

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

January 2005



Your Club 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.csonline.net/cybersite/american.htm>

American Motorcycle Association (AMA)

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

This Month...

CAMPOUT 1/7-1/8

Death Valley, with IBMC

CLUB MEETING 1/29

Woolgrowers Restaurant in Los Banos (12 noon)



Next Month...

CLUB MEETING 2/26

Monthly Meeting in Los Banos

{See the Web Site for details}

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter is developed for the membership of the Northern California Voyagers Club and is freely distributed as a benefit of membership.

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Club Information/Business

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello NCVV members.

Well, Christmas came & Christmas went and I still have my old 92 Voyager, Not even any new shiny stuff for it. And by the time you read this the old year will have come & gone also. And then we will be looking at a brand new year and trying to figure out just what we would like to do in 2005.

That's where you guys come in, Sit down and give some thought to what you would like to do in 05. Then when you decide what it is, submit it to Don Brubaker. He will be your new activities and social director. We already have something for all the months except for February, June & Nov. Now this is not to say we won't take any other suggestions. In fact if you are willing to host the event we will put it on the event schedule. We may have to do some maneuvering, like changing some dates around to make everything fit.



I'm waiting now for those that have volunteered to host an event to send Don the dates so we can get the 05 event schedule out to all members. Then you can decide on the dates you would like to host an event.

Now for the new board members, I will be you president for one more year, Dale Bird will be the new Vice President, Wayne Bright will be the treasurer again and Don will be as noted above. And Bob Joyner has graciously agreed to be the Secretary again in 05. Rather than have a referee voted in Don will appoint one as per club bylaws. I would appreciate it if all of you would log onto our web site and vote for your favorite board member. Since we only have one person running for each position, it shouldn't take too much thought as to who you are going to vote for. But to make it legal we need for the members to at least vote.

I want to remind everyone that we will have our next meeting at the Wool Growers in Los Banos on 1-29-05, @ 12:00pm. The polo shirt samples will be there for you to see with the clubs very first logo on them. Both the new polo and the old Tee shirts will be sold until all the Tee shirts are gone. After that we will only carry the polo shirts, in cotton & 50/50. I hope to have confirmed prices by then also. The caps will carry the same logo until they are all gone, then we will shift them over to the same logo as the shirts.

I also want to thank Bob & Shirley Webb for hosting our Christmas party. They did a magnificent job and everyone there had a great time. Wayne & Sandra Bright will be hosting our 2005 party. Right here in beautiful downtown Clovis Ca.

That about covers everything I have on my mind, I wish everyone a most wonderful New Year.

Sincerely; Uncle Ray.

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PRODUCT REVIEW

I have the good fortune of having my birthday in the same month as Christmas, so I generally get to score twice in one month (when it comes to personal goodies).

This month was no exception, as my wife graced me with a brand new GPS (Global Positioning System/Satellite Navigator).

For some reason, I like electronic stuff and wanted one of these for awhile. I have a Magellan SportTrak Color little item on the just over has all the need for a held GPS



Why am I reviewing this item for the NorCal Voyagers Club? Well, as it turns out, the main reason I wanted a GPS Navigator was to hang it on my handlebars so that I could do away with the 'paper map' fiasco I have come to loathe while traveling long distances on my Voyager.

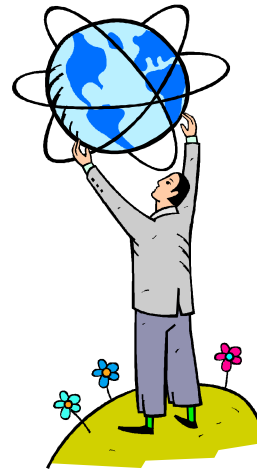
I took it on a couple of trips in December, just to see how well it handled the chore and I was very impressed. I always knew where I was **and** found my way back 😊 Before you go out and buy one of these jewels, let me tell you that there is one major issue that has to be revealed. This has to do with the map images available for the unit.

The unit comes pre-loaded with all of the major highways in the USA (and many around the world), but it lacks serious detail

on a city street level. You need to buy an 'add-on' software package to get that detail (and the trip-management/point-to-point directions). This software package cost me just under \$100 (the shrewd internet junkie will be able to search for the best price) and was worth the money (in my opinion).

The software allows me to load a personalized 'region' of the USA (actually North America, which includes Canada) and gives me details of city streets and Points of Interest at a very satisfying level. You can get about half the state of California in there (because of the memory available) which is enough for most trips. I was able to put a part of California, Nevada, and Arizona in there if I chopped out the Los Angeles area (lots of detail, lots of memory used).

Then you tell where you want to go and it maps the route and gives you cues when you need to turn.



I am real happy with the unit, it has a nice color screen and nice resolution/detail. I ended up buying a car mount (suction cups to the windshield) and motorcycle handlebar mount to round out my accessory needs. If you're in the market for a GPS Navigator, this may be the answer for you. The price was very reasonable and it is a rugged and portable unit for motorcycle use. If interested, take a look at www.magellangps.com for more details on their product line.

Jim Tinlin – Newsletter Editor/GPS Fan

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Event Calendar for 2005

<u>Month</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Host</u>
January	Death Valley Campout w/IBMC	Don Brubaker
February	(Open)	(Open)
March	Basalt Campground (Santa Nella)	Bob Joyner
April	Corbin Seat Factory (Hollister)	Fritz Wells
May	Clear Lake Queen (Clear Lake)	Bryce Eichholz
June	(Open)	(Open)
July	AVA Ralley (Durango Colorado)	NCVC
August	San Simeon State Park	Ray Walls
September	Campout at Ranch in Corning	Dennis Ellingson
October	TBD	Monte Faust
November	(Open)	(Open)
December	Christmas Party	Wayne/Sandra Bright

NCVC Meeting Calendar for 2005

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>January 29</u>	<u>Woolgrowers Restaurant – Los Banos</u>
<u>February 27</u>	<u>TBD – Los Banos</u>
<u>March 26</u>	<u>TBD – Los Banos</u>
<u>April 30</u>	<u>TBD – Los Banos</u>
<u>May 21</u>	<u>TBD – Los Banos</u>
<u>June 25</u>	<u>TBD – Los Banos</u>
<u>July 23</u>	<u>TBD – Los Banos</u>
<u>August 27</u>	<u>TBD – Los Banos</u>
<u>September 24</u>	<u>TBD – Los Banos</u>
<u>October 29</u>	<u>TBD – Los Banos</u>
<u>November 26</u>	<u>TBD – Los Banos</u>
<u>December 17</u>	<u>TBD – Los Banos</u>

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13TH ANNUAL NEVADA COUNTY FOOD AND TOY RUN, 2004

In 1991 four bikers thought about what they could do to help families in need during the upcoming holiday season. They came up with an interesting idea and within a few weeks created an event. This event drew 90 bikers and a responsive cord was struck with merchants, law enforcement, and the residents in the small sierra-foothill communities of Nevada City and Grass Valley. This event was the birth of the Nevada County Food and Toy Run to help the local families in need. So, for the last thirteen years on the second Saturday in December, hundreds of bikers rumble through the towns of Nevada City and Grass Valley on their way to the Nevada County Fairgrounds where hundreds of children and adults await in anticipation of their arrival.



Fast forward to the present. Early on a cold and foggy Saturday morning the NORCAL Voyagers Club is being well represented as I met up with Bob W and George R at the old Eppies Restaurant on I 80 just north of Sacramento. From there we rode up to Denny's in Auburn where we met up with the whole Brewcrew. Now here's Brew and

four women, Doris the misses, Mary his sister, Sue who works with Doris and Linda a close family friend. Now this is not the Ya, Ya, Sisterhood but rather (their words) The Tequila Sisterhood. A short wait later Dale B comes riding up on his Beemer all the way from Morgan Hill. One last pit stop in Denny's for the women, they mount up with Dale, Bob and George and we head north on Hwy 49 to the Rood Government Center in Nevada City. We get there a little before ten, early enough to get a close-to-the-front parking spot. More on that later. We head over to registration to sign in and a chance to purchase run pins, t-shirts and whatever. Hot coffee and donuts are also available there for a donation, hey best deal in town. For the next two hours, as we are wandering around checking out the bikes and biker babes, hard to tell under all their winter wear, we run into club member John Harrison. As a steady stream of motorcycles from the far-flung corners flow into the parking lot and as parking gets tighter and tighter, it soon becomes a sea of motorcycles. Predominately Harleys but all other brands are well represented. As we're mingling around our area checking out this pristine 1947 Indian Chief, up rolls club member Tony Curtis and his wife Glenda to join our group.

It's approaching noon and in a few minutes we get the head-um-up move-um-out signal. As a thunderous roar erupts from the parking lot, reverberating off of the mountainsides and through the forest, all living creatures stop and turn their heads, the gathering is on the move... Remember I mentioned getting a close-to-the-front parking spot? Picture these hundreds of motorcyclists jockeying for position to ride out two-by-two up this narrow lane out the back of the parking lot past the county jail to the main drag and we're right near the

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front of the pack. As we ride into the back side of Nevada City and right down Main Street through the heart of town, the local police, county Sheriff's, Highway Patrol and scores of law enforcement volunteers all have the side streets blocked off and traffic halted. Riding through town, the sides of the streets are lined with locals waving and cheering and little kids holding "Thank You" signs. Some of the bikers have a chance to test out their new baffle-less mufflers and the rest of us the longevity of our horns as we return the waves and cheers. Through the heart of Nevada City, down across the freeway, right turn up the hill and through a narrow draw, back across the freeway, this long string of motorcycles snake their way up through the seven hills district and down into the back of Grass valley all this time passing more and more cheering and waving people with seniors and children alike holding thank you signs. Some of the two-up riders have brought bags candy and tossing it out to the kids along the roadside. On into Grass Valley, up to a left turn right into the heart of town, where throngs of people are lining the street, waving and cheering. Down through more narrow lanes, under the freeway and a right turn up to the Fairgrounds to be counted as we entered. If you have never been to the Nevada County Fairgrounds, I highly recommend at least one visit. Situated right in the middle of the forest, on the south side of Grass Valley at the junction of Hwy's 49 and 20, surrounded by huge pine trees one could not ask for a more idyllic setting. Remember I mentioned being near the front of the pack? Parking inside the Fairgrounds is even more of a premium. It took us forty minutes to ride the seven miles from the Rood Center to the Fairgrounds. We get parked and for the next half an hour we're watching more and more bikes coming into the Fairgrounds.

We gather up our food and toys and head for the main building where volunteers who take our goods meet us. As we make it through the building, we get a hot dog and a soda from a local vendor, mingle around a bit, checking out the vendors, finding a spot where we can sit and have our lunch. After hanging around for an hour or so and since Dale still has a long ride home, we decide it's time head for Sue's home in Roseville to drop off the ladies and take a break before the long ride home.



This is my fifth and Brews third year of doing this run and have always enjoyed it, even in the rain, except last year when I woosed out. In the years past, my wife Jo and I have stayed around for the food and toy distribution. The needy families are selected by the various local church and social organizations to participate. Everything goes back into the local communities and nothing is sent to some far off warehouse for later distribution. At two o'clock they open the doors to the toy distribution and the kids are sent in in groups of twenty or so. There is nothing more heart warming that watching these children come in, not running, yelling or screaming, walking quietly in awe up and down the long tables, sorted by age and gender, piled high with every imaginable

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toy, carefully making their selection as each child got to pick out three toys. In the food distribution, each family got a frozen turkey, a ten pound bag of potatoes and two shopping bags filled with assorted canned and dry goods.



Official count this year was 1386 motorcycles and another twenty or so that went in another gate that didn't get counted. Remember that cold and foggy morning? Well the sun came out and it turned into a beautiful shirtsleeve day. All in all, it was a great run and the club was well represented and I'm looking forward to doing it again next year. Maybe I'll even remember to bring my camera. Thank you Doris for the pictures that were taken. See you all December 10th, 2005.

By Bryce Eichholz

DEATH VALLEY CAMPOUT

This is your new Activities Director, Don Brubaker (a.k.a. Brew) here. As I write this, Doris and I are getting our camper and camping gear ready for our clubs first campout of the year. We will be camping with the International Brotherhood of Motorcycle Campers (a.k.a. IBMC) at Texas Springs campground January 6th, 7th & 8th in Death Valley. We have gone several times in the past and really enjoy it.

The IBMC is a great group of people who love to camp. Death Valley is a good place to get up early in the morning and watch the sun coming up over the desert rocks and hills. At night a good place to set around the campfire telling tales or just setting back and watching the starsand thinking.....Sure glad I ain't in foggy/rainy California right now!

Keep It Under Your Britches and Between the Ditches

Brew

MOTORCYCLE TRUTH

There is cold, and there is cold on a motorcycle. Cold on a motorcycle is like being beaten with cold hammers while being kicked with cold boots, a bone bruising cold. The wind's big hands squeeze the heat out of my body and whisk it away; caught in a cold October rain, the drops don't even feel like water. They feel like shards of bone fallen from the skies of Hell to pock my face. I expect to arrive with my cheeks and forehead streaked with blood, but that's just an illusion, just the misery of nerves not designed for highway speeds.

Despite this, it's hard to give up my motorcycle in the fall and I rush to get it on the road again in the spring; lapses of sanity like this are common among motorcyclists. When you let a motorcycle into your life you're changed forever. The letters "MC" are stamped on your driver's license right next to your sex and weight as if "motorcycle" was just another of your physical characteristics, or maybe a mental condition. But when warm weather finally does come around all those cold snaps and rainstorms are paid in full because a

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summer is worth any price.

A motorcycle is not just a two-wheeled car; the difference between driving a car and climbing onto a motorcycle is the difference between watching TV and actually living your life. We spend all our time sealed in boxes and cars are just the rolling boxes that shuffle us from home-box to work-box to store-box and back, the whole time, entombed in stale air, temperature regulated, sound insulated, and smelling of carpets.

On a motorcycle I know I'm alive. When I ride, even the familiar seems strange and glorious. The air has weight and substance as I push through it and its touch is as intimate as water to a swimmer. I feel the cool wells of air that pool under trees and the warm spokes of that fall through them. I can see everything in a sweeping 360 degrees, up, down and around, wider than Pana-Vision and than IMAX and unrestricted by ceiling or dashboard. Sometimes I even hear music. It's like hearing phantom telephones in the shower or false doorbells when vacuuming; the pattern-loving brain, seeking signals in the noise, raises acoustic ghosts out of the wind's roar. But on a motorcycle I hear whole songs: rock 'n roll, dark orchestras, women's voices, all hidden in the air and released by speed. At 30 miles per hour and up, smells become uncannily vivid. All the individual tree-smells and flower-smells and grass-smells flit by like chemical notes in a great plant symphony. Sometimes the smells evoke memories so strongly that it's as though the past hangs invisible in the air around me, wanting only the most casual of rumbling time machines to unlock it. A ride on a summer afternoon can border on the rapturous. The sheer volume and variety of stimuli is like a bath

for my nervous system, an electrical massage for my brain, a systems check for my soul. It tears smiles out of me: a minute ago I was dour, depressed, apathetic, numb, but now, on two wheels, big, ragged, windy smiles flap against the side of my face, billowing out of me like air from a decompressing plane.

Transportation is only a secondary function. A motorcycle is a joy machine. It's a machine of wonders, a metal bird, a motorized prosthetic. It's light and dark and shiny and dirty and warm and cold lapping over each other; it's a conduit of grace, it's a catalyst for bonding the gritty and the holy. I still think of myself as a motorcycle amateur, but by now I've had a handful of bikes over half a dozen years and slept under my share of bridges. I wouldn't trade one second of either the good times or the misery. Learning to ride one of the best things I've done.

Cars lie to us and tell us we're safe, powerful, and in control. The air-conditioning fans murmur empty assurances and whisper, "Sleep, sleep." Motorcycles tell us a more useful truth: we are small and exposed, and probably moving too fast for our own good, but that's no reason not to enjoy every minute of the ride.

Author unknown – from "The Bikers Den" newsletter (www.bikersden.com).

TELL YOUR FRIENDS!!!

Don't forget to get the word out about our club, go to the following web link and print out the club brochure. Leave it at your favorite bike hangout or motorcycle shop: www.norcalvoyagers.org/brochure.pdf

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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



JANUARY 2005 CALENDAR

Birthdays:

1/2 Mac McWhorter
1/7 Dannette Woodruff
1/10 Mary Brubaker
1/14 Jo Newbeck
1/21 Arnie Johnson
1/28 Karen Gilpatrick
1/31 Shirley Allen

Anniversaries:

1/14 Shari & Arnie Johnson
1/21 Dorothy & Gerald Grimsley

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