

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

January 2009



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

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...

A NEW YEAR

Best Wishes to all Members!

CAMPOUT: SAN SIMEON S.P. (1/8-1/12)

Washburn Campsite

NCVC MEETING: MANTECA (1/31)

Perko's Restaurant (1703 E. Yosemite Ave)

Next Month...

VACANT

(No Plans Yet)



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Club Info and Activities

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Don Medina, NCVC President

I hope that the Christmas holiday was good for everyone, as I thought this past month was a busy one for Nor Cal Voyagers. Dec 6 Trisha and I were entered in a motorcycle show at Mission Motorcycles in Daly City. Then came the Christmas party which was a great success; thanks to all of the help. Then we had the breakfast before going to the International Motorcycle Show. That same day Trisha and I left on vacation to spend Christmas in Colorado with my mother (plus skiing) and new years in North Carolina with Trisha's mother.

As I write this letter I'm on vacation with Trisha here in North Carolina where the weather is mild. We think we have it good in CA but this is nice, even at night it has not been cold. I bring this up because we drove here. While out driving, I see a lot of people riding their motorcycles. While at the Mission Motorcycle Show, they had a sale price on First Gear electric gloves and jacket liners. Both Trisha and I got a set, electric clothing is worth the investment.

On the ride schedule for next year, I had no campouts. Ray Walls made mention of this the Sunday after the Christmas party, and so did Bob Joiner. Bob has scheduled a campout Jan 8 to Jan 12 in San Simeon State Park in the Washburn section of the Park. This is dry camping, with water and pit toilets.

One other thing that I did was got together with Joel. Joel had gotten himself a set of the steel braided brake and clutch lines. I drove over to his house and we installed them. This makes the second set as a

couple of months ago I went up to Bill Burns house and he and I installed his steel braided lines.

Coming up is a date for Bill, Joel and me to get together and balance our carbs. Anyone interested call me and we will include you.

At the end of this month is our monthly meeting in Manteca I hope a lot of you make it.



OH, BY THE WAY...

By Jim Tinlin, NCVC Newsletter Editor

Those that made it to the Christmas Party in Fresno seemed to have a great time. I wanted to thank all that sent me pictures so I could include them on our web site. If you want to see what all the fuss is about, go to our web site (click the events button and select the Christmas Party):

<http://www.norcalvoyagers.org>

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2009 Events

JANUARY:

January 8-12: Campout at San Simeon S.P. (Washburn Campsite)

APRIL:

April 17-19: 35th Rider rally in Ventura Ca. to be held at the Ventura Fairground

MAY:

May 8-10: 2-day ride to Oregon, 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

2008 AVA Rally, Part II

By Don Medina, NCVC President

06-31-08

We're on the interstate by 7 am and we ride into the St Louis area. When traffic begins to get heavy we find a Denny's. As we leave Denny's, rush hour is over. Today is to be a long day because we wish to end up in Knoxville TN. Coming into St Louis there is a detour. I get mixed up and make a few wrong turns, but all ends up well as we get to the far side of St. Louis. On the bridge going over the mighty Mississippi River I look down to see water over the banks and above the street that runs along the river. All you can see is the top half of the streetlight poles. We run into heavy repair work which slows us down a bit. While going slow I have a chance to look around and see how wonderful this big country we live in is, and I'm retired. We stop in Mt. Vernon to refuel and then head south to Nashville TN. We get to Nashville during rush hour which turns out to be alright, because their rush hour is minor compared to a Bay Area rush hour. We cross

into the Eastern Time Zone a hundred miles before we get to Knoxville. We're staying with a friend from the Bay Area that moved to Knoxville a few years ago. Paula has a nice house with a basement and washer dryer that she lets us use. It's 8:30 pm when we arrive and she makes dinner for us. What a friend!

07-01-08

I'm up at 6:30 am today, but this is east coast time. West coast time it's 3:30 am and this is the reason my body is feeling like I should still be in bed. Staying with Paula is always a treat; she always makes me feel at home and at ease. This morning I hear her foot steps on the floor as she gets ready for work. I hurry into the shower then get Trisha up for her shower. Both Trisha and I go upstairs together and greet Paula. Paula already has fruit out and she's getting eggs ready. After breakfast Paula is off to work and we clean up our room and load up. We're on the road by 8:30 am. What a wonderful day, it has that I'M ON VACATION feeling. The temp this morning is warm with very few clouds in the sky. As we drive away from Paula's, we follow her directions which take us along the river and on the west side of downtown Knoxville onto the freeway. Once on the freeway we spot our first trike of the trip. We head east on I 40 and after a bit we begin to get into the western slopes of the Smoky Mountains and there along side of the freeway is a new sign which says "Strange Brew." With that I get off of the freeway and we go looking for Strange Brew. What we find is a building that houses tie-dyed clothing on one side and on the other is a coffee shop. What strikes me most is how clean and tidy the coffee shop is. The espresso was strong like I like it. An earth mother type co-owns and runs the shop. The espresso is so good we just sit there with earth mother swapping stories. Earth mother's name is Debbie and she tells us that she only sells fair trade coffee because it provides a living wage to those who grow it.

After that it was past Ashville NC to Hickory for gas. At this time Trisha informs me that she will now lead. Now Trisha hates to lead, but we were real close to her mothers. As we get on

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the freeway, I knew that this was going to be fun. You see I'm always asking Trisha to open the throttle on the trike and clean it out. Trisha was gone and she was not slowing down, the poor Voyager was getting its neck wrung out. When it did get up to Trisha, her speed stayed at 70 to 75 mph. A few times I pulled up along side of her and asked her to slow, and she would shake her head ok. But the speed stayed the same. When we got to High Point NC Trisha was so happy to see her mother. So was I but I had just used a tank of gas in a little over 100 miles.



07-02-08

Today we're up early and off to Wrightsville Beach in Wilmington NC. Taking I 40 is the fastest way there, but boring. When you pass I 95 the landscape just gets flat. We just keep riding and before we know it, we're at the beach. It's 11:00 am and it has gotten hot. We find parking in a full public parking lot when a traffic patrol officer tells us where to squeeze in. This happens to be next to a Harley and this guy is a hoot. We walk onto the beach and all I see are people as far as you can see, north or south. Let me repeat, it's hot. Wrightsville Beach is a large white sand beach that goes on for miles in either direction. In northern California we don't get many days that are this warm for beach goers. Trisha tells me that this is the way it's always been at Wrightsville Beach. We both walk into the water ankle deep to make sure we've traveled from Pacific to Atlantic. After a few more minutes and pictures

of us on the beach, we head back to the motorcycles. When we get back to the motorcycles, the Harley guy is still there talking to the patrol officer. We thank the patrol officer for the creative parking. We chat with them for awhile. The Harley guy is having hard times and has been on unemployment for 6 months. He is still upbeat though; after all a warm day at the beach, your motorcycle, girls in bathing suits and life is good.

I now go looking for a Panama hat and I find one in a store near the beach. Trisha begins trying on sun hats and before too long she's walking out with her hat. So we've done the tourist stuff I now get to go visit where I'll be living in a few years. Our house looks good and the new garage door sure looks white. I get Trisha to take my picture with the motorcycles in front of that new garage door. We head back to High Point but not before stopping at Wendy's for lunch. Today was the hardest of all days with high heat & humidity. In six days of hard riding we're able to cross the great United States of America.



07-03-08 – 07-05-08

Trisha's mother lives in a retirement community where everyone is cared for quite nicely. Now that I too am retired, I hope to one day have this type of life. What we did most was rest, visit family and eat well (very well). Doris (Trisha's mother) and Lorene (Trisha's aunt) made sure that we didn't miss a meal.

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07-06-08

Up early before day break, we're off to Boone NC to visit with Trisha's nephew. Riding early in the day is such a treat - cool air, few cars and just seeing a day wake up. Add the fact that we're riding into the Smokies. First as we begin to climb is Wilkesboro NC. We climb some more, go under the Blue Ridge Parkway and turn off the Hwy at the bottom of the hill into a vacant lot and there stands Graham, Trisha's nephew. We dismount our motorcycles, hug, and then head off to Boone.



We enjoy a long lazy breakfast in the garden of a locals' restaurant. As we finish eating Graham asks if we're taking the Blue Ridge Parkway. I say no thinking that it won't take us to Asheville then down to the Dragon. Most of the day as we're making our way to the famous hwy 129, we pass under the Blue Ridge Parkway. When you get past Maggie Valley to the Nantahala River, the traffic gets heavy. Riding under all those trees with the river just off the road on our right with our speed at 30 mph it gave both of us plenty of time to soak up all of the wonders along the river. There were so many campgrounds where we wanted to stay for a week, just reading along the river or hiking. As we turned on to hwy 129, the clouds moved in and it felt like rain. It did rain, and how it came down. We found a vacant building along the hwy with a large overhang where we were able to get into our new Frog Toggs we bought at the AVA rally in Rapid City. While there, another Goldwing pulled up with a couple

that was soaked. Before long we were at the Dragon. As we ride up to the welcome center on the east side of the Dragon, there sits an ambulance with a rider inside! I look over at Trisha and see a grave look of concern. We ride around the ambulance and park the motorcycles. We remove our rain gear since the sun is shining and it's getting hot. We walk over to the store and get our free gift and walk around all the stores. Before we leave we have lunch, the cooler on the trailer acting as our table. We talk about the Dragon, how many turns there are and the speed we will have to maintain for the whole distance. Trisha has been talking about how she wants to ride the Dragon, now we're here she's trying to tell herself that she isn't good enough to ride the Dragon. We talk about this, me being the wonderful husband that handles these problems with kindness and a hug!! I tell Trisha to suck it up, you've gotten here so just do it, don't worry you have good insurance. Trisha gets on the trike without saying a word, but the looks she is giving me. I ride away down to a large sign of the Dragon. I stop here for a photo of both the bikes and Trisha and I.

We get to the Dragon a few miles later, Trisha is looking much better I can see her confidence returning. Her face is set; her body English is upright, arms firm. We stop at the little gas station on the east end of the Dragon. I ask, "Are you ready?" Her reply is a nod of her head and a strong YES and we're off. After a few turns I look in my mirrors and see Trisha's arms working the handle bars. One thing I did tell Trisha was to get the trike into 3rd gear and use that gear throughout the length of the Dragon. After 2 miles I can hear some choppers coming up behind so I increase my speed. I'm now beginning to work the Voyager, and in my mirrors is she Trisha staying with me. Even on the straights when I keep increasing my speed, there is Trisha. In the turns I see Trisha's arm sawing with the handle bars, hard work. After a bit we start gapping the choppers, then the end of the Dragon is here. We pull off into a small parking area. I jump off of the Voyager and run back to high five Trisha. Trisha is hollering, Yea, Yea, doing a little

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dance while sitting on her trike. Shortly the choppers come by. Trisha sees them and gives me a wink. Fear, what fear? All Trisha had was a major case of the pre-Dragon jitters. In a bit were back in Knoxville having an early dinner at Wendy's, down loading the Dragon. We ride north into Kentucky.



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 NVCV MEETING: MANTECA (11AM)

2009 Club Events Calendar

JAN 31 – Meeting: Manteca (11AM)	FEB – VACANT	MAR 28 – Meeting: Manteca(11AM)
APR 17/18/19 – Rider Rally, Ventura	MAY 8/9/10 – Oregon Ride MAY30 – Meeting: Manteca	JUN – VACANT
JUL 10-??? – AVA Rally JUL 25 – Meeting: Manteca (11AM) 9 th Year	AUG??? – 2009 Tour	SEP 26 – Meeting: Manteca (11AM)
OCT – VACANT	NOV 28 – Meeting: Manteca (11AM)	DEC ??? – NCVC Christmas Party

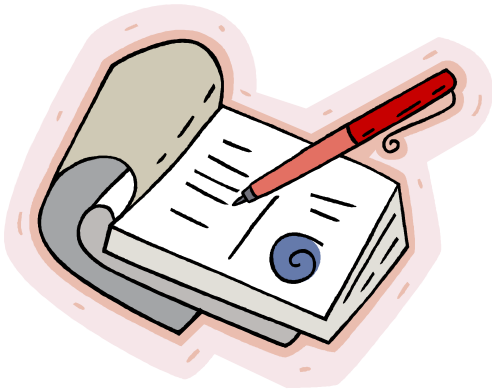
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The Last Page

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



NORCAL VOYAGERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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
vicepresident@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