

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

October 2008



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...

CAMPOUT/PICNIC (CANCELLED)

McConnell State Park

EVENT (October 25)

One Day Ride from Castroville

Next Month...

CAMPOUT/PICNIC (November 7-9)

Basalt Campsite / San Luis Reservoir

MEETING (November 29)

Election of Officers - Manteca



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

October 2008

Club Info and Activities

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Tinlin, NCVC Newsletter Editor

This month we have sad news to report. If you haven't already heard, our President Ray Walls was severely injured in an accident at the end of the Tour. On Saturday, September 13, we received an email from Patricia Blue (NVCV Secretary):

On the last day of the 15-day tour, Ray went off of the road near Mariposa and sustained injuries. He was airlifted to UC Davis Medical Center where they discovered 4 broken ribs, a broken clavicle and an injured finger. He was released Tues evening. Betty drove him home to Fresno. On Thurs morning he was admitted to a Fresno hospital where they discovered that he has internal injuries preventing urination and bowel movements and he had a small heart attack.

On Wednesday, September 17, we received the following information from Gary (a Fresno doctor and Ray's friend):

Saw Ray today, went as a friend not as a Doc. He is in critical care, on a ventilator and sedated to keep him from too much pain and fighting the tubes... He looks good, good color. He's a tough old guy and I am sending good thoughts his way. Please let everyone know, keep the thoughts and prayers coming. Betty is tired but doing well also.

On Friday, September 19, we received the following update from Gary:

Saw Ray again today, a lot of family and friends coming and going. Betty is doing well, tired but a real trooper. Ray is still in ICU on the ventilator, less medicine being given and as Betty Says "BOWEL SOUNDS" Meaning his

gut is starting to work after the surgery, a good sign. He still has a long way to go, will probably be on a ventilator for awhile allowing him to rest and use less energy to breath and more to heal. All in all some improvement, yeah!!!.

On Friday, September 26 we got the condition of both Ray and Wayne Bright (suffering from back problems):

Here is the latest on Ray. He is still on the ventilator, still in ICU, he is slowly coming out of the induced coma as they reduce the amount of pain meds. His eyes are starting to open and skin color is good. Some blockage so they might have to go back inside, they are monitor this real close. He will most likely be in ICU another month. Today I was told that Ray has not cut or bruises on his body for the accident all internal injury's.

Wayne called me today and said that the MRI is back and he is scheduled to inter the hospital next Thur., they are going to remove a cyst and scrap some bone to add room for the nerves in his back.

Ray is improving as a result of his willpower and prayers from friends and family. Keep it coming; I'm hoping to enjoy his company very soon.

Cheers; Jim Tinlin

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

October 2008



Here's an image that cries "too much stuff"

2008 Events

OCT:

MC CONNELL SP. CAMP OUT & PICNIC 16-17-18, PICNIC ON 17th
ONE DAY RIDE OCT25, STARTING IN CASTROVILLE

NOV:

BASALT SP. CAMP OUT 7-8-9.
MEETING ON 29th, ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

DEC:

CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY @ FRESNO
MOOSE LODGE ON THE 13th



EDITOR'S CORNER

By Jim Tinlin, NCVC Newsletter Editor

I have very little to add this month, been thinking a lot about Ray and hoping his condition improves rapidly.

I'm sitting here on Saturday morning writing this article, a little rain hit us last night and it's certainly a dreary day here on the coast. I was hoping to take off for a weekend ride, but it doesn't look like the weather is going to cooperate with my wishes. Maybe it'll clear up on Sunday ☺



Although it's autumn already, the weather has been good enough for some weekend rides. Last weekend I took a quick putt down to a little town called Los Alamos. They have a small city celebration on the last weekend of every September. This celebration includes a classic car show and peddler's fair. Not a huge event, but a fun afternoon for a simple getaway. I think I enjoyed the steam engines most of all, there were all kinds of engines there (fully functional as well).

A side note was all the 'bikers' that showed up at the event. It wasn't a bike show, but you wouldn't know that by all the bikes parked on the side street. It was nice to

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

October 2008

walk down the block and check out all the nice chrome.



The biggest surprise to me was seeing a brand new Triumph parked at the curb. Something looked a little odd, until I looked real close and noted it was a 3-cylinder engine!!! I talked to the owner for a little bit and found out that it rides like a dream and has lots of power (weighing in under 700 pounds). A very interesting concept, and certainly a sight to see.



Ride Safe!!

CLUB MEETING – 9/27/08

By Trisha Blue, NCVC Secretary

The meeting was held at Perko's Restaurant in Manteca. Meeting was called to order by Vice President Don Medina at 1235.

Members in attendance: Don Medina (VP), Trisha Blue (Sec), Al Bowers, Fred Andrew, Al & Wendy Thearle, Bryce Eichholz, Bill Owens, Monte Faust, Bill Ashworth, Bill Burns, Jim Kramlich, Dale Bird, John DeMuri, Michele Smith, Brian Coldicott, Roger Allen.

Minutes from last meeting were read by Trisha Blue. Approved by Al Thearle; seconded by Fred Andrew.

Treasurers Report: No report since Wayne Bright is out with back problems.

Activities report: led by Don Medina. Roger Allen gave an enthusiastic summary of the 15-day tour. They had a great time and saw some incredible sights. Wayne Bright had to drop out early in the trip due to back trouble. Ray Walls had an accident on the last day of the trip and remains in the hospital. Updates are being sent to the membership separately.

Don Medina will lead a 1-day ride Saturday, October 25th. The destination is still to come.

Everyone is invited to Don Medina's retirement party in Half Moon Bay Saturday, October 11 (see flyer and map attached).

After today's meeting we will ride to the Delhi A&W for root beer floats.

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

October 2008

Old Business: None.

New Business: There was discussion of the 2009 tours. The first one will be to the AVA Rally in Santa Fe, NM July 14-15-16. The second one will be a tour of national parks in Utah and Arizona.

Meeting was adjourned at 1343.

HISTORY OF KAWASAKI

Daniel Levy, Motorcycle-Articles.com

The story of Kawasaki Company goes back to 1924, at that time involved into metallurgy and the aircraft industry.

In 1949, they decided to enter the motorcycle industry producing engines that could be adapted to motorcycles.

In their line you could find a 60 cc two-stroke, as well as a 150cc and a 250cc four-stroke engines developed with technology from BMW; company who with they had had relationships since their beginnings in the aeronautical industry.

It wasn't until 1954 that Kawasaki Motorcycles produced their first complete motorcycle under the name of Meihatsu (a subsidiary of Kawasaki Aircraft Co.).

Almost at the same time, they also tried to introduce their own line of scooters to the market, but they soon realized they couldn't compete against the two giants of the scooters industry for those days: the Fuji Rabbit and the Mitsubishi Silver Pigeon.

And now before continuing with Kawasaki Motorcycles history, I have to open a big parenthesis...

We cannot talk about Kawasaki without mentioning another make that will definitely

help Kawasaki become as well as Honda, Suzuki, and Yamaha one of the big players in the Japanese Motorcycles scene:

--> Meguro Motorcycles: better know in that time as the "senior make and the king of four strokes".

Meguro entered the motorcycle industry in 1937. Having a good relationship with the government, the people at Meguro took advantage of the army orders.

Their first motorcycle was the Z97: a 500cc rocker-valve motorcycle influenced by the Swiss Motosacoche. It's worth mentioning this model was a success for the factory and the Z97 was in production till the fifties.

Along the years, Meguro produced some very nice 250cc and 350cc rocker-valve, single cylinder models as well as high performance twins. All of them with a very strong British influence. Then and thanks to the commercial success they were living, they also launched a rocker-valve 125 cc for their low end range and a twin cylinder 650cc to accompany the already existing 500cc.

But it was in 1958, when Meguro tried to get rid of their British influence, when things started to go wrong...

Based on a winning prototype of Mount Asama (one of the biggest races that time), Meguro Motorcycles produced three nice and elegant machines with overhead camshaft: the 125cc E3, the 250cc F and the 350cc Y A. Unfortunately these bikes turned out to be too heavy and didn't get the buyers' attention. Meguro will soon return to rocker valve models.

Meguro Motorcycles remained as one of the top 10 manufacturers till 1960, but due

NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

October 2008

to some bad decisions, as the ones mentioned above, the company started to decline and was soon bought by Kawasaki.

In 1960 Meguro signed an initial agreement with Kawasaki Motorcycles, and in 1962 they had completely disappeared.

....And this brings us back to Kawasaki Motorcycles...

In 1960, the company decides to give a serious push to the motorcycle division of Kawasaki Aircrafts:

They take out of the market the Meihatsu brand; they build their own plant of low end and low powered machines and buy Meguro.

These brilliant moves and decisions made Kawasaki Motorcycles have one of the widest range of models in the market. Kawasaki Motorcycles could offer at that time (1960's) from a 50cc moped-scooter to a powerful, high end and beautiful 650 cc twin cylinder motorcycle.

It's also important to mention that due to their very own nature, Kawasaki

Motorcycles has always played the role of Maverick in the industry and that a feeling of independence from their main competitors has always been present.

Since then, many stories have been written, many models have been produced and many races have been won on Kawasaki Motorcycles, the truth is...

Nowadays Kawasaki Motorcycles is one of the major players in the industry and following their tradition, they nowadays offer a wide range of products for all kind needs and likes.



NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

October 2008



October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 RIDE: Castroville
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	

2008 Club Events Calendar

JAN 26 – Meeting: Manteca	FEB – VACANT	MAR 13/15/16 – Campout: McConnell MAR 29 – Meeting: Manteca
APR 5 – One Day Ride: Modesto APR 11/12/13 – Campout: McConnell	MAY 16/17/18 – Campout: Brannan Island MAY 31 – Meeting: Manteca	JUN 13/14/15 – Campout: Brannan Island
JUL 8/9/10 – AVA Rally JUL 18/19/20 – Campout: Vets Pk Monterey JUL 26 – Meeting: Manteca	AUG ??? – One Day Ride, TBD AUG 23 to SEP 6 – 2008 Tour	AUG 23 to SEP 6 – 2008 Tour SEP 19/20/21 – Campout: Turlock Lake SEP 27 – Meeting: Manteca
OCT (CANCELLED) – Campout: McConnell OCT 25 – One Day Ride: Castroville	NOV 7/8/9 – Campout: Basalt State Park NOV 29 – Meeting: Manteca	DEC 13 – NCVV Christmas Party: Fresno Moose Lodge

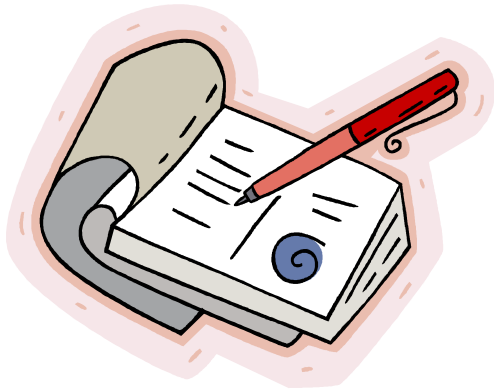
NorCal Voyagers Newsletter

October 2008

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
Sergeant at Arms	Dennis Ellingson
Activities Director	VACANT
Webmaster/	Jim Tinlin
Newsletter Editor	

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