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## COMING TOGETHER

MARCI SHATZMAN mshatzman@tribune.com

### Weatherman's Red Cross ride to finish in Mizner

Steve Weagle will switch gears from the finish of his annual 120-mile bicycle ride for the American Red Cross into the honoree at its fundraiser, both in Mizner Park on May 29.

This is his 16th ride highlighting the Red Cross' role in disaster relief for WPTV - Ch. 5's chief meteorologist as hurricane season begins June 1. The weather tie-in is obvious.

"There's huge support, so we always get a great turnout. The ride has taken on a life of its own," Weagle said.

The ride starts in Sebastian on Memorial Day, May 25, and goes south for two stops each day with Thursday's in Jupiter and Lake Worth, and Friday's in Delray Beach, ending at The Dubliner at 5 p.m. May 29. Weagle will ride and auction off a 2015 Trek Verve 3 from Wheels of Wellington, according to owner Stan Kilbas.

This year the Red Cross has changed up the venue for south county's annual dinner and auction to Jazziz Nightlife at the south end of Mizner Park. The event from 7 to 10 p.m. that evening will honor Weagle,



**ANNUAL RIDE** WPTV-Ch. 5 chief meteorologist Steve Weagle at his annual Ride for the Red Cross in 2014. This year's ride is May 25-29, ending at The Dubliner restaurant in Mizner Park. SUBMITTED PHOTO

have a 21 Club theme and a Rat Pack tribute show.

"I'm honored they're giving me an award," Weagle said. "Sometimes the Boca crowd approaches 100 people, so I feel they honor me every year by having a big crowd come out and have everyone support me."

At 49, the ride "isn't as easy as it was," Weagle said, but this isn't the last one for the Red Cross, he

said.

He's already in shape from running all year.

"I'm not a big biker and I do a little more leg training," he said.

Sometimes police ride along at the north end, and he has an emergency response vehicle. But he only used it once.

"It was a tornado warning one year with

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"lightning," he said. Otherwise he just waits out any passing weather inconvenience.

Weagle does a remote broadcast from each location for the noon and evening news shows.

"Boca is at the south end of our viewing area and there's a huge Red Cross presence and an office on Federal Highway," he said of the south county office at 5820 N. Federal Highway. The ride and bicycle auction usually generate close to \$50,000 a year, he said.

The bike is a black/cosmic black two-tone model that comes with an eight-speed with a triple chain ring, so it's 24 gears, Kilbas said.

"It has some front suspension to absorb the road shock, and in the seat post. It's a comfort hybrid," he said.

He usually joins Weagle on at least the last leg of the ride into Mizner Park.

"When we're going down Dixie Highway, it's amazing how many people are yelling encouragement out of their cars," he said. "Everybody knows about Steve's ride."

The finish will also include check presentations from sponsors, among them the Lee Pearson Steinberg Foundation, ADT and GardaWorld, both based in Boca, and Lang Realty. Then Weagle will have an hour to change before the big fundraiser.

"We have been doing our event in March during Red Cross Awareness Month, but the Red Cross wanted to honor him," said Pam Beigelman, on the South Florida regional board and event committee. "The venue is new and different and fun, and the ambience is great. We

came up with the 21 Club with Steve's 16 years and our fifth annual dinner."

Tickets are \$200 with seating or two VIP seats for \$750 with seating closer to the stage. Visit [redcross.org/news/event/5th-annual-south-county-event](http://redcross.org/news/event/5th-annual-south-county-event).

The funds raised stay local and help the Red Cross work with municipalities "to make sure they're prepared," said Amy Mauser, regional chief development officer for South Florida. "Our primary role is to educate people so they know what to do if there's a hurricane."

They train volunteers for hurricane preparedness and to work in county shelters. The app for the American Red Cross Palm Beaches – Treasure Coast region can be downloaded free at iTunes or android stores or through [redcross.org/](http://redcross.org/).



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