."

Didn't take too long.. Subway shop and they were open.. up goes the mask.. as we walk in... We ate our food and talked of life, watching people coming in. One rider came in with his helmet on. The counter person asks "Is that helmet your mask?" the biker nodded... and soon he was gone. I had decide to ride Minnesota 23, another 2 lane road in east of I-35. However there has been massive rains the past few years and we found highway construction workers building new bridges. Meaning we had to stop for traffic light as only one side of the bridge was done. Ben commented that he would need fuel... I nodded... I think Ben peeled off the road West of Askov... I should have stopped... He had said he was going to Hinkley and head East to Danbury then find his way back to Eau Claire. I headed home with a stop in Hinkley for gas. Good day to be out!

I had written about our motorcycle trip and stopping in Newfolden on the last leg. I had told Phil if he needed any help just email me and I will come! That was set for August 7. Part time I can take days off. When working Seasonal full time I was only "given" 5 unpaid vacation days.. Taking Friday off was NO problem with the supervisors. Got going on I-94 by 6 am that Friday. I was planning on seeing my friend Keith who lives in Mayville, ND... He had mentioned that he was with his wife, doctoring in Fargo. He might be able to ride... So fueling at a gas station I checked the phone... "I can't make it today, Tim. I will see you tomorrow!" The text read. Motoring along on i-94...Decided NOT to ride into North Dakota but take highway 59 north. More back road riding. Stopped in Detroit Lakes for fuel. North on hwy 59 to highway 2 and the Rest area.. .Then North again toward Thief River Falls.

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Join Us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/groups/1573778489517365/

Visit our Website: www.MARC-HQ.org

Using GPS Coordinates - a Primer

Coordinates, especially GPS, are valuable tools and more Winlink forms support coordinates than ever before.

Please be mindful that there are several Coordinate Systems available, all with their inherent advantages and disadvantages.

What ultimately matters is

- a) what your served agency wants to use
- b) if your agency does not have a preferred system, what you and the other emcomm groups you work with agree on.

Also see https://www.maptools.com/selecting_a_coordinate_system for a discussion of the options.

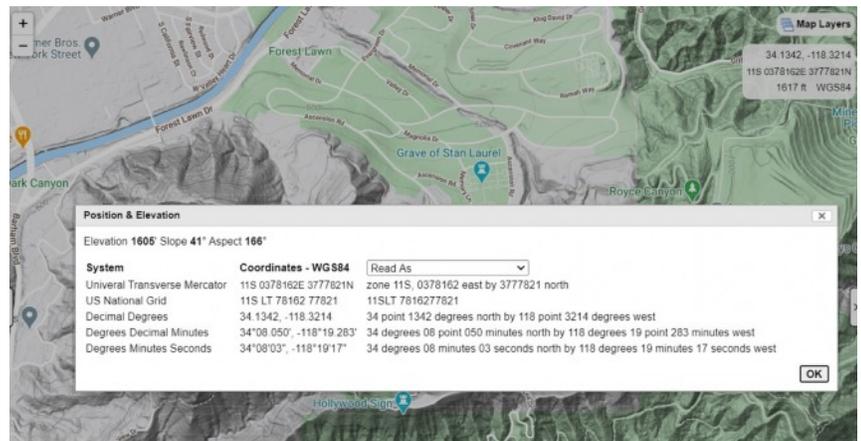
I have found the Tutorials at MapTools very helpful and suggest that, at a minimum, you look at these two if you plan on using coordinates.

Symbols for Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds https://www.maptools.com/tutorials/lat_lon/formats

A Quick Guide to Using MGRS Coordinates
https://www.maptools.com/tutorials/mgrs/quick_guide

If you want to try out some of the things you learn head to CalTopo and use the free mapping option and try entering a couple of coordinates in

different formats: CalTopo - Backcountry Mapping Evolved Btw, the degree sign is Alt + 0176 on Windows computers.



CalTopo - Backcountry Mapping Evolved

You can also right click on any point of the CalTopo map or add a marker. Then select *Point Info* -> *Position and Elevation* to see the coordinates of that point in different formats.

Powerful trip planning tools and high quality maps. USGS and USFS topos, aerial imagery, printing to geospatial...

These are fun learning tools.

Moreover, programs like SARTrack and other APRS apps also allow you to easily map objects and import GPX files in addition to locating APRS stations.

Used smartly these tools can leverage your amateur radio practice, support your mission and help keep your operators safe.

Good luck and 73 de Oliver K6OL

My Picnic Rack

Over the months I've described the purchase and some of the upgrades I'd done to my 2018 Goldwing. One of the "basics" of the upgrades was a trailer hitch - for two reasons. I still have the trailer that our own Mark, KE6ZRP, painted to match the 1989 Goldwing I had at the time. Over the years since, I've had several bikes - but none with a hitch. Nevertheless, I've hung onto the trailer.



The other reason for adding the hitch was for a hitch rack. When I had the '89 wing I found it very handy to have the little rack on the back for an ice chest, utility box whatever. I especially used that on our events for carrying extra water for the riders - nice and cold water. So I knew I'd want that capability again.



In this case, I got the hitch and rack from Rivco. There are a couple of companies out there making hitches for the '18 wing, but Rivco mounts both the upper and lower mounts directly to the frame, so it's a really solid mount. In addition, they sell a rack and rack mount for their (or anyone's) hitch. You can see from the picture - the mount just fits between the ball and the main hitch plate. The rack has 2 rods that slide into the tubes in the mount. (Remember, the whole hitch removes with just a single pin - just like receiver hitches on cars.) After some



searching, I found a nice inexpensive ice chest that fits comfortably on the rack. However, I wondered if I could come up with a way to carry a little more.



What I ended up doing was adding a front frame to the rack (complete with dust blocker) and I have two great folding chairs that fit very nicely on the rack. I have a small ice chest (actually pretty good size) that fits in the space inside the frames of the chairs, and recently found a nice, light, compact folding table that I tie on the top. I added S/S eyebolts to the sides of the rack and made up some custom straps to hold it all together. Only takes me a couple of minutes to put it all on the rack. And, as you can see - we have a really nice picnic

setup.

We took it out yesterday for a run up to Leo Carrillo State Park and had nice lunch at the beach - Yummy.

If you're interested, I can send along more pictures and details.

John, N6JCB



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My cousin Marlene said that I should take MN 32 out of Thief River and find County road 28 and go West to Newfolden.. Road construction possible on hwy 59. Memories flooding the mind. My Mom lived in Karlstad or rather a farm south of that town. We would stop in Newfolden to see our Uncle Stan and Aunt Ruby... then head for Grandpa Johnson's ... all sorts of stories.. I do remember taking some of these roads when highway 59 was being built. but that has been ... over 60 years ago. I arrived at Marlene and Phil's home at 12:03 pm... I guess lunch was served at 11:30... who knew? Phil came out and was talking as I removed my helmet and ear plugs... "There! Now I can hear!" Phil instructed me that I was using their Scamp RV trailer ... then welcomed me into the A/C home for a little lunch served by Marlene.

We worked on getting power into the new garage. Then after Supper Marlene suggested we go for drive. Phil's family came to the North West Minnesota in the 1880's... Building a log cabin... As we drove out to this cabin the story that Phil gave with Marlene adding the minor details... unfolded.. Seems the cabin was small so as the kids were added or people were married the cabin was added on. The second cousins of Phil had decided to remove the cabin from this farm... dismantling it then rebuild it on another farm... We arrive to see the squared log cabin with ear tags for a number system for rebuilding on each log... and the house that was built onto it was torn away like a Whirlwind had removed the siding. Interesting to think about our ancestors. Life is short!

Saturday we finished our goal. Lights on and both garage door openers work! Phil went into the house and flipped the circuit breaker... I was in the garage with a small fan plugged into the outlet... with my fingers, well mimicking at least... fingers in my ears.. waiting for the explosion.. which never came! as we talked of adding more circuits for the Bench, i see a Tri Glide Harley fly by... Ran outside and stood in the middle of the road.. waving as the Harley motored toward Highway 59!... Finally he slowed and turned around ... a twinkle in his eye as he did a U turn around me and parked the trike.. pulling his helmet off.. I shook his hand... "Good deal! you made it!" Introduced Keith to Phil and later to Marlene... He "Inspected" not only the wiring but the 2 motorcycles sitting in the garage... chuckling. We went in for a break... and I sat there listening to Keith and Phil.. with Marlene adding tidbits of information... both were

amazed on how many people Keith knows that they know... Perfect!

Marlene had to go to Karlstad to get food for their Daughter... she mentioned that there is a Hot Rod/ antique Car show... "Want to go?" Phil asked "Sure!" I said... Three motorcycles riding the straight roads Through Wheat and Soybean Fields... on a bright Sunny Day... Walking around looking at old cars... and seeing cousins from Mom's side of the family... "What are you doing up here, Tim?" Bradley asked... I shrugged my shoulders and shook his hand...

Phil said.. "You take the lead Tim..." Headed back to Newfolden.

My cousin Jerry had been texting me or finally called and left a message.. "I am coming out." Jerry Rides a V-star but hasn't ridden yet due to health complications.. "Maybe I can ride in September." Jerry had said... We sat out in the yard... a 35 foot diameter circle.. Jerry with his mask on... Keith stayed and then we walked to see his trike with Jerry... "See you Soon, Keith!" he nodded and grinned... motored away.. Jerry left and we enjoyed the evening..

Sunday I was up at 4:30 am. Showered some in the camper... and out on the BMW heading for Blackduck Minnesota... I hadn't seen my friends John and Linda for 3 years! He ride a Yamaha Warrior but admits he hasn't ridden much this year. too many yards to mow! Sunshine was up and bright dark blue skies to the west... however that was short lived... Rain and clouds came... Heavy rains. I had stopped at the Rest Area on highway 2... Thankful it wasn't dripping until I was back on the bike. It isn't far to Blackduck from Newfolden... 135 miles maybe... yep I was way too early... Pouring rain and riding back roads by choice. Rode maybe an extra 50 miles... Finally made it to the Free Church and arrived at 9:15... yeah I know... some of the back roads were around Lakes... doing 35 mph... Walked into the church building.. it was actually open. The Pastor came directly to me... Stranger Rider on a wet Sunday... peppering me with questions... "I am here to see John M.... " I finally replied... "OH, Good! He will be here shortly." He was looking at his wrist watch... John shows up.. "Linda isn't here today." He grabbed my hand and we hugged... "Good to see you, Tim!"

After the Service I waited for John to come out.. dripping rain... Had dinner with Linda and John. their daughter Wendy was there with her 2 kids plus a girl

ARRL News

Air Force Research Laboratory Tracks Sporadic E

Researchers at the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) in New Mexico have discovered a new way to track and characterize sporadic E, which occurs when large structures of dense plasma form naturally in the upper atmosphere. These plasma structures, which occur at mid-latitude locations around the world, can affect radio wave propagation in both positive and negative ways. VHF enthusiasts frequently take advantage of sporadic-E propagation (or E-skip) to work stations outside of their local area.

“Previous methods to observe these structures were insufficient for identifying and tracking these structures over large regions,” said Ken Obenberger, a research physicist at AFRL. “It would be advantageous to actively identify where these structures are, where they are going, and how dense they are. And we thought we could find a better way.”

The new method, developed by Obenberger and collaborators at AFRL and the University of New Mexico, leverages unintentional RF emissions from power lines, and using broadband radio noise, they can map and track dense sporadic-E structures.

“Since power lines are widespread, we can observe sporadic E over a very large region surrounding our observatory, the Long Wavelength Array (LWA), an asset of our collaborators at the University of New Mexico,” Obenberger said. “This technique could be used anywhere in the world where there is an electrical grid and an instrument similar to the LWA, and we are lucky because there are not many.”

This kind of technology could be of interest to those who rely on HF and VHF frequencies, such as radio amateurs, mariners, broadcasters, and the military.

Radio amateurs have long taken advantage of sporadic E for long-range communication in the VHF bands, such as 6 and 2 meters. Climatology of sporadic E can provide a probability that it will occur, but the actual

presence of sporadic E can only be determined through trial-and-error observations.

“This is similar to how meteorologists can predict how likely thunderstorms will occur in the afternoons above New Mexico during monsoon season, but use Doppler radar to identify and track specific thunderstorms as they occur,” notes Chris Fallen, KL3WX, one of Obenberger’s collaborators at AFRL.



“Ken’s technique basically provides weather radar for sporadic E, only using radio noise from power lines as the radar transmitter.”

Having accurate “now-casting” of sporadic E could prove critical during disaster situations where hams may play a key role in supporting communication of vital information.

“Better understanding will lead to improved design and use of radio systems that mitigate the negative effects and take advantage of the good effects, thereby ensuring a stronger emergency communication network,” Obenberger said. “We are interested in sporadic E and the effect it has on radio wave propagation, both good and bad.”

— Thanks to Joanne Perkins, Air Force Research Laboratory

A Bit of Radio Heritage



The Spanish Civil war in Spain was from 1936-1939 and my grandfather was an active participant in the struggle for democracy as a Ham or more likely as Morse Code Key Operator.

Saturnino Varon was what they called a “Telegraph Operator” and worked for the government prior to the outbreak of the civil war. As war broke out, officially he sent messages for the “govt” but in reality he worked for the democratic underground movement (secret/covert messages).

The equipment he used belonged to the govt but to aid in the effort against General Franco he made a homemade key set (as shown in the pic) and transmitted messages from home at night and in secret.



The family never knew of his activities until many years later when he shared his memories. He told us how close he was to being caught as the enemy knew of the signals but despite their efforts to triangulate his position, he was a step or two ahead of them. Despite their best efforts, he survived the war and passed away at a ripe old age of 89 in his sleep.

When the family heard I was a HAM, they presented to me one of his original handmade units. This was designed to be taken part and hidden each night. Needless to say I was honored, surprised and proud to have a piece of history.



As I tried to clean it I found a schematic the size of a finger nail hidden under one of the pieces.

A remarkable and brave man in such terrible times.

Thank You Grandpa!

Yes - that is me in Spain and he is the man with the SPANISH beret and years later strolling thru Coney Island, NY



Enjoy a step back in history

Carlos-K2LCV

"True patriotism isn't cheap.

It's about taking on a fair share of the burden of keeping America going"

-Robert Reich

A Note From W5JFR

Hello all. Not very much riding from here in Rialto. Sounds like an echo from my last posting. It is true, we are still shut down due to the COVID 19 virus. My riding has been limited to a few short trips to the store for some small items that did not warrant driving the cage. I also participated in a Patriot Guard event for PFC Andrew K. Houston, one of the Marines who drowned in the accident off the coast of San Clemente Island last month.

I did get a call from Billy, N6EDY last week. It was good to hear from him and that he is back in Sol Cal. He said that John, KC6ZOZ, has been taking good care of him as he is not driving and John has been taking him out to run errands, as the city bus system does not always go to the places that he wants to go to.

I wish I could say that I was typing this article from the island of Moorea. However, the dream vacation that Mijo, KF6BEB, and I had been planning for the past year was canceled due to COVID. We were to leave LAX on 21 August 2020 and arrive in Tahiti the next day. Later that afternoon board the Paul Gauguin (a cruise ship) for a seven day tour of the Society Islands. Upon return to Papeete we would be ferried from Tahiti to Moorea Lagoon for a three night stay in an over the water bungalow, with our return to California on 2 September 2020. This was indeed to be a dream vacation in French Polynesia. Not to be, as an individual on the tour prior to ours was tested for COVID 19 and found to be positive. Our trip was to be next, and was therefore canceled. We have rebooked for August of 2021. It is our hope that by then all this COVID 19 stuff will be over and we can enjoy our time in the islands.

Now we will watch the Tour de France. It is a couple of months late but at least it wasn't canceled. It does give Mijo a glimpse of her home country. This year's tour is mostly in the South of France and she is from the North East but it is still home.

John F. Reynolds
Johnw5jfr@roadrunner.com



From pg. 6

from Blackduck . Thanked them for the food and fellowship... left for home.. Not knowing there was heavy rains coming... Didn't need to know, I guess... I decided to ride east on hwy 2... then finally the Sun was back out as I headed south on hwy 371 to Walker, MN... Highway 200 merges with 371... decided to take that through Hillman and south on highway 65. Warm Sunday ride. Arrived home and then saw the storm that was sweeping East of Bemidji... or IF I had gone the normal route of highway 71 south to 200 then had taken highway 64 to highway 210.. then got on highway 10 south east... Lots of Rain.. lightening ... Sheer winds... Thank You, Jesus Christ for directing me away!

My goal was to do 20,000 miles on this BMW KRS in one year... I had purchased this K bike August 13, 2019... by August 13, 2020... I had added 18,381 miles... Forward and backward... I could have made it... but isn't there more to life than motorcycling?

73

Timothy Lindstrom, ab0ts

Columbia Heights, MN

BMW K1200RS 62,812, R1150RT 66,392

100,000 BMW Prayer Miles by Timothy Lindstrom, www.smashwords.com

We Need Your Help

We need your help. We have asked for articles from the membership and, while our "regulars" usually send something in, the vast majority of you do not. You may not think you are articulate enough or that your adventure may not be interesting to others. Neither of these could be further from the truth.

Our members are interested in what you do and where you go. That is true both on and off the motorcycle. If you have an idea for a story but don't quite know how to put it in to words, write your ideas down and send them to either John Beckwith or myself and we will help you write the story. You might surprise yourself.

The truth is, if we do not get enough articles in for the newsletter, we may have to go to some other timeline, such as bi-monthly or quarterly for publication. Please consider submitting an article today!

Thanks,

Jeff WB6ALR

Classified Listings



**Receiver Hitch
&**

**Wire Luggage Rack
Best Offer - will ship
CONUS**

**Further info, contact
Jeff WB6ALR**

ocpd44@gmail.com



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

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