

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

November 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...

No Activities

Next Month...

NCVC MEETING: Fresno Picadelly Inn Lounge (12/10 8:00 pm)

Christmas Party, Fresno Moose Lodge



NorCal Voyagers Newsletter is developed for the Northern California Voyagers Club and is freely distributed as a benefit of membership.

The *NorCal Voyagers Newsletter* is not a policy or formal arm of the Northern California Voyagers Club, but rather an informational source for it's' members.

Some or all of the opinions expressed in the *NorCal Voyagers Newsletter* may not be those of the Northern California Voyagers Club, its' officers, sponsors, advertisers, or the newsletter staff.

The *NorCal Voyagers Newsletter* reserves the right to edit or correct any mistakes within information submitted for publication.

The *NorCal Voyagers Newsletter* is not responsible for the accuracy of content printed within these pages.

Any questions concerning content or information contained in the *NorCal Voyagers Newsletter* can be submitted to editor@norcalvoyagers.org for review.

The words "Voyager" and "Kawasaki" are registered trademarks of the Kawasaki Corporation and are used for reference purposes only.

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

November 2009

Club Info and Activities

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Don Medina, NCVV President

Welcome to November. I'm going to be real busy this month. On the 14th Nov I leave for North Carolina and I won't be back until Dec 4, 2009. I'll miss the International Motorcycle Show, Nov 20-22 at the San Mateo fairgrounds.

Last month in the newsletter Lisa Nichols had her first article published and the newsletter staff forgot to give her credit. So if you read the article about Sir Marvin, that was Lisa's work.

Remember that there is NO Nov meeting since it is being moved to 8:00 pm on Dec 11, the Friday before the Christmas party. The location will be the Lounge in the Piccadilly Inn Airport. We will elect new officers and plan some of the 2010 events. This will make the weekend a two-day event. With the meeting and Christmas party being held in Fresno, we will be in the heart of NorCal country. When Ray Walls founded the club, the headquarters was in Fresno so most of the members were from Fresno or nearby.

For the Christmas party we need a cleaning crew on Friday Dec 11 to clean the party room at the Moose Lodge. Then we need a party prep crew at 11 am on Sat to set up the party room. The party will start at 1:00 pm and go until? We need to have a Moose Lodge member in attendance with us, so contact Ray Walls if you can help with either. I won't get to Fresno until 7:30 pm on Friday night.

The gift exchange rules are: value of the gift is \$25.00 limit per person. Couples who both wish to exchange, will need two gifts. Gifts can only

change hands three times, and then it stays with the third person.

If it is not wet and there is interest, we can go for a group ride Saturday morning. We can do an early breakfast ride and be back at the Moose Lodge by 10:30 am. On Sunday we can see about another ride. Just let me know if you want to include a ride.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the NorCal holiday weekend.

2009 Events

DECEMBER:

Dec 11: Club meeting 8:00 pm Fresno Piccadilly Inn Airport

Dec 12: Annual Christmas Party at the Fresno Moose Lodge

2010 Events

We welcome ideas for rides, campouts, and overnight trips. We will be working on the 2010 calendar at the Dec 11 meeting

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

November 2009

Ray Walls Classic ~ conclusion

By Roger Allen

Fall Tour - 2009

Utah Canyon Lands & Grand Canyon

Aug 21 to Sep 2 - 12 Days

8 AM - Wed 8/26 - Escalante Ut to Bluff Ut - 280 miles

We ride on towards Hanksville,... very nice road to Torrey,... we stop at the chevron for some snacks,... then it's all downhill to Hanksville. We gas up in Hanksville and have lunch at Jerry's cafe,...I get a milk shake that is 2 inches above the rim of the cup,... I realize that I can't even begin to eat this with my burger,... so I give it to Jeff...



It's still downhill to the Hite Marina overlook,... Lake Powell has come back up a bit so the marina can be used,... We stop here for gas,... I get a photo of others coming up the road,...



Then it's past Jacob's Chair off to the left as we head to Natural Bridges National Park,... By now many are tired,.. and only walk to one of the overlooks,... we drive slowly by some others,.. then it's off to the Great Switch Back gravel road that drops off the mesa 1,300 ft in 3 miles on the way to Mexican Hat.

Some are worried about the gravel road,.. This proves to be the least of our worries. As we heading down the switchbacks,..... Called Moki Dugway, by the Navajo,..... Lo and Behold there are 3 large semi-trucks with trailers flying up the road,.. I'm caught on a curve section,.. The first truck trailer comes close,.. then the second truck trailer comes even closer,.. The driver yells out as he passes that there is one more truck,... this last truck trailer cuts across the road and is going to hit me,... the truck driver stops,.. there is less than an inch between me and the trailer,.. I slowly squeeze by, trying not to drop into the ditch next to the wall. I find that the others had been on a straight section with room,.. Jackie even had taken a photo of the semi-trucks coming down the road at speed with the dust flying all about.



NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

November 2009

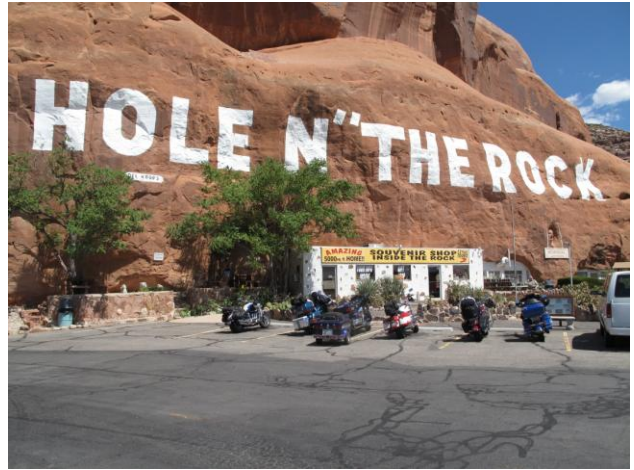
We decide to pass on seeing the goosenecks after the semi-truck incident,.. and head straight for Bluff, and the Desert Rose Inn,.. What a surprise,.. No Chicken Coop here,.. The Desert rose Inn is a very nice,.. Large log style, two story Inn with a long porch all along the front, and nice wooden adarondak style chairs,.. We are happy,.. we unpack,.. head up the road for gas,.. and eat at the Twin Rocks Cafe on the other end of town. They serve Navajo bread & honey,.. (scones),.. with your meal.

8 AM - Thur 8/27 - Bluff Ut to Moab Ut - 165 miles

Nice ride up to Monticello where we turn east to take a short cut to Newspaper Rock,.. the main road in Monticello is completely dug up for repairs,.. we gas up,.. and wend our way around the construction to a small restaurant for breakfast,.. Then the back road, (Abajo Rd),.. to Newspaper Rock,.. Again we are the only one's on this road,.. it is very smooth with great views as we climb up over the mountain and down to the road that goes out to the overlook of the confluence,.. Where the Colorado and Green river meet. We stop at Graffiti,.. er, Newspaper Rock,.. then on to the overlook,.. We drop quite a bit in elevation,.. Stop at the visitor center,.. and find at the end of the road you have to hike several miles to see the confluence,.. We look around,.. take some pictures,.. then head back toward Moab.



Outside of Moab we stop at "Hole n' The Rock",... a 5,000 sq ft home that had been carved out of solid rock by Albert & Gladys Christensen in the 40's,.. This family still show this Rock House as a tourist stop. They have a museum, garden, zoo,.. and store for the tourists. There are several metal sculptures,.. and a Jeep covered in license plates,.. with wheels fashioned out of all kinds of metal tools and such.



We continue on into Moab and the Adventure Inn Motel,.. There is a large grass area with several large shade trees,.. with tables & chairs,.. We sit out here and visit for awhile after dinner,.. I want to go up to Arches NP and get some sunset photos,.. No one is interested,.. There is some laundry being done,.. I ride into the Park by myself,.. and get some very nice sunset photos,.. Me,.. the Valkyrie,.. and some large rock formations off in the distance.

There is about a 3 inch curb you have to bump over to get into the motel parking lot,.. I notice that Michele waits till John goes over this before getting on,.. It's a little tricky for everyone,.. Jim's Rocket 3 lays down here,.. We all help him and the bike up again,.. I soon learn more about this Triumph Rocket 3.

Friday we are up and off into Arches NP,.. I have some rolls from the motel,.. others eat breakfast in town,.. Michele calls the motels stale roll offering bad names,.. It's OK for me. We stop at the Visitor Center at Arches NP,.. There are some Harley Dudes from

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

November 2009

Kansas,.. they have been all the way to Glacier Park,.. Oregon Coast,.. San Francisco,.. and now are on their way back home,.. 6,000 mile altogether,.. They have lots of stories to tell.



We stop for some photos,.. then it's another stop at Balance Rock,.. You see this Rock on a lot of Post Cards.



Off again to some arches,.. Michele, Diane, and Jackie hike up to one of the arches. We relax while waiting for them,.. We drive thru the park,.. taking photos here and there,.. We pass the Harley Dudes several times. We get a group photo at Delicate Arch,.. Then it's back into town for lunch, Gas,.. and back out to Dead Horse Point, and Grand View.



Dead Horse Point is amazing,.. you are looking down into this vast area of cliffs,.. canyons,.. and the Colorado river winding its way thru the canyons. We relax here a bit,.. Then down the Island in the sky to the visitor center,.. some watch the movie,.. I'm told I was sleeping,.. hmm,.. It's down to Grand View,.. more photos,.. I can see many are tired and want to get back to town,.. Some have Mexican food for dinner,.. Others Italian,.. Jim & I visit the diner,.. I soon find out about that Rocket 3,..

As we're leaving the diner,.. I look back and see Jim laying under his bike,.. As I'm putting the kick stand down and getting off my bike to help,.. 2 girls about 14 years old are lifting up Jim's bike, and another couple are pulling him out from under it. I see he has a big deep cut to the back of his right hand,.. and a couple of cuts, or burns on his right calf,..

He wants to get on the bike and head back to the motel,.. The couple who help won't let him,.. They suggest I ride his bike back, and they would take him in the car,.. The wife said she would watch my bike,.. I say my bike will be ok,.. I ride the big Triumph Rocket 3 back to the motel,.. I soon see what the trouble is,.. This is the most top heavy bike I have ever rode,.. at every turn it wants to lay down,.. adding to the situation is that with the foot forward position,.. You can't get any control with your feet sticking out front,..

At the motel I get out the Polysporin & sterile gauze, and wrap Jim's hand with some self sticking ACE bandage,.. In the morning the motel owner washes Jim's wound with some hydrogen peroxide,.. Jim's hand & leg heal up with no infection. Jim says for the very short ride to the diner he didn't wear his big garden

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

November 2009

leather gloves,... Probably wouldn't have cut his hand if he had worn them,... goes to show,... safety first,.. It's those little short rides that can be the most trouble.

We discuss if he wants to head for home,... Green River and Ely,.. then be home in a couple of days,... Jim wants to continue the ride,.. But he says this will be his last long ride,... he is enjoying the tour, and thinks he will be ok.

8 AM - Sat 8/29 - Moab Ut to Cameron Az - 277 miles

We are off to Monument Valley and Cameron Arizona,.. We stop at the Goosenecks overlook,.. Then it's a stop at Mexican Hat Rock,.. Fred wants to just stop off the side of the road,.. rather than driving down the dirt/gravel road for a close up view. We get a few photos,... then it's gas in Mexican Hat,.. and down thru Monument Valley. We stop for some photos,.. some Navajo children get pretty excited as we make one photo stop,.. They think we are going to buy some of the families jewelry.



We turn off towards the Navajo roadside souvenir shops,... More photos,.. None want to visit the roadside shops,... So it's on towards Cameron,.. we gas up in Kayenta,.. some snacks,... and then we arrive early in Cameron Trading Post & Lodge. There is some shopping and then we meet for dinner,... I buy some sandwiches & Iced tea for Jim,... he's not up for dinner,.. wants to rest up in his room. Michele & I like the same belt,... she buys one and reminds me,.. not to regret it later,... So I buy the belt,.. I now have 3 belts with me on this trip. This latest is indian style with silver.

As I'm buying the belt,.. the manager says I look familiar,.. do I come here often,.. I tell him I was here last year,... and am leading a small group of

motorcyclists thru the area,.. He tells me to sign up for their Tour Director Card,.. there is no charge,.. they give you a card with a number,.. you are given some discount cards with this same number to give to your Tour members,.. You,.. (Me).. will get 50% off anything I buy,... free meals,... and also get 10% of the value anyone else in the Tour group buys,.. **\$ cash** to me, or for merchandise in the Trading Post. So,.. John's comment back in Springdale,.. that I am getting a commission proves to be true.



I had bought some CD's earlier,... the next morning before we leave,.. with my receipt they give me back 1/2 of what I spent on the CD's. I feel like buying more,.. no time.

8 AM - Sun 8/30 - Cameron Az to St. George Ut - 244 miles

John & Michele are up early for breakfast, and heading for home after they visit the Grand Canyon,.. They need to get back early. I tell them about getting a commission & show them the Tour Director card,..

We now head for Marble Canyon,.. Navajo Bridge,.. back thru Zion,.. and into St. George,... We stop for photos of the Vermillion Cliffs,.. Fred & Jackie buy some Navajo Jewelry,... We stop at Navajo Bridge,.. Then ride down towards Lee's Ferry, there is an entrance fee of \$15 per vehicle for this area,... we're not going there,.. Guess it's to cover those who want to launch their boats.

We wind our way up to Jacob Lake,.. gas up,.. and have lunch,.. Jackie talks with a family from France,.. Now onto Carmel Junction, where we buy more stuff,.. I get a belt buckle & bolo tie,... It's back thru Zion and on to

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

November 2009

St. George Abby Inn,... We again eat at Pancho & lefty's mexican restaurant,... and have the Fried Ice Cream. They roll the ice cream in corn flakes... then deep fry it... and cover it with your choice of, chocolate, strawberry, or carmel, served on a puffy sugar wafer.

8 AM - Mon 8/31 - St. George to Ely - 210 miles / Salt lake City - 416 miles

Now it's back home for the Tour Group,.. and off to SLC for me... to visit relatives through the Labor Day Weekend. I check with Jim in Ely,.. his hand is doing ok... and all will head for home after they get back to Fallon, **Nice Trip,.. Lots of Rocks.**

Cruise Control

By Trisha Blue

This morning I took the trike to Mission Motorcycles to have my cruise control checked out. When I set my cruise control, the speed fluctuates 2-4 mph. Don doesn't have that problem.

Don and I had intended to stop at La Di Da, our favorite coffee shop 2 blocks from our house, but we were running late and had to postpone our caffeine stop. Don needed gas, so I headed over 92 on my own. Don was going to meet me at the shop. It was cool and quite foggy on the coast. I had to use my bright lights because in the last couple of days BOTH of my headlights went out. Traffic was light and moving briskly. If only weekdays could be this pleasant! I got to the shop at about 9:20 am and the bikes waiting to be serviced completely lined the street – they are busy. I pulled in and went to talk to Gail who always takes care of me. I explained how the cruise control speed varies 2-4 mph on both flat roads and gently rolling hills. Don had recently adjusted his cruise control cables and improved his on cruise speed consistency. We thought I might need a little adjustment, too. It turns out my cruise control is all electronic, no cables to adjust. We concluded that the weight of the trike might be causing the speed variation.

I was disappointed that I couldn't remedy the situation, but it is a minor problem I can live with.

Don & I came home over Hwy 1 through Pacifica where it was sunny. There were few more cars on the road now. People were at the beach enjoying the nice brisk Saturday. We got behind a string of cars with a slow old VW van leading. With the slow pace there was lots of time to check out the Devil's Slide graceful arcing bridge and the waves along the shore. We were home by 10:30 am, before all of the Pumpkin traffic. It is Halloween and there will be lots of day trippers to Half Moon Bay. We parked the bikes and came to La Di Da to enjoy our Saturday latte and coffee. Life is good!

At home, Don gave me a lesson in how to change a light bulb in the Gold Wing. It took a LOT of attempts, but I finally got it. I have the advantage of small hands that can fit into the tight space to reach the headlight. Sunday morning we picked up a replacement bulb at Pep Boys. It is a new motorcycle bulb made by Phillips called Motolite and only costs \$20. Don tried one and really likes it. It has a slightly yellow color that will be unique to motorcycles and it casts a wider arc of light so you can see just a little more when turning. I am anxious to try it out. Thanks to the time change, I can test it out Monday on my commute home over curvy Hwy 92.



NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

November 2009

Half Moon Bay Campout

Oct 2-4, 2009

The weather is warm, no sea breeze, blue sky with a few fluffy white clouds. I'm sitting on the picnic table looking out at the ocean waiting for NorCal campers to arrive. Half Moon Bay doesn't get many days where it's warm and no sea breeze. I don't wait long before Monte arrives, riding his Voyager pulling a utility trailer. We greet and chat awhile then we both set up our camp sites. Before long I bid Monte bye since I have to be in San Mateo. After work Trisha heads over to the campground to see Monte. On the way she sees a Voyager at Tres Amigos Mexican restaurant and stops to find Monte who just finished dinner.

Friday morning I see Trisha off to work and head over to the campground to meet Monte. Monte lives just north of the LA area, so yesterday he road about 350 miles to get to the campout. Today we were to go to see some sights in San Francisco. Instead we stay at the campground and BS and set up the NorCal banner. On Thursday I went to the hardware store and bought some pvc pipe. Monte and I used it to make a frame for the banner. (You can see the banner in the background of the campground pictures.)



As afternoon came on so did the wind. At first it wasn't bad. Ernie and Lisa arrive riding the

2009 1700 Voyager fully loaded. Marvin and Shirley arrive, riding what Marvin has built using his old Voyager and Ray Walls Voyager. We're all standing around looking at Marvin's Voyager. He is showing us his floorboards and the heel toe shifter that he made with parts on hand. Marvin and Shirley start setting up camp, again Marvin made the trailer and the tent that mounts on top of the trailer. As the afternoon becomes evening Trisha shows up and the wind is getting stronger.



We all do a potluck dinner and then sit down to tell stories of our motorcycle ride and watch the full moon begin its journey across the night sky. Harvest moon is what it is and with such brightness that sitting at the picnic table you can see peoples' eyes as clearly as if there was a lantern providing light.



NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

November 2009

Saturday we are all up and coffee is on. Soon we have breakfast eggs, bacon and potatoes. Brian Coldicott arrives and we get him to eat a bit of food. Brian is riding an 1100 Honda Shadow dressed quite nice. We head south on Hwy 1 heading for Davenport and the Whaler Café where we are to meet Ron Akins. A few miles south of Half Moon Bay, Mother Nature begins bombarding our eyes with the views. There are farm fields that end at the Pacific Ocean. The ocean itself is blue with wind-blown white caps. The road runs to the top of bluffs and then down to the ocean. Once we get to the lighthouse and head east along Monterey Bay it begins to warm. We arrive in Davenport and there is Ron Akins. We all greet Ron have something to drink, and then we're off to Santa Cruz. Ron is riding his Voyager with lots of shiny chrome. We ride onto the Santa Cruz pier. We stay for just awhile because after 30 minutes they charge to park on the pier. We take Hwy 9 up to Skyline Road, setting a comfortable pace so we have plenty of time to sightsee. When we stop at the overlook on Skyline, it is cold and the wind is howling. It's a beautiful vista, but we quickly move on to Alice's.



We find parking and even get seated without much trouble. The food comes quickly. Before long we bid farewell to Brian. We ride down to the coast via hwy 84; it is almost a twisty as the

Dragon in North Carolina. When we are back on hwy 1, the angle of the sun and its rays reflecting off the ocean and the bluffs is breathtaking. One last stop is the La De Da coffee shop in Half Moon Bay. When we get back to the campground we find that the wind has intensified, it has torn Marvin and Shirley's tent. We get them a different tent and with everyone's help they get it set up. We decide to get Mexican food for dinner because of the wind. We find shelter behind a large trailer in the next camp site, again there's a full moon and plenty of wind.

We have all been in our tents or trailer a few hours when I hear something outside the trailer. I look out and see Marvin has someone on the ground. (See Lisa's story in last month's newsletter.)



Sunday morning we get up and the wind has finally moved out. We all talk about how Sir Marvin saved the night. Again there is coffee and a great breakfast for all of us to eat, and so much to talk about. Before long everyone is heading out. We had seven motorcycles, two Hondas and five Voyagers.

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

November 2009



Uncle Leo

By Don Medina

My Uncle Leo died last month, he was old but I think it was of a broken heart. My Aunt Sara died two years ago just after the Rapid City AVA Rally. Since then Uncle Leo has just been moping around. Last spring my cousin Dolores died which was Uncle Leo's youngest offspring.

When you're young six or so years old you see all your aunts and uncles going to work working on cars, cleaning house always there for you. At that time you don't ever think that there would be life without them. That is just how I always felt about my Uncle Leo. When I was young if I had a problem with cars and couldn't come up with the answer, I would go to Uncle Leo. Even my dad would ask Uncle Leo for advice about car or pickup truck repairs. Then later they would sit in the back yard and drink one or two bottles of wine. If I needed a wrench or tool to finish a repair, Uncle Leo had it. Today I have more tools than I could have ever dreamed, yet I feel that Uncle Leo's tool box was larger. So now whenever I borrow tools or someone lends one to me, I think of Uncle Leo.

Uncle Leo worked in a foundry 30 plus years, he retired from there. I tried working at the foundry, Electron in Denver, CO. Hard job, I would be working on the floor in the dim and dark, with hot sparks flying everywhere. I would look up to the ovens and there would be Uncle Leo looking down on me, which I feel he is doing today.

Uncle Leo lived across the street from our house since 1962, that's 47 years. It's going to be hard to have new neighbors. I bid you a safe journey Uncle Leo and say hi to Aunt Sara.

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

November 2009

Maggie Faust

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to club member Maggie Faust, Monte's wife.

Maggie passed away November 1 after a long illness.



NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

November 2009



November 2009

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 – No activities	Dec 11 - Meeting: Fresno (8 PM) DEC 12 – NCVC Christmas Party Fresno Moose Lodge

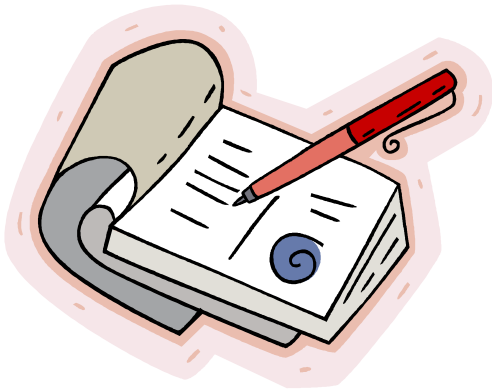
NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

November 2009

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