

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

February 2008



NCVC Newsletter

You have something you want to see in the NorCal Voyagers Newsletter??? Send it along to 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

Here are some web pages that may be useful to our club members:

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 (February OPEN)

Next Month...

EVENT (March 21-22-23)

Campout: McConnell (East of Delhi, Hwy 99)

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Club Info and Activities

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ray Walls, NCVC President

Hello NCVC members & friends. Here we are just getting started in our 8th year as a club and a chapter of the AVA. I think everything has gone quite well during that time. We have done a lot of camping, made a few pretty nice rides and have done a couple of darn good tours. Now it's time to start making preparations for our 8th year events. I have set up an itinerary and sent it out for suggested changes or additions. So if you have something you would like to add or a ride you would like to go on, please send it in to me.

We held our first meeting of the year on Jan 26th. The weather has been so bad I didn't expect to see more than 5 or 6 members there. I was; to say the least very surprised to see so many there. I can't remember just how many there were, but I know there was at least 17 or 18 members and one guest present. Dennis & Jacque Ellingson's son came as a guest. I might add it was nice to meet him and we invited him to come again sometime.

We discussed the itinerary and the possible camp ground closures that Arnie has suggested be closed. And as luck would have it a lot of the ones I had us set up for is on the hit list. But we won't get excited about it until the powers that be make a final decision on what goes & what stays.

I suppose we could shift from mostly state camp grounds to Federal. They are cheaper, but not as nice. We will however still have our April camp out & picnic at McConnell State park. That's such a nice little park/camp grounds, I really don't know

why I had never camped there before last year.

We also discussed the 2008, 15 day tour and asked for suggested changes or add on's. It seems as though everyone is satisfied with what we have so far. I sent it out again last night with a list of motels I suggest we stay at. But this I'm sure will have a few changes to it before we set it in stone. So if anyone has any suggestions or changes they would like to see made, get them in to me by 2-15-08, that's the last day we will accept any changes, other than a possible motel or two.

There will be some minor changes to our 2008 itinerary coming down the pike pretty soon. Don has suggested doing a couple of rides in between camp out's. So as soon as he gets the dates to me I will start making those changes, plus the camp ground changes; once we know something firm.

I have ordered a few shirts for members that have placed their orders. We had a little mix up with some late changes on the orders, so I had to re-order them. Now I have 2 large, black, long sleeved no pockets 50/50 for sale and one XL black, long sleeve, no pocket 50/50 for sale. They go for \$ 26.00 plus postage which is about \$4.50. I have them ready to mail out if anyone wants on or two. I was also asked for the old club logo with the red V in it. I'm sorry but we have done away with that one, plus it only came in the large print that was on the back of the shirts and it was embroidered onto the old caps.

From now on you will only be able to order a shirt or cap with the small oval logo 3.5" long. This is the clubs original logo and we

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decided to go back to it, and have it just on the front of the shirt. Having it on the back was just too hot here in the summer time. I also checked into having more lapel pens made up, but they would only make them up in quantities of 150 & 300, since they no longer make the Voyager Motorcycle, it would probably take us 20 years to get rid of 150 pins, plus they wanted too much for a set up fee. So we decided to scrap the idea.

Jim Has the web site set up so you can see the changes on our tour as we progress. So check it out from time to time. Also those of you that plan on making this trip I would appreciate you sending me a little message or calling me and letting me know you want to go. This will help a lot in selecting motels. This way I can give them the number of people we expect to have in our group. Some of them may not be able to accommodate all of us. This will allow me time to check on others, maybe larger motels. I have tried to stay with the triple A motels and lowest prices and still have decent rooms & services.

I was asked how we should pack for this trip. I would suggest you bring enough clothing for 5 days. Most of the motels have laundry facilities, so I think 5 days would be about right. You should also bring some good rain gear and some cold weather riding gear. It starts to get very chilly up in that country along about the last week or two of August, especially in the high country like the Glazier N P & also Yellow Stone. The days will probably be warm enough for a light weight jacket. But at night and early morning it gets down right cold up there. So think about that when you are trying to decide what to bring. If any of you have a small trailer you can pull, that would help a lot and some of those that don't have trailers can share yours with you.

I think this about covers everything I have for now. Oh I almost forgot, our March camp out at Basalt has been changed to McConnell. They have torn Basalt up and are replacing the bath rooms and cleaning up some of the camp sites, so it won't be open until about the middle of April. This means we will camp at Mc Connell two months in a row. So everyone break out the ole camping gear and come on down. Cheers.

Uncle Ray

MEMBERSHIP DUES DUE

By Jim Tinlin, NCVV Webmaster/Editor

The Nor Cal Voyagers exists because of the support by its members.

The club also needs money to support various activities, so it's time to remind you to renew your annual membership. If you don't bring it to the club meeting, please send it to:

Wayne Bright
2149 Gibson Ave.
Clovis, Ca. 93661-0698

Remember, dues are only \$10.00 per year for one person and \$15.00 for two of you in the same household. Thanks for your support!!!

NCVC MEETING MINUTES

By Trisha Blue, NCVV Secretary

The meeting was held at Perko's Restaurant in Manteca. Meeting was called to order by president Ray Walls at 1245.

Members in attendance: Ray Walls (Pres), Jim Kramlich, Roger & Shirley Allen, Dennis Ellingson, Jacque Ellingson, Brian Coldicott, Joel Colletti, Don Medina (VP),

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Trisha Blue (Sec), Bill Owens, Fred Andrew, George Mack, Wayne Bright (Treas), John De Muri, Dale & Pam Bird.

Guest: Wes Ellingson (Jacque and Dennis's son).

We are happy to welcome Dale & Pam Bird back as members. They were almost charter members that moved away.

Minutes from last meeting were read by Trisha Blue. Approved by Fred Andrew; seconded by Brian Coldicott.

Treasurers Report: Read by Wayne Bright. Our starting balance was \$3,289.58. We received a little over \$100.00. We had bills for shirts and brake lines for \$214.37 leaving a balance of a little less than \$3,200.00. Report approved by Jacque Ellingson; seconded by Fred Andrew.

Yearly dues are now due: \$10.00 per individual or \$15.00 per couple.

Activities report: Ray Walls reviewed this in the absence of an Activities Director. Ray reviewed the proposed activities for 2008. Many of our campgrounds may be closed if our Governor has his way. We don't expect anything to happen before about June, but we will keep an eye on this and may need to find some new campgrounds. We will be finalizing the schedule by mid-February, so let Ray know if you have further suggestions. We are always looking for nice, inexpensive campgrounds and neat places to ride to.

There was extensive discussion of the 15-day Aug/Sept tour of the North West. See Ray's itinerary – it is still being fine-tuned. If you are interested, give Ray a call. This is going to be an incredibly good time.

Dennis & Jacque Ellingson proposed a campout (or motel stay) during the Isleton Crawdad Festival Father's Day weekend. This is in the Sacramento Delta and sounds like great fun. Quite a few people expressed interest, so count on it!

The Christmas party was a big success. We had a big turnout, terrific food, great gift exchange, and an all-round good time. I'm already excited about next year.

The 2008 AVA rally will be in Bowling Green, KY. Don Medina and Trisha Blue will be making the trip. (This is Trisha's first cross-country trip on her own 3-wheels – pretty exciting!) Wayne Bright may also attend. We would welcome anyone else. The pre-rally dinner will be at the Corvette factory. It is amazing to see hundreds of Voyagers in one place. Not to mention the strong rumor that the new Voyager will be unveiled there.

Ray got several cost estimates for club logo lapel pins. All were quite pricy with a high minimum order. The members in attendance decided against ordering them. He also got cost estimates for decals. There was not sufficient interest in them to warrant spending the money. Ray had some extra club logo shirts for sale.

Wayne Bright has a newer Voyager, so his 1999 Voyager is for sale. It has 42,000 miles on it and is very clean. He also has a nice Corbin seat with backrest for sale.

Trisha Blue has 2 XS helmets for sale for \$50 each. They are in great shape. One is an Italian Jarro flip helmet; the other is a full-face Arai.

We still need an activities director. This is very easy, only takes an hour or 2 per

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month and Ray promises to help. We also need a Sergeant at Arms.

Old Business: None

Meeting was adjourned @ 1355.

RICHARD MACK UPDATE

By Ray Walls, NCVC President

The following email was received from Richard Mack on Jan. 28 and thought it would be nice to share it with the club:

Hi, well I have had my first operation to open up my blotter passage for my next operation to put in a mechanical valve.

every thing went well so far and am at home alive and kicking....It will be so good to be normal again as you all know...Ray, now I can get on to camping again in a normal way....After about 6 months, I will then have a complete knee replacement...Just try and keep up with me then! Hope everyone else is in good health. Just thought I would let you guys up on the good news, well have to go, so carry on.



2008 Events (Proposed)

By Ray Walls, NCVC President

JANUARY:

CLUB MEETING ON 26th

FEBRUARY:

NOTHING SCHEDULED

MARCH:

MC CONNELL SP. CAMP OUT 21-22-23

APRIL:

MC CONNELL SP. CAMP OUT & CLUB PICNIC 11-12-13, PICNIC ON THE 12th

MAY:

BRANNON ISLAND SP. CAMP OUT 16-17-18
CLUB MEETING 31st

JUNE:

BRANNON ISLAND SP. CAMPOUT AND CRAWDAD FESTIVAL 13-14-15

JULY:

AVA RALLY 8-9-10
LIME KILN SP. CAMP OUT ON 18-19-20
CLUB MEETING 26

AUGUST:

VETS PARK, MONTEREY CAMP OUT 8-9-10

AUG/SEPT:

14 DAY TOUR OF NW AREA OF AMERICA,
DEPART ON 8-23-08 RETURN ON 9-6-08

SEPT:

TURLOCK LAKE SP. CAMP OUT 19-20-21
CLUB MEETING ON 27th

OCT:

MC CONNELL SP. CAMP OUT & PICNIC 16-17-18, PICNIC ON 17th

NOV:

BASALT SP. CAMP OUT 7-8-9.
MEETING ON 29th, ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

DEC:

CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY @ FRESNO
MOOSE LODGE ON THE 13th

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AVA RALLY 2007

By Don Medina, NCVC Vice President

Part 3 (finally!)

Friday morning, time to pack up. This is always a sad day seeing everyone head home. However, I remember the last three days and all the fun that we had. One thing that stands out that I forgot to include earlier was the parade.



Every year the AVA has a parade down Main Street. We get a police escort. This year we all assembled in a church parking lot. From there we were escorted to Rally Central across town. As we assembled, it was fun to see all the motorcycles and trikes in line shining in the warm, bright sunshine. Before long, we got the order to head out. Hearing all of the engines start just gets your blood flowing! We went north on a narrow, winding road that crept up above Rapid City. You could look down on both the west and east sides of town. This road really kept our attention as it descended and turned into a winding tar strip of new pavement. We went through residential side streets where the police escort stopped all traffic. When we entered the main thoroughfare it was the beginning of rush hour. We didn't have to stop at any lights – being in a motorcycle parade is

great! People in cars and on the sidewalk smiled and waved as we passed. People honked horns and we honked and waved back. You just had to be there.

After breaking camp, we headed out of town on the scenic route US Hwy 16 south past Mount Rushmore. Then we turned left onto US 385 south to Crazy Horse Monument. We stopped in the parking lot and looked up at the monument. The day was clear with a few white clouds dotting the sky and a wonderful warm breeze. The quiet was so loud that Trisha and I just looked at each other, started our engines and headed down the road. We stopped in Pringle for gas. We found a picnic table to eat our lunch. Then we took SD 89 which was a light red line on the map telling us it was a road less traveled. What the map didn't tell us was that they just paved the road with tar and loose gravel. We both slowed and elongated the gap between the bikes. Next we reached Lush, WY, and stopped for fuel and to find a coffee shop for a double espresso. Then we took US 85 through Torrington. As we left Torrington we saw two big black clouds up on the horizon with the road heading right between them. It seemed as if the road twisted left and right for the next 50 miles. When we turned southwest to Cheyenne, the wind picked up and drops came down - the largest drops I've seen in quite a while. We found a place to pull over and dug out our new Frog Togs freshly purchased at the rally. While stopped, we struck up a conversation with another couple suited up in their rain gear and calmly smoking cigarettes like they hadn't a care in the world. They told us they've just retired and are out on a long ride. They started in Anchorage, Alaska, six days ago.

When we got to Cheyenne the sun came out and the temp went up. We headed

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south on I25 to Denver – 400 miles. As we got closer, traffic got heavy – it was rush hour. I headed straight to my Aunt Sara's house. She was one of the reasons that we came to Denver. While at the rally, my mother called to tell me that Aunt Sara told her she hoped to see me before she dies. My Aunt and Uncle live across the street from the house where I grew up. Aunt Sara was so happy to see me, and so was my Uncle Leo. Aunt Sara was all dressed up sitting in her chair looking quite peaceful. We talked for awhile and then she told me that this will be the last time we see each other. She died a few weeks later. There are two things I will always remember about my Aunt Sara. In 1956 my family came to Denver for a vacation to visit Aunt Sara & Uncle Leo. My cousins had a record player and an Elvis 45 rpm record of Jail House Rock. I played that record over and over for at least an hour. Then Aunt Sara came into the bedroom and calmly said, "Little Victor, I think that's enough" and took the record player and record away. (My father's name was Victor and it's my middle name.) The second memory is of all the years that I stopped in to visit her when she had just finished baking bread or was in the middle of baking bread. I always left with a fresh loaf.

Back to the present, we spent the evening with my mother and son Dominic. I stayed up very late talking not wanting the night to end. We left Denver at 9:00 am, going through Bolder by Coor's Brewery and up US 6 through Clear Creek Canyon. This was a wonderful winding road with Clear Creek running alongside the road. After 30 miles we merged onto I70 West. This was just a 30-mile stretch of Interstate until we exited I70 onto US40 over Berthoud Pass – 11,315 ft elevation. The road was now two lanes up to the summit with a lot of switchbacks. I looked in my mirror and saw

Trisha working the handle bars with that big smile. We stopped at the summit and enjoyed being on top of the world. We descended to Winter Park on a wide 2-lane road. We stayed just under the speed limit to fully enjoy the scenery. We stopped here for a double espresso. Just after Granby we stopped at a roadside park for lunch and a short nap. The late night last night was taking a toll. Next came Rabbit Ears Pass – 9,426 ft elevation at the summit. Then we crested the summit and began our descent to Steamboat Springs. As we descended the 6% grade, I kept the Voyager in 3rd gear. With the extra weight of the trailer, I still had to use a lot of brake. I tend to use mostly front brake thanks to the steel-braided brake lines and super hard Galfer brake pads, I had no problems. The view going into the valley from the pass is just amazing. You can see where one field ends and another begins. In Steamboat we stopped for fuel – only 157 miles from Denver but it took 6 hours. Wow, what a trip!



We headed west to Craig 44 miles, temp upper 90s and I was having a hard time staying awake. At Craig we checked into a motel. Trisha and I were in bed asleep by 6 pm. The next morning we got to the motorcycles and Trisha's cover was gone.

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We found it neatly rolled up and tucked under her trike. The heavy winds had blown it off and some Good Samaritan retrieved it and rolled it up for her. I wasn't as lucky. Although my cover had stayed on, sand got between the cover and windshield putting scratches on my 5-day old Clear View Shield. Today we just rode hard, no sightseeing. We took US40 to I80 down to Salt Lake City. From Park City to Salt Lake City, I80 was just fun with all those sweepers - best at 65 mph and Trisha just enjoyed the ride. After Salt Lake City on to Elko. Trisha and I found a nice motel in downtown Elko. We took a walk and found a grocery store 2 blocks away. We got cold cuts and chips for dinner in our room after our 500-mile day.

We stopped in Vernal, UT, for breakfast where we met a couple of guys on a long trip. One was on a Ural sidecar rig. They were traveling from New Mexico to Montana.



Monday was our last day - 500 miles to Half Moon Bay. The last 3 days were all hot in the upper 90s. At Donner Summit where we stopped for lunch the temp was 90 degrees. Since it was Monday the traffic was light, so the drive down into

Sacramento was a joy. We got to the Bay Bridge by 4:00 pm, so we got a free pass and saved \$4.00 each. We took I280 to Hwy 1 through Pacifica. We stopped at Devil's Slide where the temp was 60 degrees with fog rolling through. We put on our jackets. Just an hour ago it was in the upper 90s. From here we only have 11 miles. When we got home, we just stood next to our motorcycles grinning at each other. Trisha had 4,000 miles on her 11-day old trike!

The entire trip we had no problems with either bike. Trisha really wants to thank Mike at Mike's Trikes in Waterford (near Modesto). Mike sold her the trike kit and installed it. She had absolutely no problems with only a 12-mile test ride before this trip.



This trip was the beginning of a long series of motorcycle adventures for us. Well, we've had a lot of adventures, but now that Trisha has her trike she is fearless and ready to go anywhere. We can't wait for the 2008 AVA Rally in Bowling Green, KY. We're planning an Alaska trip, I don't know when. If only we didn't have to work...

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Groundhog Day
3	4	5 Mardi Gras	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18 President's Day	19	20	21	22 Washington's Birthday	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

2007 Club Events Calendar

JAN 26 – Meeting: Manteca	FEB – VACANT	MAR 21/22/23 – Campout: McConnell MAR 29 – Meeting: Manteca
APR 11/12/13 – Campout: McConnell	MAY 16/17/18 – Campout: Brannon Island MAY 31 – Meeting: Manteca	JUN T13/14/15 – Campout: Brannon Island
JUL 8/9/10 – AVA Rally JUL 18/19/20 – Campout: Lime Kiln JUL 26 – Meeting: Manteca	AUG 8/9/10 – Campout: Vets Park, Monterey AUG 23 to SEP 6 – 2008 Tour	AUG 23 to SEP 6 – 2008 Tour SEP 19/20/21 – Campout: Turlock Lake SEP 27 – Meeting: Manteca
OCT 16/17/18 – Campout: McConnell	NOV 7/8/9 – Campout: Basalt NOV 29 – Meeting: Manteca	DEC 13 – NCVC Christmas Party: Fresno Moose Lodge

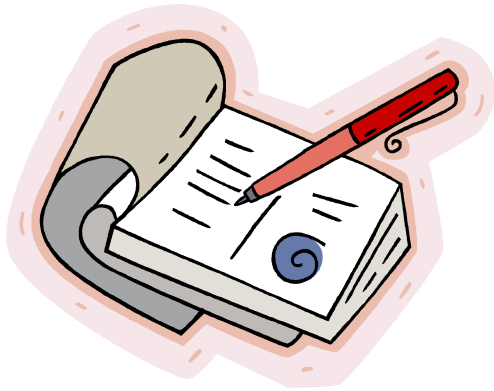
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The Last Page

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



NORCAL VOYAGERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Ray Walls
Vice-President	Don Medina
Secretary	Trish Blue
Treasurer	Wayne Bright
Sergeant at Arms	Dennis Ellingson
Activities Director	VACANT
Webmaster/	Jim Tinlin
Newsletter Editor	

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
vicepresident@norcalvoyagers.org
secretary@norcalvoyagers.org
treasurer@norcalvoyagers.org
tours@norcalvoyagers.org

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