

Member Spotlight - Carlos Varon, K2LCV, New York

Carlos Varon is a MARC member in the New York City area. He got his Amateur Radio license in 2001 and in those early years used an old Motorola radio programmed for Ham frequencies by a friend. He has since moved to an ICOM 2700 that's part of his go-box as well as a TYT MD380 DMR Radio.



Carlos has been involved in several emergency services organizations including The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services, New York State Division of Homeland Security, Red Cross and FEMA. He has been deployed to several areas to help provide relief in disaster areas. Since he got his Ham license, he's been encouraging these agencies to take advantage of the communications capabilities of Ham Radio. He was also part of the New York City REACT (Radio Emergency Action Communication Team). They used CB Radios to support various non-profit events – parades, marathons and other public events etc. Complete with lights and sirens and using his BLS (Basic Life Support) medical qualifications to assist on these events.

Additionally, he has been involved in the New York City Triathlon. He and 3 other motorcycles with Ham Radios have been able to support the cycling part of the marathon thanks to the support of New York City Office of Emergency Management as well as ARES. It was during this time that he found MARC through Google. After determining there was really no East Coast chapter, he joined anyway hoping to learn and share with the group.



Over the years he has owned 9 motorcycles including a Honda GL1200 Interstate (complete with Yosemite Sam mud flap). It was on this bike that he, like many in MARC, appreciated the limited capabilities of CB Radio (in downtown New York? Really?) and helped push him to Amateur Radio. He currently rides a 2007 Harley Davidson Ultra Classic and uses the TYT MD380 for communications on the Triathlon and other events.

He has been active with the Salvation Army SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) and deployed to the Inner Banks to setup and run a Canteen following Hurricane Isabel in 2003. (Check with Carlos and ask him to share the story of how he got his J-Pole during that event.....:-). He is also an active participant with both the Patriot Guard and the American Legion riders and helped get his local Red Cross organization to make a transition to digital radios in order to improve communications in a city with limited repeaters and a challenging environment.



A piece of family trivia – Carlos' family is from Spain. His Dad lived there during the Spanish civil war. It wasn't until fairly recently, when Carlos' family learned Carlos was a Ham, that they told him his grandfather had been active



in the Franco resistance – as a radio operator – using a telegraph to send morse code messages in support of the resistance. In spite of efforts to triangulate his location, his grandfather was never caught and survived to tell his stories. Carlos is fortunate enough to have the original telegraph key and schematic that his grandfather used in those days.

If you get a chance, send Carlos a note on the MARC list and find out about that J-Pole and let him share the story of his grandfather's fight in the resistance against the Franco regime. He's a great guy and very interesting member with lots of stories to share.

Got a story of your own to share with the rest of us MARC members? We're looking for folks to share their stories in the Newsletter – drop us a line and we'll work with you to get something going. Write it yourself or we'll write it for you. Just let us know. Send a note to – marcradiohq@gmail.com and we'll go from there.