

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

May 2010



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...

RIDE: Sierra-to-the-Sea (5/14-16)

Next Month...

CAMPOUT: Veterans Memorial Park,
Monterey, CA (6/25-27)



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Club Info and Activities

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Don Medina, NCVV President

Happy May, the month of sunshine and great riding. Last month we had a rain out for the Daffodil ride, and the campout at Basalt campground had to be moved to San Luis RV Park. We had a Tech Day at Jerry Zimmerman's house. Yes, we have been active.

For May; we had the Wildflower Triathlon, Sierra-to-the-Sea and the Club meeting. We were supposed to have an after-meeting ride to Castle Air Museum, but it was cancelled since no one could go.

Has anyone heard of the Passport program from the AVA? Well this is your lucky day. Duane Ash, Chairman of the AVA, sent me a package of 10 "See the USA with the AVA" Passport packets. For \$20.00 you get a log sheet and plastic map of the USA. Rules are simple: you get points for visiting museums, state parks, national parks, attending different chapter meetings, regional rallies and crossing state lines. You also get 1 point for attending our NorCal Voyager Club meetings, campouts or rides. Once you accumulate 100 points you send your log sheet into AVA headquarters and you will be entered into a drawing for some great prizes. Duane Ash issued a challenge to all Voyager chapters to see which chapter will be able to get the most members to participate and complete the Passport program. So let's sign up. The AVA is known for giving away some amazing prizes.

The Susanville ride June-6, 2010, Trisha and I won't be on that ride so I need someone to put the ride together.

The High Sierra VROC Rally in Nevada, June 17-20 will be held at the Topaz Lodge and Casino on Hwy 395 <http://norcalrat.com/hsvroc>. This is a Passport points getter, both Trisha and I have signed up.

Last we have five new members: Rod & Cindy Westphal, Kirk & Holli Ehnisz and Tom Chitwood. Rod Westphal is the President of the Enchanted Voyagers Club and Tom Chitwood is the President of the SoCal Voyagers Club. I would like to give a warm welcome to all of our new members.

San Luis Campout

By Don Medina

Sometimes things are easy and others are like this campout. On the Monday before the campout, VP Tony Curtis emailed me that the Basalt Campground where we planned to camp was closed for repairs. I met Marvin in Modesto on Tuesday and we rode out to McConnell State Park looking for an alternate site. Ernie Coughlin met us there. McConnell was a no go, to many flying things. I left the guys there and rode over to San Luis Reservoir. Just before getting to the Reservoir, I stopped by the San Luis RV Resort. To my surprise the price was only \$15.00 per night. They had warm showers, a grassy tent area and it was quiet at night.

I left the house with sunshine and warmth keeping me company on my ride to San Luis RV Resort. While riding over Pacheco Pass, I was able to stay in 5th gear with the cruise control. I got there just before Marvin and Shirley. Shirley was driving the car and Marvin was on the Voyager. Marvin had rebuilt the body of his trailer but made the body of the trailer too small.

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Before long Jerry arrives, and we set up the trailer and tents. At 5 pm I leave to meet Trisha in Morgan Hill since she had to work. When we get back to the RV Park Ernie is there. So the count is four motorcycles and one trike. As night sets in, stories begin to flow just like the Crown Royal that appears.



Our campsite at the San Luis RV Resort



It just doesn't get any better than this!

The weather forecast; as the weekend progresses it brings cooler temps, high winds and rain by Sunday. We get up to a cool morning and get breakfast going. Ernie has a great day planned for us. We set off for Hollister and top off our fuel tanks there. Then Ernie takes us to our first stop, the Ninth Hole in the small town of Tres Pinos. Ron Aikins is meetings us somewhere and it is not where we stop. Ron calls me while we are at the Ninth Hole and I tell him where we

are; turns out that Ron is only a couple of miles up the road. In no time Ron arrives at the Ninth Hole. When we first get to the Ninth Hole they have just opened and not much is ready. The bar keep makes up a fresh pot of coffee we drink and kick tires.



Ron, Marvin & Ernie



Shirley & Don at the Ninth Hole



Don and Jerry outside the Ninth Hole

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We leave the Ninth Hole and head for Panoche. We head south on Hwy 25 and then East on Panoche Rd. Ernie is leading riding that new Voyager 1700. As the road begins to narrow, get twisty and rough you can imagine what a cowboy felt being out in the wide open country, with the rolling hills and dry creeks. This goes on for a while when all of a sudden some buildings come into view and Ernie pulls into the earthen parking lot. We have arrived at the Panoche Inn.



Good-looking bikes at the Panoche Inn



Panoche Inn owners, Mike & his wife

Ernie has given Mike, the owner, a heads-up that we are coming. The parking lot has lots of things for us to take pictures of and Mike has an old Gold Wing in the carport. I walk over to the Gold Wing and see a bunch of similarities with the Voyager 1200. We walk into the Inn and

what a warm welcome we receive from Mike and his wife. They serve great sandwiches; just ask Marvin and Shirley. We sit eating peanuts and drinking cold water or soft drinks.

Ernie leads us out heading for Interstate 5; in my mirrors I can see Marvin as the tail gunner. Marvin has a car following for miles, just like a dog nipping at your heels. On the straights it comes right up on Marvin but in the corners the car drops off. This goes on for miles. We cross the Interstate and Ernie stops and asks if we would like to see an Air Museum! Now I know I'm in the central valley, but Ernie has us turning left and right, and finally there in front of me is Eagle Field, an old WWII flight training center which is now an Air Museum. We arrive too late for any tours. Ernie tells us that he grew up here at Eagle Field. Ernie shows us where he first learned to ride a motorcycle, where his father worked and all of the equipment.



The group poses with a WWII plane

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Ernie at his old stomping ground

It's getting late and we haven't eaten all day. We had made plans to eat at the Wool Growers Association in Los Banos. We ride away from Eagle Field with ideas of what it must have been like 60 yrs ago. We arrive at the Wool Growers a few minutes early which gives us time to discuss the events of the day. If you have never been to the Wool Growers, it's a family-style or Basque-style Restaurant. A seven-course dinner with tip is \$22.00 per person and the service was as good as the meal. When Trisha and I first became NorCal Voyagers Club members, the meetings were held here.



A hungry group eagerly awaits the first course

Since we had an early dinner it was still daylight when Ernie leads us back to the RV park using back roads. Once back at the RV Park we take

photos. Ron got all of the Voyagers lined up and we took a group photo of the Voyagers. Ron Aikins leaves for home, the temp begins dropping. By 9pm we all call it a night.



Marvin, Don, Jerry Rod & Ernie with their Voyagers

Sunday dawned windy, cold and with a good chance of rain. The clouds look like they're dropping rain on the summit of Pacheco Pass. We have our Club breakfast, clean and pack up, with everyone heading home. Ernie heads to Dos Palos, Jerry to Wilton, Marvin and Shirley to Modesto and Trisha and I to Half Moon Bay. I tell everyone that it won't start raining until noon. Trisha and I get to Gilroy at 12:00 sharp and it starts raining. The farther north we travel, the heavier the rain gets. When we arrive home the rain is coming down hard, but we got home safe and sound. After we unpack and put everything away, Trisha and I just look out the window and at each other. I think to myself WOW: we just rode through that rain.

Wildflower Triathlon

By Don Medina

There were only four NorCal Voyagers who volunteered for the Wildflower Triathlon.

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Meredith who was the contact had sent each of us a packet with everything we need to get into the Lake San Antonio County Park. Because of this I had a strong feeling that we were in for a good weekend of riding support.

I met Jerry Zimmerman and Marvin Deatherage at Denny's in Salinas, CA. While eating breakfast, they were both asking me questions on what our duties would be. Since I had never done the Wildflower myself I had no answers. But Meredith had sent me the information on where we would be camping. So off we go with Marvin riding tail gunner and Jerry in the middle. Jerry had his turn lights quit working while on the way down. We stopped in King City to top off our fuel tanks. While there another M/C club stopped for gas. We all chatted for a bit and then we were off.

When we exited Hwy 101 we took a few county roads to Lake San Antonio. When we got to the gate I had my first surprise of the weekend - the vast number of people lined up to get into the park. We had the credentials that Meredith had sent, so we had no problem. We followed the signs to the proper campground, there were a number of campers in tents with a few motor homes scattered about. I pull up to our site and there is a large motor home with motorcycles all about. I ask if they are part of the motorcycle support they answer yes and say to set up our campsite here next to them. I look around and there is no Jerry or Marvin! I had dropped my glove; they stopped to pick it up and give me a hard time about not looking in my mirrors. We set up the campsite, me the trailer and Marvin and Jerry their tents. It was warm and our new friends hand out some beer while we start pumping them for answers to all of our questions. We have a meeting at 4 pm with Richard, the head of the motorcycle crew, Trisha missed the meeting because she had to work and was in transit. All of the touring bikes were to be used as transportation for race

officials, since they would be out on the course the longest. After the meeting we were given our credentials for motorcycles and our meals. After Trisha arrived at 7 pm, we all sat around and enjoyed the evening.



Don, Marvin & Jerry enjoy some quiet time Friday evening

Saturday morning Trisha had to report to Richard by 6:45 am so she could be briefed on what she was to do. We had been told to meet at 7:30 am to be paired up with our race officials.



Volunteers were fed well, you can tell by the big grins!

The race started at 8 am with the swim first. I had Shelly as my race official. Shelly's job was to monitor the top 10 pro bicyclists. We were told to stage at the top a monster hill. While waiting for the bicyclists, I thought of the

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54-mile course, how long would it take to complete. While in thought, I heard the order to get ready here they come. They must have come by us at 30 mph. Shelly told me to wait for the tenth place rider before pulling out. We take off and I could see the top 9 riders within 1/8 mile of each other. Shelly told me not to get closer then 45 meters or 1 meter when side by side, and when coming to a down hill to stay behind. As we ride, Shelly is giving me orders as to where she wants to be. She is always looking to make sure that no one gets an unfair advantage. In no time we have traveled 12 miles and that is in less then 30 minutes. On the first down hill I understand why Shelly told me to stay behind. We reach 50 mph and the pro riders are pulling away from me. We finish the 54 mile loop in two and half hours. The last climb was 2 miles long and they were climbing at 20 mph.



Marvin and his official waiting to take off

There were more events on Sunday, but they only needed three officials. The Kawasaki Voyager 1200 is a perfect motorcycle for this type of riding. With the fuel tank below the seat, those wide handle bars, comfortable seat and the engine with lots of torque with a cooling system that lets you ride slow all day long.

Next year I hope to get a larger group of NorCal Voyager Club members to come with me, Trisha, Jerry and Marvin.



Don & Jerry wait to be paired up with their officials



Trisha and her official



Jerry & Trisha wait for their officials

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2010 Club Events Calendar

<p>JAN 30 – Meeting: Manteca (11AM)</p>	<p>FEB - VACANT</p>	<p>MAR 20-21 - Morro Bay ride, meet in Hollister on Friday</p> <p>MAR 27 - Meeting: Manteca (11AM)</p>
<p>APR 9-11 - Campout: Basalt</p> <p>APR 17 - Daffodil ride, meet at Manteca Perko's</p> <p>APR 30 - Wildflower Tri</p>	<p>MAY 01-02 - Wildflower Tri</p> <p>MAY 14-16 Sierra-to-the-Sea, meet in Colfax, CA on Friday</p> <p>MAY 22 - Meeting: Manteca (11 AM)</p>	<p>JUN 4-6 - Susanville ride, meet Friday In Corning, CA</p> <p>JUN 25-27 - Monterrey Campout</p>
<p>JUL 3-23 - Don & Trisha traveling for AVA Rally</p> <p>JUL 12-15 - AVA Rally, Holliday Valley, NY</p> <p>JUL 31 - Meeting: Manteca (11 AM) NCVC 10th birthday</p>	<p>AUG 20-31 - Ray Walls Fall Classic Northwestern Tour</p> <p>AUG 24-26 - Western Regional Rally, Redmond OR</p>	<p>SEP 3 - End of Ray Walls Fall Classic Northwestern Tour</p> <p>SEP 25 - Meeting: Manteca (11 AM) After-meeting ride to Fresno for Club picnic</p>
<p>OCT 23-24 - Half Moon Bay Ride-In (Campout)</p>	<p>NOV - VACANT</p>	<p>DEC 10 - Meeting: Fresno (8 PM)</p> <p>DEC 11 - Christmas Party Moose Lodge Fresno (Start 1:30 PM)</p>

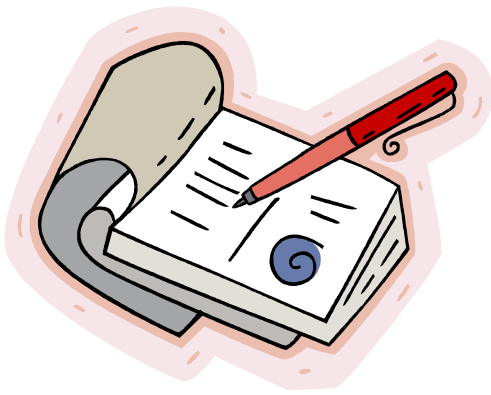
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The Last Page

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