

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

July 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...

EVENT: RALLY (7/14-16)

AVA Rally (Santa Fe, NM)

NCVC MEETING: MANTECA (7/25)

Perko's Restaurant (1703 E. Yosemite Ave)

Next Month...

EVENT: RALLY (8/23-9/1)

Ray Walls Classic Fall Tour (CanyonLands)



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Club Info and Activities

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Don Medina, NCVV President

Another month has passed and it was good one. There were two outings: Ray Walls' coming home party and the campout in Monterey, CA. We have two new members: Ron Aikins and Bruce Huffman. I haven't met either yet but hope to soon. Dale told me that we have had 15 questionnaires filled out and returned. On to good news, Marvin Deathrage retired on June 05, 2009, and Teresa Ashworth graduated on June 06, 2009. To both of these members, a great big WILL DONE! Last is that Jim Tinlin has given up his duties as newsletter editor. Jim has had the job as long as I have been a member. Now will have one less thing on his plate, and as soon as he and the Club can get the web site duties transferred, Jim might have enough time to come on a ride or a campout.

Looking at the month of July the club has the AVA Rally tour and a club meeting on July 25. Both should be a lot of fun. For the after-meeting ride how about Root Beer Float ride? Any ride idea is welcomed; Trisha and I will just be getting home from the AVA Rally Tour. Meaning I wish to keep it simple so a short ride would really work for me.

August is the Ray Walls Fall Classic which Roger Allen has all worked out. Most details are in the newsletter.

I spoke to Duane Ash the other day and he said that the AVA is getting more new members who all seem to have just purchased 1700 Voyagers. Tom Chitwood is trying to get a Voyager Chapter going in Southern California. He will be joining us on the trip to Santa Fe.

The date for the Christmas party is December 12, 2009 at the Moose Lodge in Fresno CA.

The new newsletter editor is Trisha Blue.



Marvin enjoying retirement

2009 Events

JULY:

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

SUMMER:

Aug 23 to Sep 1: 1st Annual Ray Walls Classic Fall Tour - Canyon Lands

Fall:

Sept 11-13: Humboldt River Ranch Rendezvous

Oct 2-4: NorCal Half Moon Bay Ride-In

DECEMBER:

Dec 12: Annual Christmas Party at the Fresno Moose Lodge

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BATTERY BUG

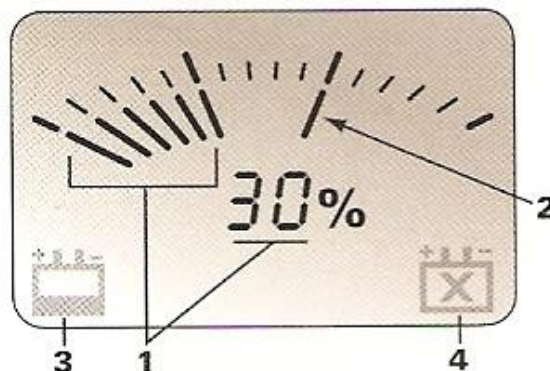
By Jim Tinlin, NCVC Newsletter Editor

I'm always up for checking out the latest in gadgets, and as the newsletter editor and Web Site administrator I get information from a lot of people trying to sell things. Most info is ok and I look it over, only to throw it away, other info seems to have some interest and I like to check it out.

This is where Don from valuetec.com comes in. He sent me an email detailing a new product that he is carrying and it intrigued me. This little gadget is called the Battery Bug by a company called Argus Analyzers.

I read a couple of reviews on the internet and most people seem to like the item. Not only does it provide a battery voltage indication but it analyzes the 'health' of the battery during the start to determine how much "capacity" is left in the battery. Apparently there's a lot of math involved, it's safe to say it keeps track of the voltage and how much current is being drawn during cranking.

Starting performance of the battery is checked each time the engine is started. The lowest measured performance is used to evaluate the condition of your battery. If you get to less than 30% capacity an icon indicates a weak battery, if you get less than 10% capacity it sounds an alarm after you turn off the motorcycle and it displays a replace battery icon.



- 1 Starting health
- 2 Starting performance of last start
- 3 Weak battery indicator
- 4 Replace battery indicator

My assumption is that if you leave it connected when you start the motorcycle after a long period of time you'll get a low reading that will never improve...and the only way to 'reset' it to actual readings is to lift the wiring going to the analyzer and allow it to "lose" its information (then start all over again). So if you don't use a battery tender during the winter I would guess you'll have a false low reading that will persist after that first startup in the spring.

Anyway, I wanted to order one and I let Don know I was going to review it in our newsletter. He then let me know that he has a special 'group discount' price that we can use. So if you are interested, jump on over to this web page for your discount:

<http://valuetec.startlogic.com/page12.html>

The installation was pretty simple; the most difficult part was deciding where to put the display. It's a bit big, about 2" x 2", but that makes it real easy to see. So I chose the left front speaker because the wiring comes out the right side of the case...otherwise it would have gone on the right front speaker. I fished the wiring under the left faring and into the battery well. It comes complete

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with pre-wired harness with a 6 foot length, so if you want to put it somewhere else you probably won't have any problem making it fit.



Once you connect it to the battery it goes through a cycle where it doesn't display anything but a countdown (reading the voltage and initializing the data) then it displays battery voltage on a "volts" scale and alternates with battery capacity on a "percent" scale. I like this because it gives me a sense of how the battery is doing as well as what the voltage regulator is supplying.



During the next startup of the motorcycle it then indicates the voltage and what percent capacity is left, based on the performance

during the start. I knew my battery was weak (it's been in there for almost 3 years) and after the first start it shows 24% capacity. Voltage is fine, both running and shut down. I like this little gadget and like the idea that I will probably be able to preventatively replace the battery before it dies on me for good.

HELP: NCVC WEB SITE

By Jim Tinlin, NCVC Web Administrator

As Don Medina indicated in the "Presidents Letter" last month, we need a replacement for the Web Site Administrator (I hate the term 'Webmaster'). We have copies of all the newsletters on the club web site (<http://www.norcalvoyagers.org>).

Due to changes in my work environment and family commitments, I have less time on my hands than I used to and I feel uncomfortable with the quality of the product I am providing to the club. I hate to see these services just "phoned in" and would like to see a better job done by someone that has the time and desire.

Also, do you have some 'web' savvy? Have you been dying to show off your computer skills, or just want to help out? We are also looking for someone to take over the Web Site Administrator duties. Presently I maintain the current club web site (<http://www.norcalvoyagers.org>) and update it with events, newsletters, and things of interest to our membership.

Help is needed, please step up and give something back to the club. I've been very lucky to have had the opportunity over the last few years to help in these activities but I have so many other irons in the fire that I can't provide the service that the club needs...so let Don Medina know that you are willing to help.

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Thanks for the opportunity to let me assist in this capacity over the past few years and I look forward to turning over the keys to anyone that is interested in helping out.



Jim & Mary Tinlin at 2007 Christmas Party

A BIG thank you to Jim for his years of work on the NCVC newsletter & web site

Veterans Memorial Park

NorCal Voyagers didn't have any campouts planned in June. At Ray's coming home party I was talking to Marvin Deathrage about his retirement and he mentioned that he was now able to go camping any time. We decided in 2 weeks to have a campout. The weather along the coast had been warm, and was to be warmer for the weekend. Then on Thursday the forecast changed to cooler for the weekend with wind!

Friday arrives and I send Trisha off to work while I head down hwy 1 to Monterey. The weather it is still warm. Driving at 55mph it takes over two hours to get there, but what fun. There is no one in the campground. I

pick a spot and start setting up the trailer. About that time Monte rolls in. He tells me that he fought headwinds all the way from Southern California. We chat awhile and then it's time for me to head back to meet Trisha at work so we can ride down together. We get back to the campground and the three of us head to dinner, then back to the campground for some campout chatting. By now the wind has come up, temp has dropped and it's cold. About the time we all decide to turn in, a single headlight is coming up the path. It's Marvin and Shirley Deathrage. We point them to the campsite and watch as they set their trailer up. Marvin has made his own camper trailer using his inner mind as the blueprint. It is very well made and in a few minutes or a half hour they, too, are set up.



Morning comes and there's good coffee perking. We BS awhile then make breakfast. Dale shows up and more BS. Now it's time to ride. We leave a bit late, but the day is finally warming up. We have 3 Voyagers, 1 Honda and 1 BMW. Carmel Valley Road is tight and narrow. We travel slowly since Monte, Marvin and myself are all retired and our clock says "take it easy." We arrive in Richfield and find a lunch place. While eating Marvin starts telling of his ill-handling Voyager. By the end of

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lunch we have solved his problems and head to the parking lot. Marvin adds air to the rear shocks, adds air to the front tire, and he's done. We head north to Salinas and then to Monterey where we meet Pam. See Trisha's story about Pam's Campfire Cooking in a Box. We all get to eat what we baked, and no one is hungry. A few hours later we make dinner anyway. No one goes hungry at a NCVC campout!



Sunday we all pack up and head for home. Marvin and Shirley stay one more night. Marvin's Voyager is now handling ok. Monte left early, because he was riding hwy 1 south all the way home. Monte, we still have the Spam for the next campout.



Pam's Campfire Cooking in a Box

On a camping website, I had read that you could bake in a box over charcoal. I was intrigued and mentioned this to Pam Bird at the Bassalt campout. To my surprise, Pam had taught her Girl Scout troop this very skill! Pam generously offered to teach me how to do this at our next campout. That's how we came to have a baking class Saturday afternoon of the Monterey campout.

Pam came to Monterey with 6 tinfoil-lined boxes fitted with baking racks, a bag of charcoal and an assortment of baking pans. Each camper was responsible for bringing whatever they wanted to bake. Don Medina brought a gluten-free spice cake, Shirley Deathrage brought brownies and Pam & Dale Bird brought chocolate chip cookies. What decadent treats!



We counted out enough charcoal to heat our box to 350 degrees. Each charcoal equals 40 degrees when they heat up and turn gray. We placed the charcoal in a metal pie tin and lit them. After the flames died down, we placed the tin box on top of

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the pie tin to let it pre-heat. While we waited for the coals to turn gray, the chefs mixed up their ingredients. The excitement was building.



When the charcoals were mostly gray, Don put 2 cake pans on the racks which were wired in toward the top of our 2 boxes. He put the lids on and we went to relax while we waited for our cake to bake. Shirley's pan of brownies cooked pretty quickly and they disappeared quickly. Dale had several batches of chocolate chip cookies which also went fast. It broke my heart that I couldn't eat either of those due to my gluten intolerance. The other campers didn't seem to mind since it meant more for them. Finally Don's cake was ready and boy was it good! I've never had such a cool fresh-baked treat at a campout unless it was brought from home. Everything was a success and now we have a whole new world of baking available for our campouts.

First Annual Ray Walls Fall Tour

Hello, Northern California Voyager Club Members,...

I have set up a Tour of the Utah Canyon Lands and Grand Canyon & Route 66 thru Arizona & Calif.

Is there any interest in this Tour ??,... If so let me know

There are two versions,... Each has a Motel page and a separate Route Page

I will send the Motel page,.. then later the Route Page

MOTELS:

Some of the Motels will fill up,.. If you plan to go,.. You need to make Reservation **ASAP**,... Tell them that you are with the NCVc,... Some don't care,.. they honor "AAA",...

We are staying in Springdale at the Bumbleberry Inn (72hr cancel policy), 2 nights so we can leave our bikes at the motel and ride the Tram into Zion Park,.. also to the Imax movie,.. The Moab Adventure Inn is where we stayed a couple years ago,.. also 2 nights here,.. liked the idea of sitting out on the lawn in lawn chairs at the end of the day,.. This is on the 2 Q bed side.

Also,.. The Best Western - Abby Inn in St. George is blocked 5 rooms with at the rate of \$69 for sun 8/30 for any who plan to go back this way,.. You have to give them your credit card info & tell them you are with NCVc to get this rate,.. normally over \$100,.. They will expand the number of rooms blocked if need be,.. There is an 8/10 drop date on this group rate,.. Look it up and read the reviews,.. I have stayed here before,.. Nice Place

Tried looking at the Desert Rose Inn in Bluff on the Google map site,.. all I could see was some sagebrush,.. sand & rocks,.. with what looked like a chicken coop behind a bush,.. We'll see.

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I have checked with all the motels,... except Kingman & Barstow,.. Barstow is the same motel that is being used for those on the way to the AVA Rally in Santa Fe in July

My camera quit in Cutbank Montana lat year on the 08 Tour to Glacier Park,... I have tried to by a new film camera,.. no luck,.. they only make Digital Cameras Now,.. I was planning to go to the AVA Rally in Santa Fe,... But I will use the \$\$ not spent on this trip to buy a new fangled Digital Camera,... My disposable camera doesn't have a date stamp,.. I miss this feature.

2 Versions:

1. From Fallon through Utah,.. spending 2 nights at Zion & 2 Nights in Moab,.. giving us time to Tour the area,... Then Heading down past Mexican Hat and Monument Valley to Cameron,... With the next day a Tour of Grand Canyon, and on to Kingman, then follow route 66 to To Oatman & Needles, on to Amboy, ending up in Barstow,... The next day head for Home.

2. **Modified** - Following the same route,.. except,... I have Toured Grand Canyon several times recently,... SOoo,... I plan to leave Cameron on Sunday 8/30,... When others head towards Grand Canyon,.. I will head north through the Marble Canyon area,.. Navajo Bridge,.. and Lee's Ferry,... Then back thru Zion and into St. George for the night. Then north Monday 8/31 to SLC to visit relatives,... and stay thru the Labor Day Weekend.

For those who have Toured Grand Canyon recently and think it may be **HOT** going through Needles & Barstow at the end of August,... Uncle Ray says **Hotter** than **Blue Blazes**,.. (What does this mean ??),.. You may want to consider going north with me to St. George,... stay the night,.. and then backtrack out to Panaca and head north to Hwy 50 Ely & on to Fallon then Home,... OR you could head west thru Rachel Nv,... (Area 51),.. to Tonopah & Lee Vining,.. Then Home

Some of you may remember the Voyager Rally in Durango Colorado a couple of years ago,.. It was one of the **HOT**est periods on record,... I was in Mexican Hat on the way to Durango,... It was **116** degrees,.. I think once it gets above **110** it doesn't matter anymore,... This was also the time I spent over 2 hours at Hite Marina in the dirt under full sun,.. trying to trouble shoot my Valkyrie that had lost all electrical power,.. but I digress,... NO,.. It wasn't a fuse.

On the first e-mailing of the Ray Walls Classic Fall Tour 09 some of the e-mails came back,.. I corrected my mistakes on putting in addresses,.. some were no longer valid addresses,.. I deleted those,... Some Others said they didn't like me, and wouldn't accept e-mails from me,... My feelings are hurt,... Maybe some one could forward the info on to Fred Andrew, and Wayne Bright,.. I don't know what I have done to offend their e-mailboxes. The computer e-mail says Al Thearle doesn't exist,.. I know he's out there somewhere,...

While looking at the map of this Tour after the Welcome Home party for Ray,... Fred Andrews girlfriend saw Chinle Arizona,.. and Canyon De Chelly National Monument Area on the map, and asked if we could go there,.. I said no,.. wouldn't work on this trip,.. I have looked at this area on the map and think this might be good place to go for the 2010 Grand Tour,.. What do you think ?? Another Idea is Tour the Pima Air Museum & Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Storage Facility in Tucson Arizona.

Uncle Ray, If you write the rest of the story,.. could I have a copy for my 08 Tour story book?

Brian Coldecott,... I think that Shadow can make this Tour,... Trip of a lifetime,...

Ride Safe,... Roger Allen

Contact Roger Allen for details

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2009 Club Events Calendar

JAN 31 – Meeting: Manteca (11AM)	FEB – VACANT	MAR 28 – Meeting: Manteca (11AM)
APR 17/18/19 – Camping: Basalt	MAY 8/9/10 – Susanville Ride MAY 23 – Meeting: Manteca	JUN 6 – Coming Home Party for Uncle Ray
JUL 14-16 – AVA Rally (Rally Tour departs July 10) JUL 25 – Meeting: Manteca (11AM) 9 th Year	AUG 23 to Sep 1 – 1 st Annual Ray Walls Classic Fall Tour – Canyon Lands	SEP 11-13 – Humboldt River Ranch Rendezvous SEP 26 – Meeting: Manteca (11AM)
OCT 2-4 – NorCal Half Moon Bay Ride-In	NOV 28 – Meeting: Manteca (11AM)	DEC 12 – NCVV Christmas Party Fresno Moose Lodge



Ray's coming home 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

President	Don Medina
Vice-President	Ray Walls
Secretary	Trisha Blue
Treasurer	Wayne Bright
Sergeant at Arms	Dennis Ellingson
Activities Director	Dale Bird
Web Admin.	Jim Tinlin
Newsletter Editor	Trisha Blue

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