



february 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

One month under our belts for this year and only 11 more to go. And they will probably go fast, so be ready. Be sure to look at the Calendar section of the newsletter and mark your calendar with the dates of the events that MARC supports. We need you!

At the January meeting we discussed how we could improve the Net we have on the Wednesday before the monthly meeting. One suggestion was to see if we could use the PAPA system of linked repeaters for our net. I attended the Orange County meeting of PAPA this last Saturday in hopes of securing permission to indeed use the PAPA system for the net. If we are willing to change our day for the net, then we can use the PAPA system for February.

There are a couple of MARC members that are also PAPA members. But not everyone will have to be a PAPA member for our test net in February. But we will have to move the net to Thursdays instead of Wednesday. There is a net on the system at 8:00 pm, so our net **MUST** be finished before that time. I suggest we try to hold a net at 7:15 pm in order to keep the 8PM time slot clear.

So now for the tricky part. PAPA has many analog repeaters that we can use so I will work with MARC member Michael, AF6FB who is also a PAPA member and part of the technical committee, and find the best repeater/repeaters for us to use. I do not have those repeaters yet, so we will have to determine them and make a few test, and then send out the frequencies via the e-mail list. There is also good news with this, the repeater can and will be linked to an Echolink node for MARC members that are not in the So Cal area, and there will also be a DMR link/digital link. The particulars for this are coming, so please read the e-mails from MARC in the next week or so, and we will get you the info you need to join in the net!

There is an Echolink app for most phones. It is easy to set up and will work just about anywhere you have cell service. But, you have to register your call sign before you can use the program. And this takes a couple of days usually. So download the app and

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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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NEWS FROM THE TUNDRA

Balmy weather has hit Minnesota. We are at least 7 degrees warmer than the average temperatures.. which is 24 degrees. Usually we are at least 20 degrees below the average with going below zero.. however the fore cast for Minnesota was a warmer than normal winter.. meaning a Missouri type with, yep lots of freezing rain.

January 11 2 friends came over and we loaded the BMW RT.. This machine is the Oil head... BMW motorcycles, well the older ones have a dry clutch and separate transmission. I might have reminded a few newsletter readers that the clutch sheared on the BMW at 5 am on the 9th of August. The friends are David who is 47 years old and rides Kawasaki Concours... The other friend is Duane... who is turning 68 years this coming month... He has the Concours, and a Kawasaki crotch rocket. His favorite motorcycle for around town in the Suzuki 850 with driveshaft... something about saddle bags are too wide on the Concours and a simple 1982 motorcycle!

Duane had sent an email to The BMW Guy who lives across the St. Croix River from Minnesota. Hudson, Wisconsin... Duane has been trying to convince me to get that motorcycle repaired. I was thinking of doing it myself.. too cold. Besides the basement wall of the garage is moving... and I knew I was looking at \$\$ for that. Anyways I finally called and left a message at The BMW Guy... just after Christmas...

He called me and said he was going out snowmobiling for the New Year's...

and would be ready for us to bring the BMW over later in January. I agreed. and that was why my friends were there... First the temperature was around 4 degrees.. NO wind.. The guys came into the house... "Where's Tim? We have a motorcycle to pickup! And we are blocking the alley!"

I had taken the 2 cars out front so we had plenty of room to work. "Tim, you steer we will push.. hey where you going?" Duane commanded. Ice on the alley and I am trying to turn the heavy machine around to roll it up the wooden ramp. No stopping and finally into the wheel chock. I held the seat while the 2 guys strapped the motorcycle down.. no side stands or center stand.. just straps holding the motorcycle on its tires.

Duane cinched the straps that pushed the forks down.. "Compression on the forks keeps the motorcycle in place, well it's supposed to." Duane instructed. We hopped into David's Ford Escape and rolled down the bumpy alley. We stopped on the cross street, the 2 friends hopped out and eyed the BMW... nodded at each other and back into the warmth of the Ford SUV. We were rolling... Duane had decided not to

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EVENT CALENDAR

March 11 - 7:30 pm Monthly MARC Net

March 14 - 8:00 am Monthly MARC Meeting

February 5 - 7:30 pm Monthly MARC Net

February 8 - 8:00 am Monthly MARC Meeting

April 4, 2020 San Diego ADA Tour

April 25, 2020 Tour de OC

May 16-17, 2020 MS Los Angeles Two Day Ride

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.



bring his GPS... I had mine on and David had his... We headed north on hwy 65 to 694 and east... then down onto 494 and east... sent a text to The BMW Guy who name is Kevin. His home and garage is right on the main road which is Wisconsin 35. The instructions he relayed was to drive north on hwy 35 to Wisconsin Street and go West to Starr's Bar... unload the motorcycle there and he would take it to his home.. 2 blocks... hmm...

We crossed the St. Croix.. huge river at this area. Duane says... Mississippi River!... I had to correct him... "Oh yeah.. St. Croix empties near Hastings."

Drove north.. "Turn Left!" I said... David turned... but we went down to city Park along the river... No Starr's Bar.. I get on the phone after Duane asked... Kevin answered... "No we live in North Hudson!" I laughed " Does that mean all towns in Wisconsin has a Wisconsin Street?" We headed north and yep.. there it was North Hudson... yep... Wisconsin Street! Kevin didn't know about the extra Wisconsin street either. We turned left and see this young man walking, he turns and sees us and waves us over.

Duane is out to get the ramp off the trailer and Kevin is talking to him... Duane shakes his head... points at me.. "He is the owner, I'm just the guy that sent the email." We removed the BMW. Kevin smiled... we had pushed it onto the sidewalk. Bright Sunshine but cold. "You need help to push that motorcycle up to the highway?" I asked. Kevin shook his head... "No I can do it... " He turned on the ignition key... Groaning starting... no start... "I will call you, Tim!" I nodded and hopped into the Ford Escape... We drove around the block...and back to hwy 35 going south...

The 2 friends were talking on where they might want to eat. I sat in back... I had told them we could go somewhere that they have cloth napkins even! I had and always tell Duane. "I owe YOU" Duane laughs... and shakes his head.. "Yes YOU do Owe me, however I want just a snack and when we are doing rallies in June, Tim? Then you will be paying!"

"Thanks." I replied.

We ate at Arby's Then headed back to Columbia Heights. "David do you want me pay you 20 bucks or just fill your gas tank?"

" I will take the 20 bucks... Tim... no need to fill my gas tank with the gas you have here!" David and Duane were laughing.

So anyway I finally got the estimate plus pictures yesterday.. or 2 weeks from the delivery. The slave clutch leaked and messed up the clutch splines... need for a used transmission and used starter... Costs with labor is around \$2000... Far cheaper than the dealership... Sent a text.. "Go for it!" The BMW is a 2004 with 64,900 miles on 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.

The other item I bought is a tent that doesn't have tent poles... Air beams... so instead of a tire pump... its a tent pump... and the tent holds 3 people.. however being it is made in China... and well its really only a 1 and half American person Tent... eh?

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Visit our Website: www.MARC-HQ.org

MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 2020

January 11, 2020

President Kanzler opened the January meeting at 9:08

14 members present.

4 Board members present.

No visitors.

Treasurer John Edwards was not present – he was working an event.

Board member Billy Hall not present – Still recovering from his fall.

President Kanzler discussed the MS LA May 16-17. The need for volunteers to help coordinate and the need to figure out repeaters etc.

The Newsletter was discussed – Michael suggested getting it out around 1st of the month so as to be ahead of events coming up.

Board Member Alvin Brown

Reported on equipment transfer

Board Member John Reynolds

Indicated Billy is in Arizona with his family for care – don't know if he will be returning to the LA area.

Secretary John Beckwith reported:

Renewals have started

Shirts – still looking for source

PayPal & Zelle are being used for dues and name badge shirts

Reminded members when using PayPal to pay by "Friends" so no Fee will be charged

Held Net the past Wednesday – both analog and digital –

3 check in's on local Analog repeater, 2 check in's on Yaesu Fusion room.

Digital – Washington and Arizona – Grateful

1 Analog check-in would have checked in Digital if he could have figured it out

Looking for a way to do both - together

31 members paid through 2020 or later – out of 81 on his list.

Including 4 Life Members – Drew Pushie, Billy, Ray, Mick (Comet),

3 New and returning Members

From Canada - Quebec

Renewal notices will be sent out again.

Who will contact Billy, Bonnie and Ray re: Lifetime memberships?

It was suggested we make a certificate to present to them – John/JCB will create and Scott will frame

Scott – Win System will be at Quartzfest – next week and will put up a MARC banner.

Alvin – Recommended renewing ham license via ARRL - much easier - if you're a member - \$15 to join

Mark – The Tour de LA meeting will be Thursday

Kim & Mijo Raffle listed the raffle prizes and conducted the raffle

General Meeting Adjourned 9:55

Next meeting will be Saturday, February 8th, 2020.

A short Board meeting followed.

Mark, Alvin, John/JFR, John/JCB

Mark discussed a tentative proposal by Michael to join forces with the PAPA system. This would provide repeaters and other facilities to use for events as well as the MARC net. It includes the ability (theoretically) to conduct the net in such a way that members from all over could check in – analog, digital, Echolink, IRLP, DMR, YSF etc. Mark will be pursuing this with Michael and the PAPA folks.

Board meeting was adjourned by 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,

John Beckwith, Secretary

Easy Harley Radio Installation

After playing with several different radios and mounting configurations on my Harley Sportster, some of which failed horribly, I knew that I wanted something simple and reliable on my 2016 Ultra Classic cruiser. So I came up with this installation that only requires 5 pieces of equipment.

1. Sena 20s Bluetooth setup for my modular helmet. The unit comes with all the hardware you need to mount it to the helmet. The boom mic, 2 speakers and the main unit with bracket. The 20s will pair with 2 cell phones, a Bluetooth GPS or MP3 player, and up to 8 other Bluetooth devices for intercom. For this setup, one of the cell phone pairings

is used for the radio. ***This unit does not pair with the Harley Boombox system without an adapter!***



2. The radio is the Icom IC2730 with the Bluetooth board added. It is a dual band, dual receive crossbanding radio perfect for motorcycle mobile installations. The head is remote mounted on the handlebar with RAM mounts of your choice, either to the handlebar or the clutch reservoir cover. And there is only a CAT 5 cable to run to the radio's main body. You can also plug in a hand mic at the head if you like. I like this radio because the left and

right volume controls are separate, as well as the squelch controls and tuning.

3. The main body of the radio is about normal size for most dualband mobiles, and has a built in fan, so you can mount it in the trunk and not worry about the heat. I have Velcro feet on it and they stick to the trunk liner fairly well. Power cable MUST go directly to the battery. Do not try to use the existing Harley wiring loom as there is too much interference and alternator noise.

Direct connection to the battery will let the batteries size act as a filter. Fuses of course. You can also use a hand mic plugged into the main body.





4. The next items you will need are really 3 items. The antenna mount that MARC sells that will mount directly to the luggage rack of the bike. I had to use the mount upside down to be able to get the allen wrench in, but it looks and works just fine. And I used the Diamond C101 UHF Base Connector with the 6.5 ft cable to run to the radio main body. I had to drill a hole in the trunk for the power cable and the antenna cable behind the passenger's backrest and seal it with silicone. The antenna is the Comet SBB5 black antenna. Here is where it really matters

which antenna you use. Not for the performance of the antenna, but for the *life* of the antenna. Harley vibration will kill any antenna. Period. It is just a matter of time. Mine will last about 2 years, and will then break/fall apart. What you want is an antenna with exposed loading coils (closed ones will break in as little as 30 minutes of use) and the smallest base (which means a tighter coil inside). This works. Others may work, but the life of the antenna is what you are considering here.

OK, so everything is set up and working, and I have used this for several MARC events with very good success. Audio reports are always good. The Sena 20s has built in noise reduction, and even with the chin bar up, wind and road noise are not a problem. Most people are not aware that I am working motorcycle mobile. Speakers are good and plenty loud enough. **However** there is no PTT button with this setup. The Sena will pair as a cell phone, which means you can hear your receive all the time, but when you want to talk, you have to reach up to the Sena unit and push the cellphone button on the rear and toggle between transmit and receive. This is really hard in stop and go traffic, but for open highway riding, it is not a problem. The button is easy to push even with gloves.



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 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 the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association and the Marin Amateur Radio Society.



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.

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.



THE AMERICAN LEGION AND HAM RADIO

- A NATURAL PARTNERSHIP



(Reprinted from The American Legion Website @ www.legion.org)

The American Legion has formed a special entity to provide a forum for military veterans who today are engaged in a hobby that can also provide emergency communications "when all else fails." During the May 2011 Spring Meetings, the National Executive Committee authorized the establishment of The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC).

There are estimated to be 700,000 federally licensed amateur radio operators, or "hams," in the United States. Over the years, countless members of the U.S. military were trained as technicians or engineers, and later obtained amateur-radio licenses to continue to use their abilities at home, as both recreation and a public-service commitment.

"The beauty of amateur radio is that it attracts folks of all career interests, from doctors, Ph.D.s, engineers, rocket scientists to mechanics, housewives, construction and office workers, students and everything in between," says Robert L. Morrill, chairman of the Legion's Public Relations Commission. "Hams provide backup communications to emergency-management agency

offices across the country when 'all else fails,' and have done so with distinction in virtually every major disaster when cell towers and commercial communications have been knocked out after earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, and man-made disasters."

The club has established an amateur radio station at National Headquarters with the call sign K9TAL (K9 The American Legion) in order to conduct special-event operations on The American Legion Birthday, Veterans Day, etc.; operate SKYWARN during local severe weather; and provide members an opportunity to operate the station during visits to National Headquarters. A special QSL card is provided to all amateur radio stations that work K9TAL on the air.

In January 2005, the Legion signed an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security to support emergency disaster preparedness. Subsequently, the Disaster Preparedness Booklet was made available to posts. Amateur-radio support was an integral entity.

"The potential to serve here is limitless," Morrill says. "Legionnaires who are hams can help others get licensed, coordinate with local emergency authorities, provide counseling and assistance to schools, and a whole array of other support.

"While some people may think that ham radio is an old technology, the simple truth is that hams were working with digital transmissions long before folks had home computers, and they provided the impetus to make 'wireless' happen. They were transmitting emergency calls from their cars long before anyone had a mobile phone to do the same. Today, hams are conducting broad-spectrum experiments on ham bands that may eventually become routine ways to communicate for all of us."

Membership is free to members of The American Legion family.

For information, or to join: k9tal@legion.org



From the 2014 Ship to Shore ADA ride that took bicyclists over the two harbor bridges of Long Beach. This was a favorite ride of both participants and MARC members. Photo taken at the top of the Vincent Thomas Bridge overlooking Los Angeles Harbor.

DUES ARE DUE

“It’s time for your annual dues. You can use either PayPal (to a “friend”) or Zelle (from your Bank). Or you can send me a check. Please send your payment as soon as you can. Members not renewing by February 15th will be removed from the MARC listserv.

Some folks have renewed for multiple years. If you’re not sure, or have any other questions, feel free to contact me. Thanks and have a great year.

John Beckwith
5623 W. 77th St
Westchester, Ca 90045
jbeckwit47@gmail.com

(Pres. Message pg. 1 cont.)

register your call early to be ready if you want to check into the net and do not have a digital radio and are not in the So Cal area.

On the subject of recruiting, I was riding home from Saturdays meeting and had my radio on a local repeater and heard a new user talking with someone. They mentioned they are looking for SAGS to work a bicycle event in February! So I waited til I could call "break" and managed to give the person info about MARC and my e-mail address. I hope he can come to one of our meetings, as he was excited about doing more volunteer help especially with bicycles. So keep talking to fellow hams you meet about what we do, and you might discover they have and interest and are looking for a group like us.

I also talked with Scott, K6IXQ while he was returning from Quartzite on Sunday. He said it was a very good event again this year, his group had a tent set up right next to the welcome tent for the event and he had the MARC banner up and handed out all the business cards for MARC that he had. Thank you Scott for always thinking about MARC. WE probably should have a bike out there with radios installed to show people how easy it is to work motorcycle mobile. Please attend the MARC meeting on February 8, 2020.

73,

Mark Kanzler, Ham on a Hog KE6ZRP , 2016 Harley Davidson Electra Glide



(Tundra News pg. 3 contd.)

take care! I still haven't ridden in January... too much snow in the alley... however the temperatures are still close to freezing... But it isn't the temperatures we are waiting for .. Sun shine angle... needs to be higher!

73!

Tim Lindstrom

04 BMW R1150RT, 03 BMW K1200RS

Columbia Heights, MN

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

In Our Prayers

Our past President, John Reynolds is on an emergency trip to New Mexico concerning a death in the family. Please keep John and Mijo in your prayers.

Classified Listings

For Sale

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

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Please support our sponsors with your business. When you visit their stores be sure to mention you are a MARC member

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