

# NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

October 2004



## 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...

### CAMPOUT 10/8-10

Just west of Los Banos is the San Luis Reservoir Recreation Area. Camp with the NCVV during this weekend in October.

### CLUB MEETING 10/30

Monthly Meeting in Los Banos (12 noon)



## Next Month...

### S.F. MOTORCYCLE SHOW 11/11

### CLUB MEETING 11/27

Monthly Meeting in Los Banos (12 noon)

{See the Web Site for details}

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## Club Information/Business

### SEP. 25 MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of the Northern California Voyagers was held at the Woolgrowers Restaurant in Los Banos, California. The following members were present:

Ray Walls, President  
Bob Joyner, Secretary  
Don Brubaker  
Doris Brubaker  
Wayne Bright  
Bill Owens  
Fritz Wells  
Don Roghester  
Jim Tinlin, Web Master  
Brian Coldicott  
Jim Kramlich  
Roger Allen

The meeting was called to order by President Ray Walls at 12:55 PM. The minutes of the August meeting were read by Secretary Bob Joyner.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasury report was read by Ray Walls who advised the members that the club treasury currently has a balance of \$1,586.87. Wayne Bright said there are a few minor bills outstanding and should be coming in soon.

**Activities Report:** Ray Walls reminded everyone of the up coming campout at San Luis reservoir on October 8th, 9th and 10<sup>th</sup>. Ray said he still had not heard from Bob Webb in regards to a date for the club Christmas party. Bob had said he would hold it at his house. However, no one has heard from Bob nor has he been responding to E-Mail requests.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Don Brewbaker made a request to move the time of future meetings up to 10:00AM. He was looking to cut down on the amount of travel time spent traveling to the meetings in the high heat of the summer months. Ray said, since the summer months are almost over, he will set aside the issue until April.

Motion moved to close the meeting. Motion carried at 1:13PM

*Minutes recorded/prepared by Bob Joyner.*



### ON THE SIDE –

Ray wanted to remind everyone that club elections are coming up soon. Please consider a spot on the board, to help keep the club active and support our members needs. It doesn't take a lot of work and there's always someone willing to help out. Also, we need volunteers to sponsor events for next year. Take a look at the calendar, posted on the web site, to see what events are open. You can find the 2005 events calendar by clicking on the "What's New" button at the left of the page:

<http://www.norcalvoyagers.org>

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## MEMBER TIPS AND INFORMATION

*Got a tip for the club? Do you do your own maintenance? Have you found a real great place to get your bike worked on? Share your secrets and experiences with the club by sending an article and pictures to the editor. We all can learn from your experiences!*

### PAINT REMOVER

Here is some new paint remover that Bill Burns, a member of the NCVV said works very nicely. He removed the paint on his travel trunk light lenses inside and out in about 45 minutes.

It is safe to use on plastic and is water soluble:

SO SAFE SPRAYABLE JELL GRAFFITI REMOVER, part number MC850. The second one is GOOF OFF GRAFFITI REMOVER.

Let us know if any of you try it and how your results are!



## ALTERNATE CB RADIO

The following message was retrieved from the Kawasaki Voyager XII forum (Wyzard's Motorcycle Pages) at:

<http://www.fortunecity.com/marina/cyprus/500/voy/v1/aftercb.html>



Kennedy Harness allows you to use an aftermarket CB through the Voyager intercom system.

Kennedy Technology Group, Inc. (located in Kansas) has a wiring harness (with a black box) that will allow the use of an aftermarket CB.

The web site is:

<http://www.cellset.com>

The CB must have plug outlets for a microphone and for an external speaker. The wiring harness plugs in between your headset and the intercom connection. It is basically that simple. It took about two hours to install the unit on my '93 Voyager XII. I am using the little Cobra WX 38 handheld CB (available from Valco Electronics for \$89.50) and an antenna from Radio Shack. The CB is mounted on the fairing on the left storage compartment lid. Total cost for installation is around \$200 (including antenna), compared to 500 for the Sierra unit or much more for a used Kawasaki unit...Barry.

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## MOTORCYCLE HELMETS – HOW THEY WORK

Ahhh – the sun's out. There's a gentle breeze. The road is calling you. The perfect day for a ride on your motorcycle. Your bike is all shined up. Your gas tank is full. You're ready. Call up your riding partner ( either a fellow rider or a passenger) and away you go. But wait – don't forget your helmet! That's the most important part of your riding gear. Do you know why? We do, and we'd like to share that information with you. You need to know how motorcycle helmets work. Then you'll appreciate what they do for you. And you'll know why you should never go out riding without a motorcycle helmet.

## WHY DO YOU NEED A MOTORCYCLE HELMET?

Have you seen the statistics surrounding motorcycle helmets? They're a bit gruesome, but that's reality! There are many surveys and tests conducted around the controversial subject of motorcycle helmets. We'll look at the controversy in a minute. Right now, we're going to look at a study done by the University of Southern California (USC). Although this study was done back in 1990, the facts haven't changed. And we're citing California because they have the highest number of motorcycle riders and the highest number of motorcycle fatalities. You'll see why you need to wear a motorcycle helmet every time you ride your bike.

USC's study took into account 900 motorcycle crashes. Out of these 900 crashes, there were 980 head and neck injuries – obviously more than one per crash. The conclusion of the study was that the single biggest factor in preventing or reducing head and neck injuries was whether the riders were wearing helmets.

Every single test taken, every single survey conducted, every single study done makes the same conclusion – if you ride a motorcycle without a helmet, your chances of survival in a crash aren't very high. Is it worth it? You'll have to decide that for yourself. We mentioned the controversy – well, that's it. Many motorcycle riders want to decide for themselves. They've gone as high as the U.S. Supreme Court to fight mandatory helmet laws. They believe it's their constitutional right to have the freedom of choice whether they wear a helmet or not.

In Canada, the federal government has put their foot down. There's a national mandatory helmet law. The National Safety Council has decided that it's better to take away a motorcycle rider's choice, if the result is fewer injuries and fatalities. It's also a proven fact that victims of motorcycle accidents cost the taxpayers more in hospitalization costs – another reason to take away the choice.

So, again, if you live in the U.S., you'll just have to make that decision for yourself. Think about it. Look at the statistics. If you don't want to be a part of those negative numbers, then wear your helmet!

## WHAT TYPE OF MOTORCYCLE HELMET SHOULD YOU CHOOSE?

There are many different brands and types of helmets. First we'll look at some of the more well-known brand names.

**Arai Helmet** has been ranked #1 in customer satisfaction for years. That means that their helmets are widely-accepted as being able to do the job. J.D. Power & Associates have done periodic motorcycle helmet satisfaction studies (that's where the #1 ranking came from). The Arai RX-7 model was the highest-rated helmet in J.D.Power's 2003 study. Perhaps the reason their helmets are so good is that

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they sell the exact same model for street use as they do for professional racers. And racing carries with it some very high standards.

**Bell Helmet** is another well-known and well-respected helmet manufacturer. If you're interested in vintage helmets, they have a good selection of those. You can also get open face helmets, full face helmets, or ATV (all-terrain vehicle) helmets. You can get graphic models with clearcoat overpaint. Bell also has one of the largest selections of accessories, such as goggles, radios, helmets bags, intercom systems and much more.

Another very popular motorcycle helmet manufacturer, and perhaps the most well-known worldwide, is **Shoei Helmets**. Shoei's been around since 1958. Their factory workers are one of the biggest reasons for their success. They take great pride in each and every helmet, treating each one as a special project, taking great care to check for every detail. Shoei is also well-known for their innovative ventilation system, which allows air not only to get into the helmet, but forces the stale air out – a very important factor for a motorcycle rider.

There are other manufacturers, too, like **HJC, Nolan**, and many more. They all have a variety of models to choose from. You can get full face helmets, half helmets, even novelty helmets. All these helmets are approved by the Department of Transportation (DOT). Reviews of all helmets can be obtained from the DOT, so if you have any doubts about a helmet, just contact them.

It's very important that you get the right model for your type of riding because different vehicles create different results during a crash. For example, an ATV crash will put you in a different position during impact than a motorcycle. And different types of motorcycles put you in different positions, too. So talk to your salesperson

and make sure you get the helmet that matches your vehicle.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR IN A MOTORCYCLE HELMET?

Helmets are designed primarily for protection. Every helmet has an outer shell that resists penetration and abrasion, and absorbs initial impact. Then it has an inner liner that spreads out the shock of the impact as it absorbs it. This inner liner is made of polystyrene foam (styrofoam), so it's fairly comfortable. And comfort is an important factor, too. And that's the major challenge for motorcycle helmet manufacturers. They have to meet certain standards. These standards are set by safety agencies, most of them government. The Department of Transportation in both the U.S. and Canada issues stickers that must be put on the inside of all helmets, indicating that they meet their standards. There is one standard for motorcycle helmets that's recognized worldwide – the Snell Memorial Foundation. A Snell sticker in a helmet tells the wearer that it's been tested for performance, but not materials or design. Snell just wants the motorcycle helmet to protect the rider.

So when you're shopping for a motorcycle helmet, you should look for one that's comfortable. A snug fit is paramount in protecting you in the case of an accident. If your helmet doesn't fit properly, it could fly off and, with no protection, you could get a nasty knock to your noggin.

Try your helmet on before you buy it. It should fit squarely, with the cheek pads touching your face, but not too tightly. There shouldn't be any gaps around your head. Do up the chin strap, then try to move the helmet around. It should pull your skin with it. Then try pulling the helmet forward and off – it shouldn't come off. If everything seems to be fitting properly, take

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it off and check your head for pressure points. If you don't have any red spots around your head, then you've found the right helmet.

Motorcycle helmets are made of different material. Manufacturers are continually trying to develop helmets that are stronger, lighter, and less expensive. The heavier ones are made of fiberglass. Fiberglass is good, but if you drop it, it might crack. The other, more popular material is injection-molded plastic. This is much lighter than fiberglass, and a lot less expensive. But it has its disadvantages, too, like it doesn't last as long as fiberglass, and you have to take very good care of it. You can't put any decals or paint on this material, because that could break down its composition which, of course, will weaken it and thus render it ineffective in a crash.

## WHAT ABOUT ACCESSORIES?

A motorcycle helmet is your first accessory. After that, you can add all kinds of useful things. Some of the manufacturers that have large lines of accessories are **AGV**, **HJC**, **M2R**, **Nolan**, and **Shoei**. And some of the accessories they offer are goggles, gloves, jackets, bike covers, bandannas, motocross boots, body armor – the list goes on and on. And there's a whole line of replacement accessories, too, like replacement lenses for goggles, replacement straps for helmets, and replacement cheek pads. You can also get replacement visors or face shields. And to carry your gear around, you can get a gear bag, or a helmet bag. By the way, you should use a helmet bag, rather than hang your helmet on your bike. That could break down the inside of your helmet.

Some accessories give you some really cool options. For example, a radio is always great to give you the riding music that makes your trip more enjoyable. And what about the intercom system. This system

allows you to carry on a conversation with your passenger as you ride – not usually possible with the noise of the engine and the wind. If you think about it, it could actually prevent an accident.

## YOU'RE ALL SET – OUTFITTED AND READY TO GO

How motorcycle helmets work depends on how you work your motorcycle. Rider skills are key. You have a helmet to protect you, but you also need to do your part. Take care of your motorcycle. Take care of your accessories. And take care of other motorists by being a responsible driver.

Have fun on your motorcycle. Make sure you're properly outfitted. Get the right equipment. Then you'll be able to hit the open road, or just ride to work, if that's what you do. But wherever and whenever you ride your motorcycle, if you have the proper motorcycle helmet, you've done your part in protecting yourself. Enjoy your ride.

## About The Author

*Gareth Marples is a successful [freelance copywriter who enjoys working from home](#). He provides valuable tips and advice for consumers purchasing [online cash advances](#), [car engines & parts](#) and [low cost term life](#). His numerous articles offer moneysaving tips and valuable insight on typically confusing topics.*

*This article on "[How Motorcycle Helmets Work](#)" reprinted with permission.*



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## The Last Page

### And finally...

Don't forget to get the word out about our club, go to the following web link and print out the club brochure. Leave it at your favorite bike hangout or motorcycle shop:

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

### OCTOBER CALENDAR

**10/8-10/10 CAMPOUT:**  
[San Luis Reservoir - Hollister](#)

**10/30 MEETING:**  
[Los Banos](#)

#### Birthdays:

10/7 Sue Springfield  
10/16 Ronald Burton  
10/16 Betty Walls  
10/19 Dorothy Grimsley  
10/26 Rex Woodruff

#### Anniversaries:

10/7 John Harrison  
10/22 Doris & Don Brubaker

## Thanks to You!

*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)*

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