

# MARSOC

## f o u n d a t i o n

### Spring Fundraisers A Huge Success!

April, May and June have been incredible months for the Foundation, with a total of three big fundraisers! On April 14, our Leadman Tri Project Black team swam, biked and ran to celebrate raising over \$60,000 for our MARSOC Marines, Sailors and families! This is the Foundation's largest fundraiser to date!! We had an amazing team of over 30 individuals –active-duty military, military families, and some patriotic Americans who all came together to share their love of competition and support for the MARSOC community! The Arizona heat didn't stop Project Black from heating up the course and winning an age group award (go, Dorothy!) as well as a relay team award (way to go, Josh & John)!! A few of our teammates were doing their very first triathlons, which made it all the more memorable! Hoping to bring back the Project Black Tri team next year! Stay tuned!



We were back in Arizona on May 31st for the Free Wheel Foundation's Second Annual Evening with the MARSOC Foundation at the Scottsdale Gun Club! Mr. John Greenway really knows how to put together and host an event! We had quite a few returning guests from last year, including a sniper rifle that was sold TWICE in the auction last year and made a return appearance! We had special guests including Captain Derek Herrera and three other active-duty MARSOC Marines, members of the Air Force, and former Arizona Diamondbacks player Luis Gonzalez. There were some incredible auction and raffle items including autographed sports memorabilia, shooting gear, military artwork, and custom-wrapped beach cruisers representing each branch of the military! Captain Herrera shared his story of being wounded last year in Afghanistan, and during his presentation, you could have heard a pin drop! The Foundation was very honored to have active-duty and retired military service members in attendance, as well as some wonderfully patriotic Americans wanting to show their support!



On June 8th, Diana and Francis Sparagna and their amazing group of friends and family hosted a fundraiser at the Coronado Firehouse Bar & Grill for Captain Derek Herrera to provide funding for the purchase of a ReWalk, an exoskeleton suit that allows individuals with spinal cord injuries to walk! The outpouring of support from local residents and businesses, as well as people and companies who heard about the fundraiser from stories broadcast on San Diego News Channel 10 and written in the San Diego Union Tribune was overwhelming! Special guests included the Laker Girls and Chargers Girls, Chris Jacobs of Overhaul-in', representatives from ReWalk who demonstrated the equipment on-site, and again, a large number of active-duty and retired military personnel. The Foundation is proud to announce that it has recently ordered the ReWalk and hopes to have Captain Herrera using it very soon!



Thank you to everyone for your support!

## Wounded Warriors Pedaling Through Their Road to Recovery

Perhaps Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes series, said it best: "When the spirits are low, when the day appears dark, when work becomes monotonous, when hope hardly seems worth having, just mount a bicycle and go out for a spin down the road, without thought on anything but the ride you are taking." Recently, some MARSOC Marines took that to heart with the help of the MARSOC Foundation, B & L Bicycles and San Diego and The Bike Gallery in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Two new Specialized road bikes and a Top End Force RX hand crank bike have been purchased for wounded MARSOC Marines thanks to the generosity of donors and some good will from bike shops located near bases on both coasts where MARSOC units are located.



Captain Derek Herrera and Captain Bryan Buckley both tried out their new rides as part of the Foundation's Leadman Tri Project Black Team and are looking for more races to add to their calendars. Sergeant Randy Kooiker, once an avid mountain biker, is enjoying touring the country roads on his new bike and hopes to one day return to mountain biking to get that adrenaline rush!

SSgt Brian Jaques will be out on his new ride at the end of the month when he competes in the San Diego International Triathlon in preparation for Ironman Lake Tahoe in September! Brian will be racing with SSgt Sky Mote's father, Russ, and both will be racing in honor of Sky and his fallen MARSOC brothers.

We wish all of our new roadies safe and fun riding!

## Miles for MARSOC Community Athletes Update

The Foundation's Miles for MARSOC program continues to attract a great group of Community Athletes who pair their desire to compete with a desire to give back! We have Community Athletes from across the nation training for and competing in numerous events, including 5K's and 10K's, mud runs, half and full marathons, ultra marathons, triathlons of varying distances, and we even have two, yes two equestrian teams!

Community Athletes who have already reached that \$2,000 goal include Brian Von Herbulis, who competed in the Big Sur Marathon on April 28th, Matt Wilson, who will be competing in the Croatan 24 in November, and Matt Brady, one of the Foundation's Marine Corps Marathon Charity Partner team members, who will be running on October 27th! Congrats, gentlemen, on earning your Miles for MARSOC racing kit!

The Miles for MARSOC race calendar continues to fill up with Community Athlete events! Keep up the great work, everyone! You all are amazing! To date, the Miles for MARSOC program has raised over \$175,000!!!

Please visit <http://www.firstgiving.com/MARSOC/miles-for-marsoc> to learn more about these amazing athletes and how you can become a Community Athlete, too!



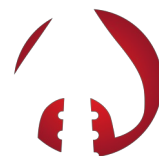
Erik Housman has raised over \$1,400 and has competed in 2 of his 3 races so far...last one is Marine Corps Marathon on October 27th! Keep up the great work, Erik!

Brian Von Herbulis raised over \$4,000 as he trained for the Big Sur Marathon that he ran on April 28th! Thanks for being a Community Athlete, Brian!





## Thank You to Our Friends & Sponsors



Please join us in recognizing and thanking the following people, organizations and businesses for their steadfast support:

- \* John Greenway and the Free Wheel Foundation for hosting an Evening with the MARSOC Foundation at the Scottsdale Gun Club on May 31st!
- \* The Scottsdale Gun Club for providing the perfect venue for an Evening with the MARSOC Foundation!
- \* The following donors of services, auction and raffle items for an Evening with the MARSOC Foundation:
  - \*Walt Abrams \*Luis Gonzalez \*John Greenway & Family \*Free Wheel Foundation
  - \*Capital Grill of Scottsdale \*Solovey Art \*V & J Laser Engraving
  - \*Brix Wine Spot \*U.S. Tactical Supply \*Glock USA \*Vickers Tactical
  - \*Smith & Wesson \*The Melting Pot –Phoenix \*Sionics Weapon Systems
  - \*Mission Support Specialists, Inc \*Lisa Gibbs \*PSA Sports Auctions
  - \*Princeton Tech \*Camelbak \*Spartan Blades, LLC \*L-3 Warrior Systems/Insight
  - \*The Seattle Mariners \*Dr Mitch Cooper \*Harris Tactical \*US Palm
  - \*McNett Tactical \*Shadow Tech LLC \*Chris Werner \*BIG Promotions
  - \*Skydive Arizona \*Wolfley's Neighborhood Grill \*HOG Saddle \*Scott Paulsel
  - \*Tyler Griffith \*Attack Aviation \*Bondurant Racing School \*ROBAR
  - \*Metro Sign Company \*Commemorative Air Force-Mesa \*Levine Auction House
  - \*Vortek Products \*Shimano North America \*Kilopapa Marketing
  - \*The Ride430 Crew \*Maria Mullenix
- \* Diana & Francis Sparagna for putting together an incredible event on May 8th to help raise funds to obtain a ReWalk system for Captain Derek Herrera!! A big thanks also to the staff at Sparagna & Sparagna, Steve Biafora and the Coronado Firehouse Bar & Grill Crew, everyone who donated raffle items, including the Biafora & Sparagna families, the San Diego Padres, and Lea Journo Cosmetique, the Lakers Girls and Chargers Girls, & Chris Jacobs of Overhauled!
- \* Mark Palmer of B & L Bicycles and Shawn Kane of Bicycle Gallery for helping to get some of our wounded warriors on new road bikes!
- \* Lifetime Fitness for their amazing support of the Leadman Tri Project Black team!
- \* Oregano's of Old Town Scottsdale for hosting an amazing dinner for our Project Black Team!
- \* Smokey Joe's Barbecue for feeding our guests some delicious barbecue at Friends of MARSOC Day 2013!
- \* Scott Evans of Edgeworks for donating proceeds from sales of a limited edition holster!
- \* Travis Haley of Haley Strategic for his continued support!
- \* Our Leadman Tri Project Black Team, Miles for MARSOC Community Athletes and Marine Corps Marathon Charity Partner Team! Combined, you have all raised over \$93K this year!!!! You are awesome!
- \* EBay vendors who have donated a percentage of their proceeds to the Foundation:
  - \*ncboyers \*warriorwoundcare \*greenmtngrain
- \* Matching gifts from the following companies:
  - \*WFG Foundation \*Bank of America \*Illinois Tool Works Foundation
  - \*The Prudential Foundation
- \* The Pour House of Wilmington for hosting a fundraiser to benefit the MARSOC Foundation over Memorial Day weekend!
- \* The "Old & Bold" for donating proceeds from a recent raffle!
- \* Bullets2Bandages for their Third Party Fundraising efforts!
- \* Barry Zito, pitcher for the San Francisco Giants, for his generous donation to assist in getting a ReWalk for Captain Herrera!
- \* Derek Whitis and Rhett O'Doski of Freedom Autosport Grand Am racing team for raising awareness for the Foundation!
- \* The Dana Point Concours d'Elegance for making the MARSOC Foundation one of its event charities!



## Calendar of Events

Friday, July 19th  
Monday, September 23rd  
October 9th to 12th  
Saturday, October 27th  
Saturday, November 9th

NAIOP Suitcase Party <http://www.sdsuitcaseparty.com/>  
RQ Construction Golf Tourney <http://www.rqconstruction.com/site/?p=2084>  
Ride 430 <http://www.therideforsemperfi.com/>  
2013 Marine Corps Marathon <http://www.marinemarathon.com>  
Croatan 24 <http://www.croatan24.com/Home.html>

## Foundation Progress Report

How have your donations been used in 2013? To date, the Foundation has:

- \* Supported wounded MARSOC Marines and Sailors through purchase of equipment to enhance their rehabilitative efforts, funding for innovative therapies not covered by DoD, and for temporary residence expenses associated with being treated at VA facilities away from home of record
- \* Provided funding for active-duty MARSOC personnel to attend funerals of fallen MARSOC Marines
- \* Provided funding to have the MARSOC Memorial at Camp Lejeune updated & maintained
- \* Provided funding for two MARSOC Marines to participate in the 2013 Warrior Games
- \* Provided funding for families of wounded MARSOC personnel to be with their wounded MARSOC Marine/Sailor during hospitalization

### How You Can Help:

- Donate online at [www.marsocfoundation.org](http://www.marsocfoundation.org)
- Share this newsletter with family & friends
- "Like" the MARSOC Foundation on Facebook & follow us on Twitter
- Encourage others to "Get Involved" on our website
- Become a Community Athlete in the Miles for MARSOC program
- Shop at your favorite online merchants through iGive [www.iGive.com/MARSOCFoundation](http://www.iGive.com/MARSOCFoundation)
- Donate EBay proceeds to the MARSOC Foundation
- Become a Third Party Fundraiser and host an event to benefit the MARSOC Foundation

## MARSOC Foundation Photo Album Spring 2013



Miles for MARSOC Community Athlete Lara Boyer at Run Amuck in Quantico, VA



Team Greenway, there for our Leadman Project Black team and hosts of Scottsdale Gun Club Evening with MARSOC Foundation!



Brian, Derek and Bryan on run course at Leadman Tri in Tempe



Community Athlete Aren Brandfass in the North



Shot of the amazing crowd at the Coronado Firehouse Bar & Grill fundraiser on June 8th!



Team Sparagna, our hosts for the June 8th fundraiser at the Coronado Firehouse Bar & Grill!



Big check presentation at pre-race dinner for Leadman Tri Project Black team! The amount grew from \$57,500 the evening before the race to over \$61,000 just a week after race day!

## Bullets2Bandages Support MARSOC Foundation with Unique Bottle Opener

Founded in 2011 by two former Navy EOD technicians, Bullets2Bandages has been heavily involved in supporting veteran charities since its inception. Two of its employees have known Derek Herrera for over a decade and wanted to do something to support the MARSOC Foundation after hearing of the assistance Derek received from the charity following his combat injuries. These bottle openers are made in the USA from once-fired .50 caliber casings and are laser engraved with the MARSOC Foundation's logo. Bullets2Bandages will donate 100% of the profits from the sale of these openers to the MARSOC Foundation. You can purchase the MARSOC Foundation bottle opener by visiting <http://www.bullets2bandages.org/marsoc-foundation-50-caliber-bottle-opener/>.



## Freedom Autosport Racing to Raise Awareness for Foundation

Freedom Autosport, owned by Derek Whitis and Rhett O'Doski, will be racing to help raise awareness for the MARSOC Foundation at the upcoming Grand-AM Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge at Watkins Glen on June 28-29, continuing their tradition of honoring military outreach programs. At Watkins Glen, both of the team's Mazda MX-5s will carry the emblem of the MARSOC Foundation. "It's an honor for Freedom Autosport to help tell their story and say thank you," stated Derek Whitis, co-owner, in a recent press release. "Watkins Glen has been a great circuit for Freedom Autosport in the past," stated team co-owner Rhett O'Doski. "We hope to have another successful weekend, especially since we're representing the MARSOC Foundation. We want to introduce them to the generosity of race fans, and help them continue the important work that they're doing." Tom Long will join Whitis in the No. 25 Freedom Autosport Mazda MX-5, and Andrew Carbonell will co-drive with O'Doski in the No. 26 Mazda MX-5. The race begins at 3:00 p.m. ET on Saturday, June 29, and the race will be broadcast on SPEED on Sunday, July 7, at 4:00 p.m. Thank you, Freedom Autosport! Race fans, tune in on July 7th!



## Race Entries Still Available for 2013 Marine Corps Marathon

Still on the fence about running this year's Marine Corps Marathon? C'mon...you have heard how awesome the race is—great route, amazing crowd support! Just agree to raise a minimum of \$500 and join the MARSOC Foundation's Charity Partner Team! We have race slots available, but registration ends on July 31st! Aim to hit a PR not only in the race on October 27th but also in your fundraising efforts! You can earn a MARSOC Foundation race kit by raising \$2,000 (people REALLY seem to like our technical t-shirts and visors)! Help us fill our remaining slots by visiting our link at <http://www.firstgiving.com/MARSOC/2013-marine-corps-marathon/>!



**Since the horrific events of 9/11, the demands on Special Operations Forces & their families have been unprecedented in our Nation's history.**

Today, MARSOC is deployed in over 40 countries around the world. The average MARSOC Critical Skills Operator is away from home & family more than 50% of the time, either on deployment or out-of-area training. During their service to our country, they are often exposed to combat & other hazardous activities that can have immediate & lasting impacts. As demand grows for the unique services of MARSOC, so too does the need for benevolent support.

**The MARSOC Foundation was established to provide benevolent support to active duty & medically retired MARSOC personnel & their families as well as to the families of Marines who have lost their lives in service to our Nation.**



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# Honoring Our Fallen Heroes



SSgt Sky Mote



Sgt Michael Roy



Sgt Justin Hansen



HM1 Darrel Enos



Capt Matthew  
Manoukian



GySgt Jonathan Gifford



SSgt Nicholas Sprovtsoff



SSgt Gregory Copes



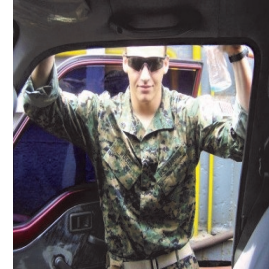
HM2 Luke Milam



GySgt Daniel Price



SSgt Charles



Cpl Travis Woods



GySgt Ryan Jeschke



SSgt Edgar Heredia



SSgt Patrick Dolphin



Sgt William Waitowicz



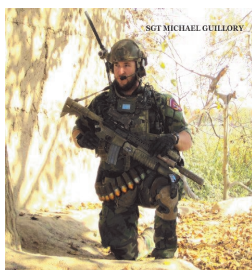
Capt Garrett Lawton



GySgt Robert Gilbert



SSgt Christopher  
Antonik



Sgt Michael Guillory



Sgt Dennis Kancler



SSgt Eric Christian



Sgt Christopher  
Wrinkle & Tosca



Capt Joshua Meadows



SSgt David Day



Cpl David Sonka and Flex

Please visit the Foundation's Facebook page and scroll down to May 2013 to read more about each of these brave men:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Marsoc-Foundation/195686297192009?ref=stream>