

Member Spotlight – John Kristian, W6JMK



John is a MARC member from the San Francisco Bay area. He has a General license and rides a 2014 Victory Vegas. He has mounted an Icom IC-2730 on the bike and when he's off the bike he uses Baofeng BF-F8HP HTs.

John has been motorcycling on and off since 1982. His first couple of bikes were Hondas. He crashed the first one on my way to Lake Tahoe, and replaced it with a CB750, which he rode for several years. When it came time to raise kids he figured it was also time to sell the bike. He struck a deal with a buyer on Craigslist. The buyer showed up with a big trailer already loaded with half a dozen CB750's, and room for a couple more. It turned out he was in the business of buying that model used and shipping them by the container-full to the Netherlands for sale. Obviously, a popular bike over there at the time.

Once he got the kids packed off to college it was time to get back on the bike. He took the motorcycle safety training course again for a refresher and went looking for a Victory cruiser. He found one gently used and for the seller, the time had come to raise kids and sell the bike. This provided a kind of nice symmetry. John was even tempted to open a college savings account for him.

John started motorcycle marshaling in 2016 and saw how useful the ham radios were. That's what motivated him to join the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association and then get his license in 2017. John felt the hams in PAARA were very welcoming and supportive and one of them encouraged him to test for both Technician and General in one session. It sounded crazy to John but he passed both anyway. John now makes a point of welcoming new members at the meetings and let them know how much fun public service is.



John works motorcycle patrol for several bicycle events in the Bay Area including: The Devil's Slide Ride (Pacifica), the MCBC Adventure Revival (Fairfax) and the End Polio ride (Pt. Reyes Station). He's also active in the field supporting athletic events, pretty much every chance he gets: the Livermore Half Marathon, Ridge to Bridge run, Sea Otter Classic, Devil Mountain Double Century, Miwok 100K foot race, Mt. Hamilton Classic bike race, Dipsea foot race, Western States Endurance Run, Tour de MALT, Marin Century, MCBC Dirt Fondo and Alameda County Wheels for Meals.

John is also studying to become a USA Cycling official and aims to serve as a motoref. Now there's a challenge. Maybe we'll see him someday working Tour de California – with one of those crazy cameramen riding backwards on his bike. Ya never know.



In his "spare" time he serves in the Los Altos ARES and provide comms for several local parades and festivals. John also wrote some software used by Santa Clara County ARES/RACES to transmit forms via packet radio. He originally joined MARC in 1996 and is a member of Marin Amateur Radio Society in addition to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association.

John also leads group rides for the San Jose Spirit Riders, including this past October they had a fabulous ride on CA Hwy. 36 from Red Bluff to Fortuna. It's 140 miles of delightful road, beautiful scenery and no traffic.

Every biker should have it on their bucket list. But he warns – "beware: after that ride, your local rides will seem pretty pale for a while".



John likes taking leisurely riding on rural roads. Some of his favorite half day rides include: From Coalinga, going west on CA 198, then north on CA 25 to Hollister - Good pavement, some mild curvy sections, little traffic (except maybe cows), but limited fuel or services. CA 160 runs on top of the levees of the Sacramento River between Rio Vista and Freeport. Pleasant views of the river and flat farm country, good pavement, mild curves. And the Freeport Bar & Grill has a nice patio out back.

From Jolon, west on Mission Rd. and Nacimiento Ferguson Rd. to the coast, then CA 1 north through Big Sur. (Always a required ride.) Some steep and twisty with mediocre pavement and fine vistas. But also stretches with great ocean views, good pavement, somewhat curvy. Places to eat with ocean views include Nepenthe and the Rocky Point Restaurant.

So, drop John a note through the MARC list and, if you're in the Bay Area, hook up with him and trade stories – motorcycle, ham radio, both, or anything else. And maybe give him a hand with some of those events he supports.

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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](mailto:marcradiohq@gmail.com) and we'll go from there.