

# NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

April 2009



## NCVC Newsletter

You have something you want to see in the NorCal Voyagers Newsletter??? Send it along to [news@norcalvoyagers.org](mailto:news@norcalvoyagers.org) and we'll get it in the next issue. You can also send articles to any board member in the club and they will get it to the editor.

We're especially interested in doing personal stories about our members. You don't have to go into a lot of detail, but knowing a bit about our members goes a long way towards a more enjoyable friendship. Get those pictures, campfire stories, and humorous biking experiences out and send them off to the editor for the next newsletter!

## Useful Internet Links

Northern California Voyagers Club

<http://www.norcalvoyagers.org>

American Voyager Association (AVA)

<http://www.amervoyassoc.org/>

American Motorcycle Association (AMA)

<http://www.ama-cycle.org/>

## This Month...

**EVENT: CAMPOUT (4/17-19)**  
Basalt Campgrounds near Los Banos, Ca.

## Next Month...

**EVENT: GROUP RIDE (5/8-10)**  
2 Day ride to Susanville

**NCVC MEETING: MANTECA (5/23)**  
Perko's Restaurant (1703 E. Yosemite Ave)



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## Club Info and Activities

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Don Medina, NCVC President

As you all have read in email, Ray is out of the hospital and home. This wonderful moment happened because of all the work Betty Walls did from the day that Ray called her from Davis, Ca back in September of 2008. Every day that Ray was in the hospital Betty was there, it didn't matter how tired she was, she went to the hospital. So remember when you see or speak to Ray, thank Betty for all of her support for Ray and NorCal Voyagers. Job well done Betty; Ray thanks for being such a tough old salt.

At the April 17-19 campout at the Basalt campground San Louis Reservoir we will have a potluck dinner on Saturday and a good ride. On Sunday after we pack up we can drive down to Los Banos to the Wool Growers Assn for lunch. If you have never eaten there you should come on down.

May 8-10 Susanville ride two days of riding with great friends.

The next meeting has a date change, NEW DATE May 23, 2009. The after meeting ride will be to Placerville to celebrate Trisha's Birthday.

Name Tags: For all NorCal Voyagers that are also AVA members, I am ordering name tags from the AVA. If anyone wants a name tag, call or email me and we can do a bulk order and try to save shipping.

New shirts both Trisha and I modeled two samples, we will have more samples plus hats at the campout in April. The company

I'm using is Queensboro, web address is [www.queensboro.com](http://www.queensboro.com).

As for club member news! Ray is parting out his motorcycle, and even sold some parts at the meeting. Marvin Deathridge rebuilt his engine, with help from Carl Leo. John DeMuri is getting better after being down for a couple of weeks. Bill Burns called and told me that he and Fritz repaired his clutch that was slipping. Wayne Bright is past his back problems from last year.

Happy riding

Don Medina  
President NorCal Voyagers

### MARCH 28 MEETING

By Tricia Blue, NCVC Secretary

The meeting was held at Perko's Restaurant in Manteca. Meeting was called to order by President Don Medina at 1137.



Members in attendance: Don Medina (Pres), Trisha Blue, (Sec), Ray Walls (VP), Brian Coldicott, Jim Kramlich, Roger Allen,

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Fred Andrew, Dale Bird, George Mack, Wayne Bright (Treas), Bill Owens, Joel Colletti, and Bob Joyner.



Guest: Lorilyn Owens, Bill Owens daughter who just moved here from Austin, TX.

Minutes from last meeting were read by Trisha Blue. Approved by Ray Walls; seconded by Wayne Bright.

Treasurers Report: Read by Wayne Bright. We had no bills. We took in \$30 for membership. Our current balance is \$4276.07. We have one new member, Bruce Kauffman from Ben Lomand. Brake line inventory: Ray has 1 set clear coat and 4 for front calipers.

Activities report led by Don Medina. The Rider Rally April 17-19 and the Honda Hoot have been cancelled due to the economy.

Next campout: April 17-19, Basalt Campground. Saturday we will have a potluck so invite spouses & friends.

May 8-10 the Oregon ride is now the Susanville ride. Friday night 5/8 we will meet in Corning, CA, and stay in motels. We will have 2 nights in motels and will be done by Sunday evening.

For the AVA Rally tour, we will start by meeting in Barstow Friday, July 10 (cars

ok). We will reserve motels ahead of time. Saturday morning we will ride to Prescott, AZ. Sunday we will ride to Gallop, NM. The pre-rally event Monday will be a ride to Madrid, NM, scene of showdown in movie "Wild Hogs" for a BBQ dinner, melodrama and mining museum. The rally runs Tuesday through Thursday night and includes everything from guided tours, vendors, a bike show, motorcycle land (skills) games, seminars, opening and closing dinners, awards and much more. Website:

<http://www.amervoyassoc.org/09rally.htm>

A Canyonlands Tour is being planned by Al Thearle, Roger Allen and John de Muri for late August/early September.

Bob Joiner had a San Simeon campout in January. Only Monte Faust attended, but they had good weather and a very good time.



Today's after-meeting ride will take us to Mariposa Bakery in Oakland for jazz and gluten-free snacks. We will take Hwy 99 north to Hwy 4 to Marsh Creek Rd to Clayton then to Concord then Hwy 24 to Berkeley.

Old Business: None

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New Business: Ray is parting out his motorcycle.

Don Medina suggested a social breakfast meeting once a month, not an official club meeting.

Don also made a motion that we work with Queensboro to find new shirt styles for the club's logo shirts. He brought samples of men's & women's shirts. The motion was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 1223.



## RIDE AFTER THE MEETING

By Don Medina, NCVC President

With the club meeting concluded it was time for the after meeting ride. There were seven bikes with 8 people. We have a quick riders meeting with information about our ride. We're off north on hwy 99 to Stockton where we get on hwy 4 west. Hwy 4 takes you out the west end of Stockton into the Delta.

As the speed limit increases, so does our speed. With the temperature in the middle 70s, clear skies and just a light breeze, this is a great day for a ride. It's fun to ride in the Delta because some areas are below the water line and there are dikes keeping the water out of the reclaimed land. The road is straight until you come up to a bridge then the road will make a sharp turn

then over the bridge and on the other side there is another sharp turn.

As we pass Discovery Bay the landscape begins to change. There are more trees and more traffic as we turn off of hwy 4 and into Byron. I take this small back street to bypass all three blocks of Byron. After a right turn onto Diablo Road, we start to climb the rolling hills. With all of the winter rain everywhere there is green, all of the hills are covered in green. As we come down one of these hills, off to my left there is a motocross track filled with RVs and a sign over the entrance advertising "Motocross Races." This gives me a flashback to those old motorcycle movies from the 70s. After a few more miles we were on Marsh Creek Rd, a small winding, bumpy (ask Trisha) road, that takes you behind Mount Diablo. Into Clayton then Concord, where Bill Owens and his daughter, Lynn, leave us and a few feet later Brian Coldicott left us.



Five motorcycles head to Berkeley. It's freeway all the way with a twist, at the top of the hill there's a tunnel where the four lane hwy becomes a two lane road. We work ourselves through the traffic. Then there was our exit, we make a left turn and there on the right is the Mariposa Bakery.

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We park and walk inside where a jazz band is playing. We all take our time and order. But for Trisha this is what it is like for everyone everyday, for a change she's able to eat everything in the bakery. After an hour of eating and just talking, we mount and head home. Lots of fun was had by all. Roger and Dale head south while Joel, Trisha and Don head west to the cold coast.



## 2009 Events

### APRIL:

April 17-19: Campout at Basalt Campgrounds, San Luis Reservoir

### MAY:

May 8-10: 2-day ride to Susanville, meet in Corning Ca. on Friday

### JULY:

July 10-?: AVA Rally Tour, meet in Barstow

### SUMMER:

Late Aug or early Sep: Canyonlands Tour

### DECEMBER:

Date/Loc TBD: Annual Christmas Party



## AVA Rally: Part 3

By Don Medina, NCVV President

07-07-08

We took the Interstate north into Kentucky and stopped for the night where I-75 and Kentucky-92 intersect. The ride north on the interstate was alright just riding through beautiful scenery. I was happy that the states here in the east aren't very large north to south. Trisha was real tired when we got to Knoxville after riding the dragon, even with dinner and a very strong cup of my black tea, my wife Trisha was spent. Trisha told me that she wasn't going to ride any further than WILLIAMSBURG. When

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we got to WILLIAMSBURG, I pulled into the first motel we came too. I don't make reservations because we never really know how far were going. This motel was a Super 8 now, but it had another life before as a Holiday Inn. This is the best of the Super 8s I have stayed in. The lobby was large with a lounge.

While we were unpacking, the couple next to us was working on one of their Harleys. After we had settled in, I walk out to see what the problem was. It was simple; the fellow riding the Harley had taken his eyes off the car in front of him while in bumper to bumper traffic. Yep, he ran into the car in front of him. He got a ticket and a bent bike. They were only 1000 miles from home. Moral is THINK AND KEEP YOUR EYES ALWAYS MOVING. We also met a family from Germany, who we would meet again in Bowling Green, after taking photos we turned in.



Next morning Trisha made a comment that she was hoping that today the roads wouldn't be tight and winding like yesterday, here arms were tired. While checking out of the hotel, the girls at the counter asked where we heading. I answered, "Bowling Green by way of 92." Their reply was that in town there is a

saying "as crooked as 92" WOW. I wasn't expecting that reply. Since Trisha wanted a kind of rest day, I looked at the map. 92 was a little line with a few wiggles and then it smoothed out a bit. So we took off heading west, hwy 92 was a tight winding road with an average speed limit of 35 mph. After an hour of hard riding we had only traveled 40 miles. I had been looking in my mirrors to make sure that Trisha wasn't falling behind. She wasn't. The road began to open up giving us those wonderful sweeping turns up and down the mountains. Since I'm from the west, seeing all the green and homes with porches in front of the house was so Norman Rockwell. The best is when we ride past these homes with people sitting out front, I wave and they would wave back. Before long we were in Monticello, and stopped to take a breather. We found an old drug store with a lunch counter, but we couldn't eat there because of Trisha's gluten intolerance. We were able to drink two cups of coffee each. The road out of Monticello was finally what Trisha was asking for, easy open and meandering all the way to Bowling Green.

GPS! Trisha's Goldwing has it. All we had to do was enter the address of the campground and I just followed Trisha. It was a nice campground with tall trees and large campsites. We found one and then another and another. Trisha STOPPED and said make up you mind! I did and we set up the campsite then we headed to the hall where all the attendees were gathering for the pre rally Corvette museum ride then back for the pre rally dinner. Both of which were good. The big surprise was seeing Wayne Bright, who rode the southern route 3 or 4 days, long days.

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07-08-08

We slept in, since we were only 200 yards from the rally we were able to get to the hall in time to go on the group ride to the underground river, which was fun and cool. After this Trisha and I rode back to the rally hall and do some great BSing.



07-09-08

It started raining overnight and when daylight came it began to rain even harder. We made breakfast under the canopy of the trailer and then ate at the table inside the trailer. After eating and cleaning up, I walked over to a covered stage area where a group of rally attendees were gathered. Everyone was either telling stories or working on their motorcycles. They even had set up a large coffee pot and someone brought donuts.

In the afternoon, the land games were held. Last year in South Dakota, I was able to take first place in both the rider only class and the two-up class with Trisha as my passenger. Some had commented that I swept both categories because this was a western U. S. rally and there weren't many people competing. So for a whole year I wondered if I would be able to be at the top in both classes again. When the dust settled, I had top spot in the two up class.



07-10-08

Today is the last day of the rally and we're up early. The AVA has a club Presidents breakfast at 8:00 am across town from the rally campground. After that Trisha and I decide to do a tour of Mammoth Cave. We got directions from Sue a ROK rep, off we go. We left 45 min after the organized ride so we were on our own. Just a few miles before the cave we came to a river crossing where we had to board a ferry. Touring the cave was amazing. The main cave could have had a freeway run inside of it and the temps inside the cave were a cool mid 50's. Then we had to hurry up back to rally central, because the bike show was about to start and both Trisha and I were entered. We arrived with just a few minutes to spare. We parked and started cleaning and shinning. I looked over and Trisha had a bevy of helpers cleaning and polishing the trike. It worked and she got a 2nd place in class. The show ended and everyone went to clean up for the closing ceremonies, great dinner and awards with lots of giveaways.

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07-11-08

After a late night visiting with friends, we got a slow start by mid morning we were on are way north to Owensboro then onto a hwy 231 north into Indiana and Abe Lincoln's boyhood home. For me this was quite a treat, as a young one.

## MAY 8, 9, 10 RIDE

By Don Medina, NCVC President

Friday evening we will meet in Corning, Ca.

- Motel: Days Inn phone: 530-824-2000, rate is \$64.80 plus tax.
- Speak to Deanna 7:00am to 3:00pm Monday to Friday and tell her your with NorCal Voyagers.

Saturday night we will be in Susanville, Ca.

- The miles for the day will be 266 with stops at some very scenic locations.
- Motel: Diamond Mountain Casino & Hotel Rate \$69.00 plus tax, Code word NorCal Voyagers.

Sunday we will make our way to Marysville, Ca where the ride will end.

Call and make your reservations; the warm weather is fast approaching and these rooms will soon be gone.

## MAINTAIN YOUR VOYAGER

By Don Medina, NCVC President

You've been riding your Voyager for years and it has always been a dependable motorcycle. But now the years and miles are increasing. What to do? You have always washed your motorcycle, keeping it clean has always been passion. But now just keeping your motorcycle clean and changing the oil and oil filter is not enough.

Brake fluid, when was the last time that was changed? To check the front brakes, look into the site glass on the master cylinder. What did you see? If the fluid was a gold color or even a dark gold color, that's not good. To flush the system, drain the system by opening the bleeder on the brake caliper. Or even better, remove the brake lines from both calipers, now remove the calipers and compress the piston back into the caliper bore until the piston is seated. Now turn the caliper over and drain all of the fluid out of the caliper. Cover the hole where the banjo bolt threads into caliper and wash the caliper. Back to the bike, clean the fork legs where the calipers were. Remove the master cylinder cover, if not empty wait awhile. When empty see all the dark or black gunk at the bottom of the master cylinder - this has to be cleaned out. Use a cotton swab to get the gunk out; it might take 6 or more cotton swabs. Remember to be careful and don't leave any lint from the cotton swabs. Put every thing back together, fill and bleed. This can take awhile. When you've finished do the rear brake the same way.

The clutch is the same but you have to take the left engine cover and the chrome plastic cover off. The chrome plastic cover just has one screw to remove. The engine cover requires 4 bolts to remove. Use an 8 mm socket ¼ inch drive is best. After you

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remove the engine cover, there is the clutch slave cylinder. Note if your master cylinder has a lot of gunk at the bottom of the reservoir, I would remove the slave cylinder. There are three bolts that hold the slave cylinder. An 8mm socket is all you need to remove the bolts. There are two ways to remove the piston from the cylinder. 1 use compressed air, wrap the cylinder in a rag making sure that the piston is facing down. Apply just a bit of air, you'll hear a pop and there's the piston. 2 takes time, you'll need a piece of wood, cover with a rag and tap the cylinder gently on the covered wood. With your fingers pressing the inside of the piston, twist the piston back and forth while pulling the piston out. It's much easier to read about this than doing the work. Be patient, remember it just takes time. When you have the piston in hand, clean the cylinder bore, same with the piston. When cleaning the piston, be real careful with the seal, it can be reused. When installing the piston, pour a bit of clean, fresh brake fluid into the bore. With clean hands and fingers spread the brake fluid onto the walls. Be real careful sitting the piston into the cylinder bore. Working the piston back and forth, apply pressure on the piston and it will slide into the bore.

Now just put the slave cylinder back on and bleed.

Engine coolant, drain the entire system. There is a bolt on one of the metal tubes that goes into the water pump, just remove it. Go to your dealer and buy the Kawasaki or Honda premixed coolant. Or if you wish to buy coolant at the auto parts store, make sure it is compatible with aluminum. If you don't get the premixed and you mix it yourself, don't use tap water, use only distilled water only.

Diff gear grease it is really heavy oil. Read your manual and then go down to your dealer and buy the proper gear lube. This gear lube comes in pint bottles and all you're going to use is 180 cc.

Don't forget to lube the clutch and brake levers. Both levers require a 10mm wrench and a straight slot screwdriver.

Next time we will go over changing the oil on the front forks and rear shocks and greasing the swing arm bearings

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 April Fool's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Easter	13	14	15	16	17 CAMPOUT: Basalt	18 CAMPOUT: Basalt
19 CAMPOUT: Basalt	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### 2009 Club Events Calendar

<b>JAN 31</b> – Meeting: Manteca (11AM)	<b>FEB</b> – VACANT	<b>MAR 28</b> – Meeting: Manteca (11AM)
<b>APR 17/18/19</b> – Camping: Basalt	<b>MAY 8/9/10</b> – Susanville Ride <b>MAY 23</b> – Meeting: Manteca	<b>JUN</b> – VACANT
<b>JUL 10-13</b> – AVA Rally <b>JUL 25</b> – Meeting: Manteca (11AM) 9 <sup>th</sup> Year	<b>AUG</b> – 2009 Tour	<b>SEP 26</b> – Meeting: Manteca (11AM)
<b>OCT</b> – VACANT	<b>NOV 28</b> – Meeting: Manteca (11AM)	<b>DEC ???</b> – NCVC Christmas Party

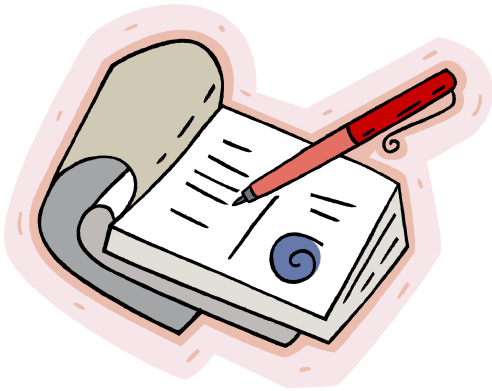
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## The Last Page

### And finally...

Thanks for reading the NorCal Voyagers Newsletter. We appreciate the input from the club membership and hope you enjoy this newsletter. If you have any comments, additions, corrections, articles, submissions, please send them along to: [editor@norcalvoyagers.org](mailto:editor@norcalvoyagers.org)



#### NORCAL VOYAGERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Don Medina
Vice-President	Ray Walls
Secretary	Trish Blue
Treasurer	Wayne Bright
Sergeant at Arms	Dennis Ellingson
Activities Director	VACANT
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If you have any questions about the club or comments to the Board of Directors, please use the following e-mail addresses:

[president@norcalvoyagers.org](mailto:president@norcalvoyagers.org)  
[vicepresident@norcalvoyagers.org](mailto:vicepresident@norcalvoyagers.org)  
[secretary@norcalvoyagers.org](mailto:secretary@norcalvoyagers.org)  
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Please use this Application Form to join the club

Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_  
Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Number Joining the Club (check one): 1 [ ] 2 [ ]

Mail Application and Payment (\$10 for 1 member / \$15 for 2 members) to:  
Wayne Bright / 2149 Gibson Avenue (Louis, Ca. / 93611-0698