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MISSION STATEMENT:

"Dedicated to providing service to the community while combining the two hobbies of motorcycling and ham radio"

NOVEMBER 2001

DISASTER & E-MAIL COORDINATOR:
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E-MAIL CHECK-INS:
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MS 150K COORDINATORS:
JOHN EDWARDS KC6ZOZ

LOVE RIDE COORDINATORS:
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JOHN REYNOLDS (ASST) W5JFR

TOUR de CURE COORDINATORS:
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BUTCH MACY (SO. CA.) KD6VBO
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MARC HF CONTROL
GRAHAM WRIGHT G4FLJ
DE WITT MORGAN (ASST) KM6UK
GEORGE ROCHELEAU AC3X

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK::

Can you feel the Love? I hope so. Soon we shall be assisting Glendale Harley Davidson with Love Ride 18. We have our last committee meeting on 1 November 2001 just to tie up all the loose ends and make sure that everyone knows the times and places their duties will be performed. This is necessary due to the many clubs that volunteer to help with the Love Ride. Bill, KE6UUD, and I will be there to glean whatever tidbits of information available that will benefit the MARC volunteers. Be sure to attend the MARC meeting at the Lakeview Cafe on 10 November 2001, so that we may pass on the latest and greatest news to all of our volunteers.

In our last newsletter, we were preparing for the MS 150 (Bay to Bay) bicycle ride. I know that John, KC6ZOZ, the coordinator for this event will have an article about the MS150 later in this newsletter, but I shall also comment. The event was very well organized this year and all went very well. There was plenty of food, snacks and, most importantly, plenty of water at all rest stops. There were several first aid incidents with many being tended to, on the spot, by MARC riders, even before the Support and Gear crews could arrive to transport riders to a designated first aid station at a rest stop. Way to go MARC!

Our MARC communications even assisted in the retrieval of a fanny pack that contained one rider's identification and money. The rider accidentally left it at

a rest stop. All was returned post haste with a big thank you and a hug from the owner. (Ask Billy, K6EDY about the thanks he received.)

With preparations for operation Enduring Freedom in full tilt, I was very surprised that we were allowed to pass through Camp Pendleton. (The day before the operation was initiated.) Everyone was required to have a rider number and show a picture ID (thus the requirement for the gentleman in the previous paragraph to obtain his fanny pack from the rest stop). The Marine Military Police manning the Las Pulgas entrance to Camp Pendleton were very friendly and efficient throughout the day. I have sent a letter to both the Commandant and Provost Martial citing the extreme professionalism and courteousness of these individuals.

With the BARN 440 Santiago repeater being repaired and working up to par, I thought we would have more than 15 check-ins for the weekly radio net. Now is the time to "MARC" your calendar and join us every Wednesday evening at 1930 Hrs. It is always fun to chat with friends and catch up on the latest club news. So remember, Wednesday evening at 1930PM, 447.540 - PL 100. Even your hand held should hit the Santiago machine from anywhere in So. Cal. Yes, I know that the rest of you in the "hinterlands" will have to check in by e-mail. That works for me. It is always good to hear that you are alive and well and MARCing time with us.

Last month I told you that my employer was contemplating a reduction in force.

Well, I am now among the recently unemployed. As of 26 October 2001, I turned in my keys and beeper and said good bye to my coworkers at the Ontario Airport. Mijo, KF6BEB, is in the process of updating her "honey do" list of things to be done. It doesn't look like I will have time to rest for a while.

How would you like to have a new hand held Kenwood dual band radio? The chance is yours. Our December special prize will be a Kenwood TH-D7A; this is Kenwood's deluxe dual band handheld featuring automatic packet reporting system. APRS allows you to track mobile stations on a map on your computer screen. (Don't ask me how it works, I haven't got involved in the APRS system yet. Although, it does sound very interesting.) Chances on this feature packed hand held are just one dollar each yes, \$1.00 each. You can buy your tickets for a chance on this radio from Mijo or John at the next MARC breakfast. Just come to the MARC meeting at the Lakeview Cafe, on the corner of Lakeview and Orangethorpe in Placentia. If you can't make the meeting just send your dollar (or \$\$\$) to Bonnie, at the MARC office and she will put your ticket in the box for the drawing. The next meeting will be at 8:00 AM on Saturday 10 November 2001. Someone will win this radio at the MARC meeting on 8 December 2001. It might be you!

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

John F. Reynolds, President, MARC
 johnw5jfr@aol.com (909) 820 0509

MY OH MY WHAT AM I GOING TO DO???

The 96 Wing has been at rest for the most part now, except for the short 16 mile jaunts down to Huntington Honda on Saturday mornings. I got to tell you, it has been boring around here after all the traveling this summer.

I was down to Huntington Honda yesterday to pick up some H & H advertising for the MARC Newsletter and set in the office talking to Roger the owner for over an hour. He said business has really been slow since Sept 11th. He has only sold 3-1800 Gold Wings since the day. Although the Service Department is staying busy because of all the back log of work they had.

I related the story of the experience I had with the worst motorcycle shop I had ever encountered in Denver CO the day of the WTC terrorists attacks. As I had said in last months newsletter getting a tire changed at RPM Motorsports, LLC in Lakewood CO was an experience I will never forget. I got to the store on Tuesday morning at 8:30am, well before they opened. The service manager, Dave told me that he could take me right in a little after 9am, when they had gotten set to work. Well he didn't bother explaining to me that he was going to put a young fellow, who I found out later, had only been in this country for less then a year, to do the rear tire change for me. To make matters worst, I also found out later, that he had never done a rear tire replacement on a Gold Wing of any year before. They would not let me into the work area, but I could stand outside the service area, by the rear roll up door and watch the whole fiasco. First, they didn't know how to change a tire on a 1500 with a Ride Off Stand. They couldn't get it up on the Ride off Stand while on their type of lift. I told the service manager and the mechanic that I could do it for them, but they refused to let me go in and show them. They got very arrogant and rude. Then they were going to us a fork lift to lift it up with a chain around the bike. I yelled at them to forget it if they were going to do that. They finally got it up on the Ride Off Stand and tied the bike down. To make a long story short, it took them 2 hours and the mufflers were bolted back up incorrectly. They never told me that the rear brake shoes were worn down to less then 1/16 inch, and the left rear Progressive Air Shock was leaking oil. They charged me \$65 dollars an hour labor and \$205 for a 160/80HB16 Elite 2 tire.

Because of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, I just wanted to get out of there and get home. I finally made it to the I-70 Freeway West bound a little after 11am Tuesday Sept 11th. From there I only stopped twice for gas, once in Beaver UT and again at the CA/NV border. I got home at about 1am Wed morning. Remember, I was pulling the Bushtec Trailer and only had the main and right side fuel tanks to go on. Bonnie was still waiting up for me when I got home. I had talked to her 4 or 5 times on the Cell Phone all the way home and I had been listening to the radio stations giving reports of the tragedy.

The very next day, Wednesday, I took the motorcycle down to Huntington Honda and asked Neil to take a look at the job that the mechanic at RPM Motorsports LLC in Denver had done. He had to take the mufflers lose and remove the rear wheel again. Neil showed me the worn out brake pads and the shock that was leaking. So he had to replace both of those items. Then he had to remove the right hand muffler completely, because the mechanic in Denver had broken off a bolt on that muffler that had to be drilled out and tapped. The left rear Progressive Shock was still under warranty so there no cost on that. The brake pads were replaced and the mufflers were put back as they should have been in the first place. The cost for the repairs to the RPM screw up cost me another \$114.

I called Dave, the Service Manager at RPM Motorsports in Denver on my cell phone while Neil was working on the motorcycle at Huntington Honda and told Dave what Neil had found. That is

when he explained to me that his mechanic had never done a tire change on a 1500 Gold Wing before and the only reason he could do my tire without an appointment was because he let this inexperienced mechanic do it. The real 1500 Gold Wing mechanics were working on other Gold Wings and he wouldn't take them off their other jobs just to get me back on the road. Needless to say I gave him an ear full when he told me all this. Now you have to understand, this is a huge Honda Dealer, with probably a hundred motorcycles of all kinds in the show room and in the service area. Damn I was angry. But at least I did get home safe and sound, but it was a very expensive lesson.

See Johns KC6ZOZ report on the MS 150K Bicycle Ride. I just want to add that it was the best one we have done so far and John certainly deserves more then his share of credit for doing so much work as one of the MS 150K Committeemen. I know it was an awesome sight when I came over the hill North Bound to meet the bicyclists coming South on Pacific Coast Highway and saw all those long lines of bicycles coming at me on the other side of the road. It just gave me goose bumps and I was ecstatic when I saw it. I thought to myself, "This is going to be a great day" and it turned out to be a greater weekend. Thanks John.

The Love Ride 18 is coming up Sunday Nov. 11th, the day after the Nov MARC Meeting. See Bill KE6UUDs report on that event. That weekend is going to be a hectic one for Bonnie and I. We have my daughter, her husband and my X coming in from FL on Friday so they can be here for my sons wedding Saturday afternoon Nov 10th. We have the Nov MARC Meeting on Saturday morning, the wedding that afternoon and the Love Ride the following morning. Gee, I hope we can get it all in.

I have been looking at the International Brotherhood of Motorcycle Campers (IBMC) camp out schedule for the upcoming year and am thinking of trying camping again now that my replacement hips are doing so well. I can now get off the floor without too much trouble and could most likely go back to tenting it again if I choose to. So I am looking at some of those camp outs and think I will give it a try. I even had the Bushtec Trailer Tongue extended to the new length (49 1/2 inches) in hopes it would make it easier to tow without the wig wag it had before. Something to think about for next summer.

Well that's it for another month, I sure need to go for a ride to break up the boredom. May the sun always shine on you and the wind be at your back, and do have a safe Thanksgiving.

Ray Davis KD6FHN <raykd6fhn@earthlink.net>
(949) 551-1036 Cell # (949) 300-9669

QST,QST,QST !

"Marc" you calendars for December the 7th,8th,& 9th. It's time once again for the annual Motorcycle & Accessories show! Gee...just in time for Christmas and that special guy or guy in your life hint, hint 8-)

There will be demo rides from Harley Davidson & BMW of North America plus a chance to win a prize from what I've read. It will be held at the same location as last year in Long Beach, Ca at the Long Beach Convention Center.

Bring your cameras & wear your "Marc" gear!

The dates and times are as follows: Friday the 7th 5PM→10PM

Saturday the 8th 10AM→ 9PM Sunday the 9th 10AM→ 5PM

You may also get more specifics at:

"<http://www.motorcycleshows.com>"

Hope you can make it to take a gander at all the new toys!

73 ! from Encino, Ca

Bob

KD6YBT

FROM YOUR MS 150 COORDINATOR

Well it's all over for another year. Over \$775,000 in pledges was raised at the 19th annual MS 150 Bay to Bay Bike Tour! With nearly 1,100 riders and 500 volunteers, the 2001 Tour is the most successful to date. Check out their web site:

"<http://www.nmssoc.org/>" they have the latest updates.

I will have my follow up communication group meeting on Nov 13th. I think that the ride only gets better and better each year. I would like to take this opportunity to again express my heartfelt thanks, to all those MARC members that were able to help out on Oct 6th and 7th with the MS150 Bay to Bay Tour. Bonnie Davis KD8OFQ, Dave Christian W8DRC, Bob Pestolesi KE6GYD, Bill Hooker WG6A, Billy Hall N6EDY, Ron Moran KD6EEI, Ray Davis KD6FHN, Gary Thomas W7GWT, John Reynolds KD6NXC, Jim Rodriques KC6OAU, Conrad Sillars KC6PHI, Mike Naron N6QZT, DeWitt Morgan KM6UK, Norma Thomas KE6BIS, Teri Edwards KF6HJT, Sue Hebb KF6HZJ, Gayle Hebb KF6JJT, Alvin Brown KD6UZM, Mijo Reynolds KF6BEB, Charmaine Smith KF6YOL, Cyndi Pais KF6PRY and John Beckwith N6JCB.

As the people at the Multiple Sclerosis office say "we couldn't have better support then we have on this event." Again thank you for all your help.

John Edwards KC6ZOZ

Here are some statistics:::::

The 2001 MS 150 Bay to Bay Bike Tour Breaks All Records! Over \$775,000 in pledges was raised at the 19th annual MS 150 Bay to Bay Bike Tour! With nearly 1,100 riders and 500 volunteers, the 2001 Tour is the most successful to date. Saturday morning began at the Newport Dunes resort with riders fueling up for the exciting weekend ahead while enjoying the tunes of DJ service, Fly By Night. During the opening ceremonies, Ashley Liddell had the crowd motionless as she sang the National Anthem. Lisa Green, whose mother rode for the first time in the event, gave an inspirational speech about the importance of the contribution that all riders were making to the fight against MS. Additionally, honorary co-chairs and one-year veterans Sam Rubin and Emmett Miller from KTLA Channel 5 pumped the crowd up with their usual friendly banter. After a challenging 50-mile, or for some, a 100-mile route, the day one journey ended in Carlsbad where the evening's festivities began. After the riders were treated to massages, DJ'd music, and dinner, the awards ceremony commenced.

Again, Sam and Emmett thanked the crowd and brought up first time rider Frank Kramer from 97.1 KLSX's Frosty, Heidi and Frank Show to discuss some of the first day's highlights. Then the crowd went wild as Sam brought pro basketball player A.C. Green, formerly with the world champion LA Lakers, to the stage.

A.C. pledged that next year he will form a team sponsored by Biosport - the official sports drink of the MS 150 Bay to Bay Bike Tour - which A.C. endorses and vowed to take home the top team honors!

Speaking of top honors, with 225 Top Fundraisers (those who raised over \$1,000 individually) the competition for the top spot was close. Congratulations to Steve Zamucen who raised a phenomenal \$30,435 and to Todd von Sprecken who raised an incredible \$24,065. Amazing! The excitement spilled over to the Team MS front where 80 teams representing companies, churches and friends and family groups raised close to \$500,000! The top fundraising team for the second year in a row was Lloyd's Lagers, captained by Georgette Sleeth. The Lagers raised a record breaking \$103,789.25 with an 81 member team! Outstanding! Ready to celebrate the unbelievable news, many danced the night

away to the fabulous tunes of Hunting Waldo.

At the day two finish line at San Diego's Mission Bay, riders relaxed, listened to the Reno Jones Band, had lunch and enjoyed the ambience of another beautiful Southern California day before being transported back to Newport Beach in full service coaches.

Congratulations to all of the riders, volunteers and sponsors who made this year's MS 150 Bay to Bay Bike Tour such a success! Special thanks to everyone who contributed... Planning Committee Members, riders, volunteers, sponsors and Wheelmates... SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!!!!!

Love Ride 18

From your Love Ride Coordinator, Bill KE6UUD and the Assistant, John W5JFR; stand by for Love Ride 18. On Sunday 11 November 2001 we in MARC will have the pleasure of escorting a parade of motorcycles from Glendale Harley Davidson to Castaic Lake Park, north of Los Angeles. For those that have signed up to work this event stand by for some changes. Bill will be at the MARC meeting on 10 November 2001 to brief all volunteers on the changes. The entertainment this year will be Joe Walsh, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Vanilla Fudge and Billy Ray Cyrus. We were told that Billy Ray would be at Glendale in the morning to sing the National Anthem and his new hit, Stand Alone. He will ride up to Castaic with the group and sing there later in the day.

We also learned that there will be a member of the New York City Fire Department and a member of the Port Authority Police NYC at the Love Ride to accept a donation from the Love Ride foundation to their respective disaster relief organizations.

Due to increased security awareness there have been a few changes made at Glendale and at Castaic Lake. The Love Ride committee has asked that all volunteers be extremely aware of their surroundings and be alert for any unusual activity. Especially those of us in MARC that have communications at the ready, so please bring your hand held and stay in touch with Net Control or Glendale Dispatch. If anything unusual is observed the proper authorities can be notified without delay.

If you are unable to make the MARC meeting on Saturday 10 November 2001 and are signed up to work this event contact Bill, KE6UUD or John W5JFR Saturday afternoon for your last minute update. Please try your best to make the meeting.

Your Love Ride Coordinator

Bill, KE6UUD

<wbdoug@cwia.com>

and his Assistant John W5JFR

<johnw5jfr@aol.com>

"The great thing about getting older is that you don't lose all the other ages you've been."

(Madeleine L'Engle)

**FROM YOUR '50/50' LADY
MIJO REYNOLDS KF6BEB
<MijoBeb@aol.com>**

NET Names drawn: 10/3-KE6ONA Bob, 10/10-KG6EIL Ken, 10/7-N6MHQ Diane, 10/24- KE6SUW Geri & 10/31- W6JKO Mory

OCTOBER 50/50 cash Winners:

Well not seeing Burt N6USO for a spell he runs off with the first \$55 then Frank K1LVU took off with the second \$55

September door prize winners:

\$40 gift certificate donated by Huntington Honda-Debi Craig

HS05 Connection donated by NCG Corp- Rich N6MHN

Items donated by MARC:

Timex Motorcycle clock- John W5JFR

Six piece Bungee Cords- Dave W6DRC

Compass Magnifier- Josh KF6RNH (Gray ticket)

CD/3.5 Cube holder- Debi Craig

60 Pliers set- Dave W6DRC

Mini Clamps- John W5JFR

Items donated by Ray & Bonnie:

Musical Encouragement- Dave W6DRC

Assorted teas- De Witt KM6UK

Halloween gift bag- John KC6ZOZ

Other donors/winners:

Repeater directory donated by Mike N6QZT- Ray KD6FHN

6 pc multifunction tool kit donated by John W5JFR- John KC6ZOZ

Donated by Billy N6EDY:

Stuffed panda won by De Witt who gave it to John W5JFR

Stuffed Fievel won by John W5JFR who gave it to Linda KD6AHS

Donated by Michael KE6GYC:

Palm Springs Museum tickets (6) - Burt N6USO

Leather Hair holder- Michael KE6GYC

Donated by Dick KB6PPF & Anne Speedy:

GL 1500 Black cap- John KC6ZOZ

Panasonic FM/AM clock radio- Ray KD6FHN

Gold Wing anniversary book- Mike N6QZT

Free Gray ticket dispenser was Mike N6QZT

Gray ticket winner - Josh KF6RNH

Many thanks to the owners of Lake View Cafe for allowing MARC to hold their meetings at their fine establishment.....and to Billi our waitress "thank yous" too.

From the Secretary/Treasurer/NewsLetter Editor:

Bonnie KD6OFQ 949-551-1036 Fax 949-551-3042

<bonidavis@juno.com> <bonidavis@earthlink.net>

NEW MEMBERS: 10/20-No new members but a favorite past member Gary KE6JFO-Welcome back Gary...

October Meeting: Man, sure was good to see Burt N6USO who is a motorcycle policeman so he is a busy man also has growing children. Hope he gave them each a hug from us. Then a past member Dick KB6PPF & his xyl Anne honored us with their presence. They are taking to the road in a few months, you know the word "retiring". We wish them luck in their journeys, sounds like they will be having fun. Also joining us from Georgia was a young man, Earl Morgan, De Witt KM6UKs brother -neat gentleman.

******LADIESSSSSS:*******

I sent most of you an e-mail regarding the Ladies meeting in February... Will have an info sheet for you at the meeting & Ideas from all. We need to get things rolling so we need your help & ideas. THINK THINK. Hey ladies- not heard anything

from any of you. Come on lets have some fun.

SPECIAL PRIZE DRAWING: DECEMBER 8, 2001

KENWOOD TH-D7A 144/440 MHz Dual bander- handheld plus APRS

*******RENEWAL NOTICE*******

WILL BE IN YOUR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER***

IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR EXTRA FOUR DIGIT ZIP CODE- CHECK YOUR JUNK MAIL IF YOU DON'T KNOW IT. ALSO IF YOU CAN REMEMBER WHEN YOU FIRST JOINED "MARC". I AM GOING TO TRY AND GET MEMBERSHIP CARDS OUT TO EACH TO CARRY, that is with the help of some sweet marc member.

If you check your mailing label it will tell you when your membership expires.

Thanking all in advance for your participation in MARC.

SUNSHINE CORNER:*****

Yes our thoughts are still fresh in our minds of the September 11, 2001 attack, and the every day reminder of the attack.... I cannot in my mind understand why the United States insists upon allowing the News Media in to constantly broadcast our every move.

As far as the remarks made of the American Red Cross, people do not understand that in any disaster, each must contact the Red Cross and go thru the process of paper work which takes lots of time. Having been a caseworker for the Red Cross, you cannot imagine how many people try to beat the system with fraudulent cases, yes that has happened in this situation too.

So if there is anyone out there you know who was involved with loss of life of family and friends in the World Trade Center who has not had any assistance, let them know they have to contact their local Red Cross and start proceedings for their assistance.

We have to weed out the good, bad and ugly thru paper work.

They will need SSN, addresses, all pertinent information for proof of any assistance.

Our LOVE & PRAYERS go out to everyone during this time of stress and terrorism. We must stand UNITED---TOGETHER.

Hello from your Quarterly E-Mail Lady!

Yes by the time this newsletter is out, hopefully all of you have checked in, making it a 100% check-in. It took me a little time to get all the e-mail members listed so I could send the request out. Hopefully it worked this time. Remember this is a way we know if you have a working e-mail address, changed to another address or just not having an e-mail address.

Wishing you each a great safe Thanksgiving.

Thanks for your time with Love you all.

**Sue Hebb KF6HZJ <suehebb@cs.com>
Historian and E-Mail check-in Coordinator**

Huntington Harbour Christmas Parade

For anyone who hasn't seen the Huntington Harbour Christmas Parade let me paint you a picture. Imagine multimillion dollar houses all stretched along a wide channel with docks out front. Most of these houses appear to be abandoned most of the year tho they are immaculately tailored. This is because the doctors, lawyers and Indian chiefs who can afford them are busy at work trying to pay the tax bill...or are they at their other homes?

Anyway, once a year they decorate these houses for Christmas and have parties. The parties are usually catered events and obviously very elaborate. As they are too busy to do this decorating themselves, the owners just pay what looks like thousands of dollars to have their houses, and yachts in front of the houses, decorated with lights and scenes out of Christmas movies etc.

All us boating crowd, sponsored by groups such as yacht clubs, then decorate our boats to match and have a big parade. It is free to enter the parade and even Motorcycle Ham Radio Clubs could decorate a boat and enter?!! There is music and prizes for the best decorations among the 75+ boats in the parade along with another thousand or so boats out that night for the fun of it. Everyone lines the walkways and waterways and cruises around eating and drinking and being merry. If you are in a small boat it can get chilly depending upon the weather but if you have a larger boat it doesn't matter.

Now for the best part.....

On Sunday the 9th of December I am inviting MARC Members to partake of this event. To this end I offer to take a small group, limited to around 25 or so people, out on my "runabout" The Final Exam for this evening's entertainment.

This is primarily an Adult evening.... For those that question the accommodations, let me assure you that the boat in question has a stocked bar....and by the way its a 52' powerboat. Weather will not be a problem but I do suggest you **dress warm and have gloves handy** as most like to go out on deck and holler at the revelers. **SOFT SOLED SHOES ONLY AS DARK AND HARD SOLES WILL MARK THE DECK.**

We will be monitoring MARC simplex as I have a base station antenna on the boat. We will meet at the Guest Dock in front of Koury's Restaurant in Seaport Village, which is at the end of Marina Drive in Long Beach. There is parking in the lot available near Buster's and in the street that is secure. The boat will be there at 4pm and **WILL LEAVE THE DOCK PROMPTLY AT 4:30.** It has an icemaker and full bar, I suggest each person bring something to share for the buffet and their favorite beverage, adult or otherwise. We will be out for approximately 4-5 hours and return to the dock around 10pm.

The only hitches in the plans may involve access as they currently only allow 2 hours of access in the morning and evening through Anaheim Landing as they are loading ammo for the effort. I am sure there will be accommodations for the parade.....AND I will have to get RSVP's so I have adequate life jackets aboard....I only have 28 aboard at this time but have more I can bring. **Now for the fun part.....**the boat has a 8.5 KW generator on board and it has a 10 foot flat area on the foreword deck that would be ripe for decorating..... I have this picture in mind of Santa on a motorcycle or his huge sleigh with antennas being pulled by a motorcycle.... and all of us in leathers? of course it would have an ad for MARC on the boat and lots of lights if everyone got involved..... I have lights but no small motorcycle to put on board. (only goldwings)..... We would have to decorate the boat on Friday and Saturday to have it ready and I would have to get entered so we can be in the parade not just go watch.

Either way we will have lots of fun. Also need the following for decorating lights—mini size strings—bunches of them! a big

picture of a motorcycle or a lightweight version/fairing & saddlebags we can tie on a smaller bike to make it look full dress. a large sleigh, a real one, a cutout of one or someone willing to make one out of plywood....cardboard is not very good as it is damp out there at night. a large imitation tree or a real one to decorate on the deck other decorations we can string on lifelines etc. garlands etc.

Anyone interested? There was a sign-up sheet at the October meeting and will be at the November meeting or give me a call.

Butch Macy

KD6VBO

562/429-7722

THIS AND THAT

Hmmmmmm, I just looked out the window and it was dark, yep, daylight savings time is over for another year. For this retired folk, I would prefer that we stay on daylight savings time. Since I am retired I get up a little later and would like the evenings light to stay with us a little longer. The days here are nice but it gets cooler earlier in the day, so maybe I don't ride as long as earlier in the year.

I know, I hear the groans, you folk who live in snow country are thinking what a wimp I am. I confess, I am. I am spoiled living here in the southwest where we can, and do ride longer into the year. In fact there are few days in So Cal that we can't ride. In fact most Christmas's we are able to wear just a short sleeved shirt. Rob of course wears that ALL year. Aloha!!!

Since it is getting dark earlier remember that the "cage" drivers will be closing up. They won't be looking for motorcycles nearly as much as they do in the summertime. They just don't think that we are crazy enough to be out riding our two wheeled steeds in the cold. WRONG, huh Tim??? I for one, ride year round, except when it is raining.

I have just started the painful process of crashing my computer, reformatting the disk, and getting ready to install Microsoft's new operating system, Windows® XP. I have heard from a few folks who have done this and I guess "it ain't easy." The key thing to do I guess is to back-up the old files. I don't know how much I "really" care about saving a lot of the old stuff. Over the past 18 months or so the file system has become so bloated with unnecessary "stuff," that I think I will just start out new, fdisk, and a new install. I will try to give you a report on any pitfalls I run across as this thing plays out.

I hope to be back on the air soon HF. I finally got my HF rig back from the repair center, but as long as it is down, I need to do some wiring clean-up and some other stuff before I put it back on line. I hope to soon join the HF crowd again. I do miss talking to the group, but I wonder when Graham will learn to speak "English...." I won't have a chance to speak with you folks again before, so may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Veterans Day on November 11th. please take the time to honor our vets, I happen to be one, and I am very proud of the service I performed to our country. I wish you all a very happy THANKSGIVING, and hope as you carve your turkey you will wish me a happy 67th birthday too.... May our country soon be back to normal and safe for us all. Pray for the safety of our troops who are fighting for our freedom.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!

Love ya,

De Witt Morgan

KM6UK

<dewitt@home.com>

"You grow up the day you have your first real laugh at yourself." (Ethel Barrymore)

PAUL & MARSHA'S "ROAD TRIP"

We left home early on Wednesday August 1, with the intention of spending a few days, camping out, and having fun with Zac, our youngest grandson, who is now 5 years old. Thursday morning, he wanted to go ride a "go-cart". So we went to the local "go-cart" place. The sign said, you must be 7 or older. Zac wears size 8, so I thought we could get by with it. As the man was sizing us up, Zac said "I am 5 years old now, you know, I am a big boy". Well, that blew riding by himself, so PAPA, had to ride with him. 25 laps later, I finally talked him into going swimming! Zac loves the water, so we went to the Beach, and he played in the water, with the other kids for hours. It finally started to get dark, so we went to dinner, then back to our campsite. We started a campfire, and I think it was the first time Zac had seen a fire out in the open like that.

Early the next day, Zac was playing on the playground, waiting for Grandma to get ready to go, when a larger boy (looked to be around 18) came over and started teasing him. Zac jumped off the "merry go round", grabbed around the older boy's legs, and dumps him. Then, Zac climbs up on the "merry go round", and was drawing back his fist when I stopped him. Kid doesn't know the meaning of fear yet. Any way, Zac wanted to go to the beach again. When we arrived, he found a snail. He soon traded the snail for a dead fish, which he traded to another kid for a small pail. Before long, he had traded up to a larger pail. Then he gave that to a girl! We left the beach, and bought a large (Zac asked the sales lady for "the biggest one") smoked Whiting fish, and some other food stuff, at the market. We then went to a small city park, and ate lunch, including the smoked fish. Then back to the beach again!

That night, Grandma wanted to go out to a restaurant for a "fish fry". Then we went back to our campsite and started a campfire again. Grandma provided some Hotdogs, and Zac enjoyed roasting them. Only problem, he wanted grandpa to eat all of them. Ugh!! Then Grandma Marsha, found a "popcorn" pan. Well we popped that over the fire. Zac was amazed at how the metal top popped up to make room for the popcorn! When the popcorn was gone Grandma put Zac in his bed, and her and I sat a while, then turned in ourselves. Having a youngster full time, is almost more than we can handle at our age.

All this was done, by the way, between Harley rides. The weather was warm, just nice for camping out, and riding around as we were. We put 250 miles on that Harley, just tooling around Spooner, WI. (a very small town) Saturday we went over and rode the "Go-carts" again. Then a small carnival had set up in town! Zac rode everything they would let him ride on. Dragging me along of course. Then, he saw a deal where you could have a "water Balloon fight". It was 2 little "buildings" with LARGE rubber bands rigged to a funnel, that you put the water balloon in. Then you pulled back on the handle, and let it fly. He wanted to try it. I figured, what the heck, he can't pull it back that hard, he will never hit me RIGHT? NOT! Well he hit me twice, with balloons full of water. I was wet. As wet as riding in the rain!

Then Zac come up with the idea that "we" should go "Minnow" fishing! We had found a "butterfly net" for a dollar, at a yard sale. OK, so we took that to the beach, and Zac expended quite a lot of energy trying to catch minnows. Then, a few other children, joined the game! They just about drove the minnows mad. I admit, they did catch 2 or 3, but it was hilarious watching that effort. That was one time I wished I had taken the video camera!

Well time for Pizza tonight, and then back to the campsite. Another campfire, with marshmallows, and some more popcorn. Well, all fun things must end, so Sunday morning, after breakfast, Grandma took Zac shopping for clothes, to wear when he starts Kindergarten, next week, (he says "I AIN'T GOING TO NO

KINDERGARTEN"!)) we left him at his home, and started towards Sturgis, SD. First stop for Gas was in Siren, WI., which you may already know, was blown away this spring. Man there was nothing left of that town! They are rebuilding it very rapidly though. Most of the cement work was already in place, as they are rebuilding, just where things were before. Our intentions were, to spend a bit of time with Tim KBORTZ, in the Minneapolis, MN. Area, But that never happened.

Marsha, and I, camped out, near Sioux Falls, SD, that night. It was getting pretty hot, and Marsha needed lots of "cool off" breaks! The next day would be even hotter! We only rode for an hour and a half to 2 hours at a time, then we would stop for cool down break. That next afternoon, we pulled into the campsite, in Sturgis, where we have stayed in for nearly 20 years. The old price of \$12, has been changed! Now it is \$30, and there are no warm showers. There are also less "porta pots" than there used to be, and one really big item, I thought. There were less campers. Lots less campers. The place was a Ghost town, and no wonder. We stayed there for a couple of days, then moved to a State Park, in Spearfish Canyon. It was much cooler there, and much more enjoyable. We had several nice days visiting with our friends Jim and Connie Poitra, from Nebraska, and David and Sharon Craig, from Duluth, Minnesota, that we have camped with there every year, for over 20 years. For those who didn't make it to Sturgis, the theme this year, was Paint and Raccoon tails. (Use your imagination, on second thought not much imagination was needed!)

During the days, we went riding and sight seeing at several different spots. Breakfast's would be in camp, or at Cheyenne crossing. Evenings, for dinner, we would go to the "Latchstring Inn" on Spearfish Canyon road, Marsha's favorite, or to Deadwood, to a casino, Connie's favorite. Friday evening, Marsha wanted to go to a Steak place. On the way, we got separated, and couldn't find the others, so Marsha, and I went to Applebee's. She likes their "House" steak, and I like their "Mexican" dishes, so it worked out well. We, were in bed asleep, when the others came in. The next day, we were to find they had made a bad choice, and their meals never did show up at their table!

It was at this park, that we met W6JIM Jim Schmidt, and his wife Natalie (sorry I forgot Natalies callsign). They are retired, and were living there, in their motorhome, until cooler weather, when they will go to Costa-Rica, for the winter. They were so nice, that Marsha, and I, stayed there most of Saturday visiting with them, even though our other friends had departed for home around 8:30 AM. Jim and Natalie, introduced us to a couple from Lead, that were renting their house out for Sturgis week. The couple said, they got \$960, for one week! Wow I would go camping for a week too! I saw several motorhomes around Sturgis, that I know retailed for over \$500,000. What is this biker world coming to? I, will never have that kind of money, nor would I use it that way!

Well, Marsha, and I, finally left, for home! We got as far as the Badlands, the first day. (for those who do not know, that is considerable less than a hundred miles)! Of course we stopped in Wall, for lunch, and a small amount of shopping. Marsha bought a "tea set" for the bike. She found a compartmentized, insulated bag, then she found a teapot (actually a coffee pot), that fit into one of the compartments, but it will do nicely for heating tea water. Then she found two metal cups that fit in another compartment. She was not through yet! She found 2 spoons, later she stumbled upon 2 of the spoon, knife, & fork sets that clip together. Later I caught up with her again, she now had 2 plates, and 2 bowls, that fit into the last compartment. All in all, it was a very short riding day for us. We enjoyed camping in the campground there in the Badlands, it was very nice, and we met several nice people, including a couple of members of the Ingels family. Also a family from Portland, Oregon, which had been to Nova Scotia, and were returning home, on their three-wheel motorcycle (modified by California Sidecar Company).

We also stopped at the new Cabela store, while still in South Dakota. I found a few camping items I had been looking for. Nice store. They even had "shower heaters", a device to heat the water for a shower, if you are at a primitive campsite, or a site like we had at Sturgis. No I did not buy one, but I sure thought about it! I did not see the humorous site, usually prepared by some one near Mitchell, SD. Usually he/she has a motorcycle stuck into a car, or a bale of hay etc. Too bad, because I always enjoyed the "art" that the person created. Sunday night, we camped in a nice City park, in Western Iowa. Nice place, plenty of shade, showers etc. Hey I listened in on a conversation while there. It seems the local club has permission to put their ATV, and APRS antennas, at the 1150 foot and 1350 foot level. As it was, I heard their 2-meter repeater for nearly a hundred miles. I understood it was already that high. Here in Rockford, it is unusual to be able to put it higher than 200 feet.

Monday, we rode all day, on I-80, to I-88, to I-39, to get home before dark. My old eyes are getting tired now, and I, do not like to ride much, after dark, or in the rain. Marsha, had heard the weather forecast, and wanted to be home before the rain hit! We did stop at the Amana Colonies, in Iowa though, Marsha, always likes to stop there, and buy some of their bread, cake, and jelly, etc., and it was dinnertime, so we ate in the restaurant there too. I recommend this stop to anyone who is passing that way.

Paul K9PEP & Marsh K9MIP Plasters

HELPING A FRIEND MOVE TRIP

The other day I was listening to the radio at work. The announcer was talking of the changing seasons. People prepping their snowmobiles or covering their motorcycles due to cold weather approaching... "Ha!" I laughed. Then turning to the fellow I work with I said, "Sorry for the outburst." He just nodded with a hint of a smile.

Yes the days of daylight into the late evenings are gone. Starlight now with the clocks receded an hour is more common. However this doesn't mean the hard core bikes are parked for the season! Nope, it might take a little longer for the beemer to warm in the morning or for that matter anytime I start it up but I will ride till either there is too much snow on the roads or the temps drop into the cellar. Some of my friends think I am nuts.. Course we could say the same thing about DeWitt or Ray and yet we who are in this group understand the mind set and focus needed by those two.

This past month I helped my good friend Ladd get the rest of his belongings to Seattle area. The idea was to put the BMW in the truck with his stuff and then ride it back. Another friend, John heard that I was taking the bike along. So he commented that the Airlines had some pretty good deals because of the terrible incident in September. He thot I should just hop the plane and take the easy way home. And after talking to him about my plans he agreed with me that I am nuts. But I know this fellow is into that golf game so much that he built a house on some side of the fare way. No I'm not as nutty as some may think. Its the compassion we put into the things or stuff in our lives. I am sure this friend of mine if he had the chance would take a tour of golf courses instead of taking the easy way home.

Was it easy to come home in October? Well I left the Seattle area on October 7th hoping to get through the passes in the Rockies before the freeze warnings became real. We had done some tourist things on Friday. Gone up on Hurricane Ridge looking into the forests around MT Olympia. Glaciers could be seen and even some deer came walking through the parking lot. However I was unsettled by the calmness. No birds or even chipmunks along the paths through the woods. Too quiet. Mentioned this to my friend Ladd. "Maybe I should head home on Saturday." He kind of shook his head and I knew he didn't want

me to go just yet. So I waited and left Sunday morning. One thing about the mountains in Washington and Montana... the passes aren't as high as Colorado. Finally got into Idaho and thot I had better stop for some lunch at a rest area. Taking off the helmet I was surprised when a young woman spoke to me "Your brother said you would be here and he wanted me to tell you to wait for him." Or something like that was said. "I don't think my brother is around here ma'am..." I replied "Maybe there is someone else your supposed to be watching for." She then apologized but she was looking at the BMW with interest. I had set it up on the center stand and she was kind of amazed about the whole bike. Looking at it like she had never seen one before. Interesting y' know when someone comes along and gives you a needed or different perspective. Waved to her as I left and kept moving east. Finally as the sun was setting behind me I found the last major pass. Yet the clouds that had streamed ahead of me in Seattle the day before were still above. Wanting to find some clear skies I kept riding. About 9:30pm I stopped for my supper break. Went into the restroom building only to hear the "Scandinavian Weather Computer Voice" talking snow in the high plains. Well you have to admit that weather computer voice does sound something like a Swede, OOFDA!

So with that in the back of my brain I knew only one thing to do. Keep riding and forget the motel. Didn't like the idea of having frost or ice on the BMW when waking up in some small town. Missoula is about half way home and I was glad to see the sign. Although the next goal was Bismarck and that's another 400 miles. Still I rode, wishing however that the snowmobile suit wasn't hanging up at home but on me! However the K100RT kept me warm. Scanning ditches and even the main road I waited for the deer to come. Did see some along the ditch close to the North Dakota border. I had thot I saw one crossing the freeway in front of me but it might have been just too much riding and seeing things that aren't. Seems the eyes on this buck didn't shine in the headlight. Yes, I can hear you Bonnie... should have found a room. But I didn't

Finally got to Bismarck, North Dakota around 6 in the morning their time or I spose mountain time. The skies had finally cleared which meant the temperature had dropped maybe 10 degrees. I was c-c-cold so I had my rain suit along and wore that for the rest of the trip just to keep the body warm. East of Bismarck it started to rain. Hard water I call it. Any rain under 45 degrees is hard water... Above 60 is warm or soft water. "Lord, You know I don't mind rain." I prayed as I was getting hit with big drops. "But rain and darkness? Thats not fair!" So I pulled into a rest area and was amazed that the rain had kind of stopped. 22 hours of riding was diminishing my stamina so I opted to buy a bottle of Mountain Dew. To my surprise and laughter the machine dropped 2 bottles. Just like the Lord telling me to get going and drink the stuff. Gas gauge was close to empty. Pulled into a small town only to see the station closed. Well guess I will keep going. Hate to wait around in the rain for fuel. Finally stopped in Medina. Warm air greeted me when opening the door to pay for my fuel. Almost thot I should stick around but also knew I needed to keep going. Fargo never looked soo good, well in fact the Minnesota border. So I tanked up the bike and opened the throttle. Still some rain but I didn't care. I was home. Course still 200 miles but what's that. St. Cloud came by fast. Then the north suburbs. I stopped for fuel in Alberville only to figure out the tank under the ground was empty of premium. I was instructed by the mechanic to roll the bike to the other pump. "Thats the good stuff, no ethanol in it." He said.

Arrived home around 4pm cdt. Backed the bike into the garage. No Karen or car. I quietly took my gear off the bike and proceeded to the house. Called Ladd out in Seattle. Soon Karen came in with a smile and a laugh. Soooo am I nuts? Nope I don't think so... maybe a little tired. Its got to be better than playing golf! heheh

LAST LEG OF TRIP

It has been an interesting two weeks for me. I started the second leg of my trip Friday morning 7 Sep., rolling across the World's longest Bridge across Lake Pontchartrain, out of Louisiana and up through Alabama. Saturday took me up past Lake Guntersville into Chattanooga for a short visit with my sister-in-law to watch the Alabama game with her alumni husband. I then continued to Crossville TN to check on a piece of property I own. It was still there. It looks like it is worth just what the auction people said, half of what I paid for it. I got a good nights rest despite the thought of the following days ride.

Morning dawned clear and sunny for a change. So far this trip I had overcast nearly all the time. Down off of the Cumberland Plateau, cross the valley and onto the Cherokee Parkway. At this point I noticed an interesting point. There were more motorcycles than cars. It is a beautiful ride. One of those rides that you want to do in all four seasons. I quickly learned that I need a lot more practice on the curves. I do not do well when I find surprises in the curve after I have committed to a line. That was just the beginning of the day.

Coming down off the parkway, I cruised along the river till I came to the dam. Surprise, Fugitive Bridge turn, the start of Deals Gap. A stop for the obligatory T-shirt and snack, then ride The Gap! Good show to the two sportbike jockeys that took the two pick-ups and me in the quick s near the bottom. I was being careful cause I was, oh what the heck, chicken!

It sure would be fun to stay at the campground and ride the Gap more than once. I'll at least have to visit my sister-in-law in Chattanooga more often! Most of you would think, that would make a full day. I wasn't done. I rode over to Smoky Mountain National Park. I ended up taking the nice ride around the south end of the park to the visitor's center, then over Newfound Gap to Cherokee for a Chinese dinner and then onto the Blue Ridge Parkway. I made it into Asheville NC and checked into a motel.

The Weather Channel was not very promising. I awoke in the morning to overcast and the threat of rain. It is another side of the drive to see the ridges with the clouds pouring over their tops. I soon found myself riding through those clouds. I didn't go to the top of Mt. Mitchell because from the bottom of the road it was obvious that visibility would

be zero. The day continued overcast and I continued to Waynesboro, making the last 50 miles as the sun set. Saw a large number of deer, only a couple of which jumped in front of instead of away from my path. Monday had come to an end, damp but fun.

Tuesday started with promise of clearing skies and a better day. How wrong! As I was walking into the motel room after loading the bike, the TV started talking about a terrible accident in New York. As I turned in my key, a lady came into the office and told us a second plane had crashed into the WTC. The world had changed!

I was looking forward to seeing my kids and grandkids in DC, so I mounted up and headed up Skyline Drive. As I rode up the Drive, I started hearing reports of the Pentagon and Pennsylvania crashes on my ham radio. Calling into a Virginia repeater, I heard that I ought to avoid DC. The situation started to detract from the pure joy of riding this fantastic road. I stopped at Panorama and tried to call but could not even get a dial tone for a while. After having a snack, I finally got a line and contacted my wife. She convinced me I should press on because my grandkids would be disappointed if I didn't show up.

As I continued on the last 30 miles of the drive and on into DC, I listened to the volunteers of the ham radio clubs setting up communications in the schools, shelters, fire stations, Red Cross centers and police stations. The phone system was almost useless due to all the people frantically trying to find the location of friends and loved ones in or near the Pentagon. Also due to the traffic gridlock caused by road closures and the release of all the government workers, parents were not home even though schools were anxious to release the children. By the time I made my way into DC, the traffic had dropped to a level usually only seen before 10 AM on Sunday mornings. I stopped at Walter Reed where I spent the majority of my 20 years in the Army to give blood and after getting past the heightened security, found they had cut off taking volunteers so they could process the blood they had already collected. The community's response was immediate and wholehearted.

I spent the next two days with my kids and grandkids, but as everyone, was unable to escape the news.

Due to the job I was to start on Monday the 17th., I left DC on Friday and headed for home. I was still looking for good roads so I was following US 50 across Maryland and West Virginia. It's a great road, if you don't end up behind a sixteen-wheel dump truck on the uphill.

I spent the night in Parkersburg WV.

The morning proved interesting. I was rolling along Ohio 681 reveling in the blind curves and whoop-d-dos. I was wondering about the car that seemed to be staying right on my tail. As I came to the intersection with US 33, a police cruiser whipped into OH 681 and hit the lights, followed by two more, one of which went diagonal in front of me. The thoughts that went going through my mind! The officer courteously asked for identification, not my license. The driver of the car, which had been following me, joined the uniformed officers. All concerned had serious looks on their faces, as I suppose did I. I sat or the bike and spent my time telling the gentlemen about my trip. If it were not for the three squad cars, with light bars lit, it would have been a tire kicking session. After some comments as to everything checked out, the bike is registered to him etc., it was explained to me that someone had been taking pictures of a power plant in the area from an unauthorized area and some one said the individual had Illinois plates. Yes, the world did change on Tuesday September 11th.

The remainder of the trip quickly became routine as I rode out of the Ohio valley up on to the farmland of the Midwest. Never let me say it's not beautiful to see the rich farmland, but the roads are not as conducive to fun biking unless you have wheelie bars and burn nitrous.

I arrived home with no problems except the need to install a new set of pads on my rear brakes while in New Orleans.

Since this trip started out as a BBQ sampling ride I must confess that I'm forced to report the best I had during the trip was in Huntsville, TX. Besides the great BBQ, the WOTI members I met combined to make that the outstanding spot!

Now where is that set of maps I put together for the trip through AZ, NM, CO, NV and UT with no Interstates?

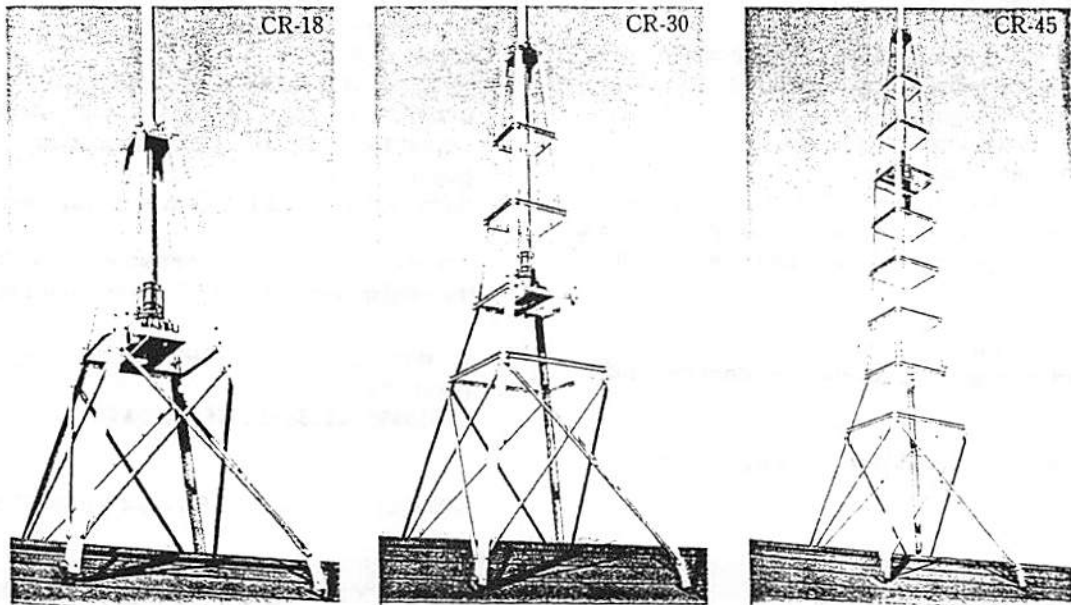
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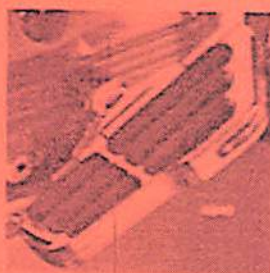
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