

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

May 2007



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 (May 18-20)

Campout Vet's Park/Monterey

MEETING (May 26)

Manteca (Perko's Restaurant)



Next Month...

EVENT (June 9-10)

Campout Vet's Corning

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Club Info and Activities

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ray Walls, NCVC President

Hello NCVC Members & Friends. Well, it looks like all the bad weather is behind us now, so we can start concentrating on the rest of the year. We have what we think is a pretty good camping schedule for the year and we are working on our annual September tour.

We just had our second campout of the season. I have seen the sign on Hwy 99 as I go through Delhi Ca, on the way up to Manteca for our meetings that says Mc Connell State Park. I had never paid much attention to it until this year. We were looking for campgrounds we had never been to before. Well last month on our way up to the meeting; Wayne Bright & I decided to check it out. It's somewhat small as far as camp grounds go, but what it lacks in size, it more then makes up for it in beauty. It sits right on the Merced River and the rangers keep it beautiful with tons of water year around.

We held our last campout there and decided to have a club picnic since they had all the facilities needed for one. I won't expound on it much more since Bob Joyner did a write up on it for us. We were hoping to get more members to participate since we were having the picnic. We have members that never camp, make meetings or do the tours. So we decided to give the picnic thing a try. It worked to some degree. We had 7 people drive in for the picnic alone and only 3 of them were members. But we had (I think) 17 people that came to the camp out, two of them were friends of Don Medina & Trish. So that made 15 members that camped. That is good, I like that.

We are scheduled to return to Mc Connell in October and will have another picnic just like the last one. The club will buy the meat & bread

and those attending will bring something for pot luck, anything of their choosing. These guys will eat anything that doesn't run from them.

I have been checking around for club shirts, we have decided to go with just our club logo on the front only and it will be embroidered on. They have all recommended that we go to a 100% polyester for the embroidered logo. These shirts are a good heavy material and will hold its form very well. So far the best price I have been able to come up with is \$20.00 for the shirt without a pocket and then we add \$1.25 for a pocket. I have a couple other places I'm going to check out. Then we will make a decision on what we want at our next meeting on May 28th. If any of you have contacts that do this type of work, maybe you can talk to them and get some prices for us.

I think that about covers everything I have for this month. A reminder though. We will be camping at the Veterans Memorial Park in Monterey on May 18 - 19 & 20. I will arrive on the 17th to assure us of a couple of sites. Hope to see a lot of you folks there. Ride safe.

Uncle Ray



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McCONNELL STATE PARK

By Bob Joyner, NCVC Member

McConnell State Park was selected for our April event. Even though some of us had lived in the San Joaquin Valley for many years, none of us had ever visited or camped at the park. It turned out to be a small, but lovely park with lots of trees and grass. It sits right on the Merced River that flows out of the mountains in Yosemite Valley.

The weather for the weekend was not looking good for the event, but Ray Walls, in his unique way of expressing himself, assured me the weather would not be a factor and that I was encouraged to show up. Ray, Don Brewbaker and Bob Lee arrived on Thursday and apparently the weather was warm and dry. However, on Friday in Paso Robles, I awoke to lots of heavy rain and cold temperatures. The US Weather Service predicted rain for the Merced area. I decided to take my truck instead of riding my motorcycle, a cowardly thing to do, I know. I loaded an "easy-up" cover, lots of firewood and a big portable heater.

I knew I would catch hell from Ray and Don for not riding my bike, but I knew once they sat next to a big ol' campfire, all would be forgiven. The rain continued until I was a few miles south of Los Banos, then the rest of the trip was mostly cloudy but a lot warmer.

Upon arriving at the campground, Bob Lee had his "field Kitchen" all set up and Don and Ray were consuming some adult beverages. Later in the afternoon Don and Trisha drove over from Half Moon Bay and brought along two guests, Joanne and Linda. Dennis and Jackie came down from Corning. A big campfire was burning and everyone sat around and relaxed and enjoyed each others company.

On Saturday morning Bob Lee, with the help of a few assistants prepared a full breakfast of eggs, bacon sausage and potatoes, not to mention toast cooked on the campfire grill. As far as the weather goes, there were a few

clouds in the morning then mostly cloudy in the afternoon. The campground had a real nice group area with several tables and a large BBQ and electricity. Ray decided this would be a perfect place for our first club picnic.

As noon drew closer, other members started arriving and before long there were 23 people in attendance.



Because it was a pot luck picnic, there was a great variety of food, desserts and drinks. After lunch, I led the group in a couple of games that had everyone laughing and having a good time.



By late afternoon, most of the people who had come for the day had left and the rest of the group moved to the campground to sit around the campfire and discuss what a great picnic it had been. A few of us went for a hike to the river and Bob Lee went fly fishing. Bob only caught a few little ones, but apparently there

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are bass, crappie, carp and maybe a rainbow trout in the river.

Unfortunately, by early evening the rain started to come down and by late evening it turned into a steady down pour. A few hearty souls sat around the campfire that was located under a large tree and braved the rain until the leaves could no longer bear the weight of the water.

Sunday morning, after another full breakfast, everyone but Don Brewbaker and Ray Walls packed up and headed home. They just had to stay one more night and squeeze out what was remaining of a truly wonderful club event.

Since I was the sponsor of this month's event, I would like to thank all who showed up, and those who couldn't, missed a fun time and hopefully will be able to attend the next outing in May at Monterey. As always, a special thanks to Bob Lee who setup his mobile kitchen, brought lots of food and definitely did a lot of hard work to help make the outing a success.

The only downside was the fact there wasn't much motorcycle riding, maybe next time the weather will cooperate.

Because of the great success of this event, the club will set up a return trip to McConnell State Park in October. Like this one, it will be a campout with a Saturday picnic for all campers and non campers alike, to come and enjoy. Weather permitting, we can get in a motorcycle ride after the picnic. Dates and more information will follow in the coming months.

Submitted by Bob Joyner.

MRF

By Ray Walls, NCVC President

MRF E-MAIL NEWS

Motorcycle Riders Foundation

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Washington, DC 20002-4980

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<http://www.mrf.org> (website)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeff Hennie, MRF Vice-President of Government Relations jeff@mrf.org (e-mail)

#07NR05- News From Washington DC

The View from Capitol Hill

Federal Legislation to End Discrimination of Bikers Introduced

Washington DC

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation reports that legislation to close the loophole that currently exists in our nation's health insurance industry has been introduced in the US Senate (S 616) and House (HR 1076).

Under current law, group market insurance customers – that's everyone who has insurance from a job in the private sector, military or government - can be denied benefits for a particular injury just because it came from an motorcycle accident.

Congress passed the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) in 1996 to ensure proper access to health insurance for all American workers. Once the bureaucrats at the US Department of Health and Human Services issued their final ruling on the law they managed to allow a loophole that can be used to discriminate against motorcyclists when the need health insurance the most, after an accident.

The loophole also is used by insurance companies to deny benefits for any accidents that stem from horseback riding, snowmobiling, and snow skiing, just to name a few.

"This legislation will right an injustice done to America's motorcycling community," said Jeff Hennie, Vice President of Government Relations for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation. "We are asking the Congress to tell the insurance industry that they can no longer get

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away with refusing benefits that have been bought and paid for by motorcyclists."

The House legislation has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, while the Senate bill is sitting before the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

In order to pass this legislation, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation needs your help. Please join your fellow freedom fighters and ask your Members of Congress and Senators to co-sponsor this important legislation.

The legislation to close this loophole has been around for the last few sessions of Congress, but the bills introduced in this 110th Congress have a few new twists. First, the House Democrat lead is new. Welcome Bart Stupak to the picture; he is a 8th term Democrat from Upper Peninsula Michigan and the top third of the mitten state. Mr. Stupak's district has tens of thousands of miles of snowmobiling trails and most of his constituents use the snow machine to commute, run errands and socialize, making the snowmobile an integral part of everyday life. Mr. Stupak is also close friends with the Chairman of the House committee that has jurisdiction over the measure; and is a subcommittee chairman on the same full committee.

The House Republican lead is the same, Michael Burgess. Burgess is medical doctor from, Flower Mound, TX. Burgess was an OB-GYN, delivering 3000 babies before running for Congress in 2003.

The Senate sponsors are the same returning Senators as previous sessions of Congress, Russ Feingold (D-WI) and Susan Collins (R-ME). The Motorcycle Riders Foundation thanks all of the champions of this legislation.

Another new development is that the House has adopted the Senate language, making passage into law slightly simpler by eliminating the need for both bodies of Congress to form a conference committee to iron out the legislative differences. Previously the House and Senate

had slightly different solutions to closing the loophole.

Last Congress saw no major movement on the legislation. With your help, we can close the loophole that allows our health insurance providers to deny benefits for an injury simply because it involved a motorcycle.

Ask your federal Representative to support HR 1076 and your two US Senators to support S 616. Should you receive any commitments or denials to support the legislation, or if you have any other legislative question or concerns, please contact the MRF.

In other news...

IS DETROIT BACK IN BUSINESS?

The new chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee is going to do everything he can to bring back the glory days of the Motor City. Detroit is far from the powerhouse it once was, losing countless jobs and dollars to Toyota and others. Chairman John Dingell (D-MI), a hometown Detroit boy, is often referred to as the dean of the House, mainly because of his career as a House member for over fifty years. He just won his 27th term and is currently the longest-serving member of the House. He has sworn to defend his automaker constituents, which does seem admirable. However, one of the ways he plans to breathe new life into the Big Three automakers is on the backs of the American consumer and the rights of the automobile owner. Last Congress, Dingell was one of the most outspoken opponents of the Right To Repair Act. He routinely tried his best to torpedo it in committee and was often persuasive enough to win the support of his Democrat allies. Now they are running the committee with Dingell at the wheel, so don't expect to see any movement on the Right to Repair Act this year, which was HR 2048 in the 109th Congress, or any protection for smaller independent repair shops that are struggling to exist alongside a massive dealership network.

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NCVC 2007 EVENTS

MAY 18, 19, & 20:

CAMP OUT AT VETERANS PARK IN MONTEREY

MAY 26:

CLUB MEETING, MANTECA

JUNE 9, 10:

CAMP OUT AT DENNIS & JACQUE ELLINGSON'S RANCH IN CORNING, CA

JULY 13, 14, & 15:

CAMP OUT AT HUNTINGTON LAKE, IN THE 8000 FT ELEVATION OF THE SIERRAS, BE NICE AND COOL (FRESNO, CA)

JULY 28:

CLUB MEETING, MANTECA

AUGUST 17, 18, & 19:

CAMP OUT AT THE GUALALA POINT REGIONAL PARK, GUALALA, CA

SEPTEMBER:

LEFT OPEN FOR A POSSIBLE 10 TO 12 DAY RIDE. IF WE DON'T DO THE RIDE, WE CAN CAMP OUT AT TURLOCK LAKE STATE PARK ON THE 20, 21, & 22

SEPTEMBER 29:

CLUB MEETING, MANTECA

OCTOBER 19, 20, & 21:

CAMP OUT AT THE McCONNELL STATE PARK IN DELHI, CA

NOVEMBER:

LEFT OPEN DUE TO POSSIBLE FOUL WEATHER. MAY COME UP WITH AN OVER NIGHT SOMEWHERE

NOVEMBER 24:

CLUB MEETING, MANTECA

DECEMBER 8:

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE MOOSE LODGE IN FRESNO. THE CLUB WILL BUY THE FOOD & SOFT DRINKS. BEER, WINE & HARD LIQUOR IS AVAILABLE FROM THE BAR. THERE IS ALSO PLENTY OF ROOM FOR PARKING TRAILERS & RV'S OVER NIGHT. SORRY NO HOOK UPS.

The calendar of events can be reviewed on the NCVC Web Site. Go to the following web site:

<http://www.norcalvoyagers.org>

Once at this web site, click on the 'Calendar' button (left side of the page). The events calendar has a list of all the scheduled events and additional detail, as available. For events where pictures or a write up was provided, the link will open to a page with this information.



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Campout: Monterey Vet's Park	19 Campout: Monterey Vet's Park
20 Campout: Monterey Vet's Park	21	22	23	24	25	26 Club Meeting: Manteca
27	28	29	30	31		

2007 Club Events Calendar

JAN 27 – Meeting: Manteca	FEB – VACANT	MAR 23-25 – Campout: Basalt MAR 31 – Club Meeting: Manteca
APR 20-22 – Campout: McConnell State Park	MAY 18-20 – Campout: Monterey Vet's Park MAY 26 – Club Meeting: Manteca	JUN 9-10 – Campout: Corning
JUL 13-15 – Campout: Huntington Lake JUL 28 – Club Meeting: Manteca	AUG 17-19 – Campout: Gualala Point Park	SEP 29 – Club Meeting: Manteca
OCT 19-21 – Campout: McConnell Park	NOV 24 – Club Meeting: Manteca	DEC 8 – Christmas Party: Fresno

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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
Activities Director	Fritz Wells
Tail gunner	Dennis Ellingson

If you have any questions about the club or would like to send some 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