

# NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

November 2005

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## Your Club Newsletter

You have something you want to see in the NorCal Voyagers Newsletter??? Send it along to [news@norcalvoyagers.org](mailto: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...

**EVENT (NONE SCHEDULED)**

None Scheduled

**CLUB MEETING 11/26**

Monthly Meeting in Los Banos



## Next Month...

**EVENT 12/10**

Christmas Party

**CLUB MEETING (NONE SCHEDULED)**

*{See the Web Site for details}*

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## Club Info and Activities

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ray Walls, NCVC President

Hello NCVC members & friends. Looks like it's time for another episode in the life of the NCVC. Really don't have much going on right now.

As you all know the motion to have a club meeting once a quarter has passed. It pains me to think that out of a membership of 58 members, we have to accept the votes of only 6 people to pass a motion that was placed on the table. This tells me we have a total of 52 members who are either asleep at the wheel, or they just don't give a damn. And I don't want to hear the lame excuse that I didn't get the word. You were all told about this in the September news letter, and those of you who don't have E-mail access were given the chance to either call me or write to Jim Tinlin with your vote. Enough said.

I want to remind everyone of the X-Mas party here in Fresno on December the 10<sup>th</sup>, at Wayne Bright's home, His address and phone number is on your membership list. It would be very beneficial to him if those who would like to partake of this event would call him and let him know that you are coming. You are encouraged to bring the wife with you. BUT PLEASE NO CHILDREN OR PETS. I will send out a new membership list with the November news letter, so everyone can be assured of having one.

We have a tentative camp out over at Lake San Antonio for November. We will set it up and give you the dates when we get them, than we will play it by ear on the weather. I

know we need the rain, but we also like to camp in the sunshine; weather permitting.

I sent out the name and address of the big honcho of Kawasaki, plus a sample of what we are looking for.

*(see the article in the following pages for a 'generic' version of the letter -ed)*

It would be very much appreciated if all you club members, plus any other Voyager owners would write this guy a real nice letter (BE VERY POLITE), but let him know that we are expecting him to approve the building of a new Voyager.

Those of you with no Internet access you will find the information you need in this news letter. Please write this gentleman and let him know your feelings.

The meeting for November will be on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> @ the Woolgrowers in Los Banos, @ 12:00PM. There won't be a meeting in December, providing we can get enough members to take an office. We need a president, Vice President, activities director, a sergeant @ arms AKA tail gunner, and a treasurer. Some of the members that are holding an office now may volunteer to retain his office. But we still need volunteers just incase someone wants out. Now please don't flood me with offers to volunteer; I don't think I could stand the strain. Women are also acceptable for any of these jobs, so don't be bashful...

Hope to see you at the camp out or the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>, Cheers.

*Cheers; Uncle Ray.*

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## CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Ray Walls, NCVC President

The meeting was called to order @ 1:40 pm. Members present; Ray Walls, Don Brubaker, Bill Owens, Dennis Ellingson & Brian Coldicott.

There were no new members or guest. Ray read the minutes from the September meeting. He also read the financial report for September. We have a total of \$1,676.13 in the club treasury.

There were no bills presented.

The Activities Director had nothing to report; other than a reminder the Christmas party will be held @ Wayne Bright's home in Clovis, on December the 10<sup>th</sup>.

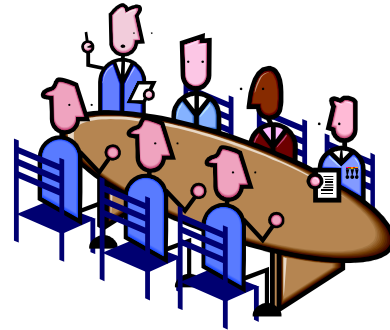
New business; Ray said he needed a board of officers for 2006, since no one has offered to become an officer of the board; we need to get started on twisting arms. Bill Owens volunteered to take the job of Vice President; Don Brubaker said he would remain Activities Director for another year. Dennis Ellingson said he would take the Safety Officer (aka Tail Gunner) position, Ray said he would remain as President for one more year, he emphasized this will be the last year for him. We still have the position of Treasurer and Secretary open. Wayne Bright may remain for one more year, and Bob Joyner may stay for another year, but in case they don't we need people for these positions.

Old business; since we are going to just have quarterly meetings; we discussed moving the meeting places around, from town to town. Have a meeting in a different town every quarter. A motion was placed on

the table, a vote was taken & it passed unanimously.

There were no guest speakers.

The president closed the meeting at 2:10pm.



## OCTOBER 13th CAMPOUT

By Ray Walls, NCVC President

This camp out had been set up back in August and I was really looking forward to having a few days of R&R. I left Fresno @10:00AM and arrived at the camp grounds at 12:15PM. The wind was blowing like crazy and when you're pulling a trailer it sometimes gets a little hairy.

When I arrived there was only one couple in the camp grounds; other than the camp host. An elderly man & woman, they were camped out in a small tent. I rode around until I found what I thought was an ideal camp site. They put us over on the south side camp ground this time. We had pretty good wind protection, but the darned flies were terrible. I got my camp set up and sat around for an hour or two and drank a couple of beers. The flies were so bad I decided to get in the trailer and away from the flies.

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I had been laying down and was about to drift off into never never land; when I heard a truck coming, than I saw a motorcycle come in ahead of the truck, It was Bob on the bike and Mike his brother in-law was pulling the trailer. They picked out a spot that was across the street from me; but poor OLE Mike just couldn't back it in; plus the spot was a little small for the truck & the trailer too, so they picked out one right next to me. Mike tried for about 20 minutes to back it in but the longer he tried the worse he got. He finally let Bob back it in. But I can say in his defense; this was the first time he had ever tried to back a trailer. He will get better with time & practice.

Bob & Mike were setting up their camp when the got a call from Bob Lee, He wanted them to know he was in Los Banos buying food, and that he would be there in about 45 minutes. It took him a little longer than that, but he finally made it in and set up camp next to Bob & Mike. We all sat down and had a few beers, all that hard work made us thirsty. Bob Lee cooked us a mighty fine dinner that evening; than we sat around the fire until about 11:00PM talking about old times & the good times we have had.



Friday morning we were up and drinking coffee by 0730, B J and I decided to take a

bike ride up around Anderson Lake & than Coyote reservoir. Neither one of us had ever been up in that area and we found some very pretty scenery, had a lot of twisty roads that were covered in vegetation; the riding back through there was very relaxing. We stopped and checked out both lakes & camp grounds. I think either one would be a good place to camp; except for the fact it's wall to wall people all summer. It would probably be worth going anytime after Labor Day weekend; when all the kiddies have gone back to school.

When B J and I rode back into camp I saw a motor home that looked familiar so I decided to check it out. Low & behold it was OLE John Adkins our old riding & camping buddy. He doesn't ride anymore, but he sure camps and first class too; I might add. B J and I had worked up a considerable thirst while out riding & fighting the high winds, so we let John talk us into having a couple of beers with him. Than we went over to Bob Lees camp site and had another beer or two, everyone was introduced to each other, than we settled down to telling lies and bringing up old memories that we all had. John and I used to ride with the Golden State rider club out of Fresno; He & I had several tall tales to tell also. Bob cooked dinner for us again that night and it was first class food too. Boy you girls really missed a good camp out this time; Bob was looking for you all weekend, he had some tequila he needed help with. OLE Bob is an outstanding cook and seems to really enjoy doing all the cooking and this time he even did the dishes. He said since Brubaker wasn't there to do them, he didn't trust anyone else. Almost forgot; Bill Owens came riding in about 4:00PM and he was introduced to those he didn't know.

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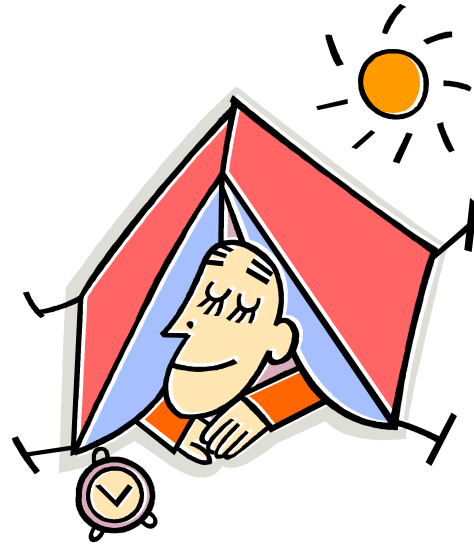
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Saturday morning saw me getting up at 0645; I promised I would take care of the coffee and have it ready when everyone got up. It was nice out there early in the AM; it was to cold for the flies which made it very nice. I had the coffee ready and a good fire going by the time the first person was up and about. We decide to just sit around the camp this day and do our own thing. B J & Mike went into Los Banos to see if he could find a rear tire for his bike. He said the wear bars were just starting to wear when he left home and he figured he had enough tread left to make the trip over and back, but by the time we returned from our Friday ride; there was no tread left on the tire. He made a few phone calls to see if he could find one. He wanted one of the new Dunlop touring elite 3's, but no one had one, they are all on back order until the first week in November. B J was so worried about his tire; he decided to go home a day early. The rest of us just toughed it out. Bob cooked dinner again that night and as usual is was scrumptious. We sat up until after 11:00 PM watching the fire and telling stories, the weather had cleared up and the moon was full and so bright it cast a shadow on everything, you could walk around anywhere you wanted without a flash light. That was one beautiful night.

Sunday morning we all slept in till about 7:30am. Bob Lee's wife was sick and when he called to check on her she wasn't doing well; so he pulled up stakes and headed for home. John, Bill & I were the only ones left. Since John had the motor home he decided to feel sorry for us and he made the coffee and cooked breakfast for us. WHAT A GUY.

Bill and I packed up our trailers while John packed up his motor home. Bill & I left around 10:00am and poor OLE John was

still packing up his motor home. I arrived back home safe and sound and well rested. Man I love these camp outs and am looking forward to the next one.



## LETTER TO KAWASAKI HEAVY INDUSTRIES

By Jim Tinlin, Newsletter Editor

Last month this newsletter had a couple of articles detailing the decision by KHI (Kawasaki Heavy Industries) to discontinue further engineering of the Kawasaki Voyager. It is unknown if this is a permanent or temporary decision, but it is agreed that decisions can be changed by a show of popularity and support by those of us that are interested in seeing the Voyager line of motorcycles continue.

On October 20, Ray Walls (our President) sent out e-mail to everyone with a copy of the letter he was sending to the President of KHI, asking him to change his mind and reconsider the decision to shelve the Voyager motorcycle. I have taken Ray's letter and made it a bit more generic for your use and request that you send off a

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copy, modified or not, to Mr. Morita to let him know just how many of us are interested in keeping the Voyager alive. Remember, you catch more flies with sugar than vinegar so be very supportive in your words.

## Here is the address:

KAWASAKI HEAVY INDUSTRIES  
c/o MR Shinichi Morita\* President  
Consumer Products & Machinery Company  
Kawasaki Motors Corporation Japan 1-1,  
Kawasaki-cho, Akashi, Hyogo 673-8666, Japan



## Here is a 'generic' version of the letter:

Dear Mr. Shinichi Morita,  
As a member of the Northern California Voyagers Club and the owner of a 2000 Kawasaki Voyager, I would like to persuade you to re-think your decision on discontinuing the Kawasaki Voyager.

I have found the Kawasaki Voyager to be the best motorcycle value on the market for the touring rider and commuter alike. Even though it was difficult to find this model, due to limited marketing, I have enjoyed owning it since day one. I came upon the motorcycle by chance and found that other owners obtained their Kawasaki Voyager the same way.

I know the model was abandoned because of slow sales, but please consider the fact that the Kawasaki Voyager was released in 1986 and has undergone very few technology changes during this period of time.

Although I have owned or ridden many other brands and models of motorcycles, I can clearly say the Kawasaki Voyager is the most comfortable and

reliable motorcycle of the bunch. I have been eagerly awaiting a new model for many years, but regretfully have been disappointed that no significant engineering changes took place over the years. Then when production was suspended in 2003 I was shocked that I may not be able to purchase a newer model when it suited me. That appears to be the case now and I am truly saddened by the situation.

I am a member of the Northern California Voyagers club, covering all of Northern and Central California. I have had conversations with many, many prospective buyers concerning the quality and dependability of the Kawasaki Voyager. The biggest reason most of them wouldn't buy one was because the technology was so old. I guess you could say most riders are interested in the latest in technology.

I want to thank you for any consideration you can give me on considering the re-issue of the Kawasaki Voyager model. If nothing else, return the existing model with fuel injection, little heavier suspension system, more comfortable seat and I suspect it will sell exceptionally well.

Respectfully  
Xxx  
Nor Cal Voyagers Club



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## November 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Veterans' Day	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26 Club Meeting: Los Banos
27	28	29	30			

### 2005 Events Calendar

JAN – Death Valley Campout	FEB – <b>VACANT</b>	MAR – Basalt Campgrounds
APR – Corbin Seat Factory Tour	MAY – Cruise Clear Lake Queen	JUN – Cedar Grove/Fresno
JUL – AVA Rally Durango, CO	AUG – Washburn Campgrounds	SEP – Corning Ranch Campout
OCT – Basalt Campgrounds	NOV – <b>VACANT</b>	DEC – Christmas Party

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## OTHER MOTORCYCLE STUFF

*As the web site janitor and newsletter editor, I sometimes get 'interesting' solicitations from other motorcycle related organizations. The following information is not sponsored by the NorCal Voyagers but is provided for your interest, please check with them for details.*

### AUTUMN RIDERS

Ever want a personalized shirt with a Kawasaki Voyager logo on it? I found this company quite by accident on the internet and have ordered a shirt from them that I consider an exceptional value.

They provide novelty shirts as well, but I think the big draw is the high quality embroidered motorcycles that they put on the shirts. This isn't a cheap iron-on, but a real high-quality embroidered picture of the motorcycle. Yes they do Voyagers and most any model/year available on the market.

If you're interested in this product, check out their site at:

<http://autumnriders.com>



*We maintain a bunch of motorcycle related web links on our web site. Just go to:*

[www.norcalvoyagers.org](http://www.norcalvoyagers.org)

*and click on the 'Web Links' button on the left side of the screen. This will take you to a menu that lists a number of general groupings for web links. The one above is listed in the 'Clothing' section.*

*Feel free to pass along links that you feel would be helpful to other club members.*

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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](mailto:editor@norcalvoyagers.org)



### NORCAL VOYAGERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Ray Walls
Vice-President	Dale Bird
Secretary	Bob Joyner
Treasurer	Wayne Bright
Activities Director	Don Brubaker
Referee	VACANT

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](mailto:president@norcalvoyagers.org)  
[vicepresident@norcalvoyagers.org](mailto:vicepresident@norcalvoyagers.org)  
[secretary@norcalvoyagers.org](mailto:secretary@norcalvoyagers.org)  
[treasurer@norcalvoyagers.org](mailto:treasurer@norcalvoyagers.org)  
[tours@norcalvoyagers.org](mailto: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