



# Lone ★ Star Voyagers

Newsletter Vol. 5. #6 Nov-Dec 2007

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We're the **Lone Star Voyagers Motorcycle Club**, a charter club of the **American Voyager Association**, and are looking for new members. The club focuses on Kawasaki Voyager owners but welcomes all makes and models of bikes. Dues are only \$7.50 / year for one up riding or \$15 / year for two and are due in January. For an application, if there's not one at the back of this newsletter, there's one on our web site at [LoneStarVoyagers.org](http://LoneStarVoyagers.org). Our Secretary - Treasurer Brenda Herring will accept dues and applications at 325 C.R. 130 Liberty, TX 77575, (936/336-2840).

We are a family riding club with activities scheduled nearly every month. We are also a fun club with no attendance or participation requirements. You are not required to be an AVA member. We are headquartered in Liberty, TX. Our ride calendar is established at a business meeting that is held at a fall meeting, **We are actually working on that - see the calendar & articles**. Normally we plan to host at least 2 camp-in weekends each year. We feature this bimonthly newsletter where articles are submitted by members, & a web site ([LoneStarVoyagers.org](http://LoneStarVoyagers.org)). If you are interested you can contact **Barry Baker**, in New Braunfels (830) 627-3926), [barrybaker24@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barrybaker24@sbcglobal.net), **Richard Baxter**, in Liberty Hill (512-515-0133), [ribaxter@peoplepc.com](mailto:ribaxter@peoplepc.com), or **Brenda**, [brendalsv@gmail.com](mailto:brendalsv@gmail.com) for more information. Hope you can join us. **(additions in this color are by the newsletter editor)**

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From the Desk of the Prez.....

What a great **Voyager Home** ! Roger/Suzie & Russ/Gabi really outdid themselves. I remember Roger getting nervous before the gathering about the attendance. He didn't think anyone was gonna show up (haha). Well, if you were there, or have seen the picture on the LSV web page, you know more than 6 came. This may have been the largest to date. I don't have the exact numbers but I'm looking forward to reading the report from the hosts.

The **2008 calendar** was also approved at the VH. However, we still need hosts and location for the 2008 VH. Dave Schani & I will be hosting the April HCT 2008 and will be picking the location and date this month. We are having a recon mission to the campground choices on Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. DS, Richard & I will be scouting. We will be celebrating the Lone Star Voyagers 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary (or birthday) at the HCT. This HCT gathering will be different than those in the past. More info on this later.

This is really an exciting time for the LSV. Our 4<sup>th</sup> year is coming to a close and our 5<sup>th</sup> year is beginning. The **first gathering of 2008** is the blessing of the Bikes in San Antonio sponsored by the CMA. Of course this is on January 1<sup>st</sup> at the Wal-Mart parking lot on the NW intersection of 281 and loop 1604. For those of you coming, we're gonna meet at the Valero station on highway 46 about 2 miles east of 281 at 9:15. We'll leave for the Blessing at 9:30 from the Valero. This is the place we've met for the past 4 years. I'll be posting the web site to ask who will be coming.

I again would like to **issue a challenge** to all LSV members to attend the **AVA National Rally** in Bowling Green (KY) in July. I think it's time to let all of the AVA know just how strong we are and what great people we are. When you fill out the registration form, remember to put the LSV as your club affiliation. According to Rocket Rod, we need to work on our spirit "cheers" (?) to win that competition. I am also anticipating the announcement of me, your president, as the winner of the 2009 Voyager that Kawasaki will be giving away! I'm hoping we can have at least 40 of us there.

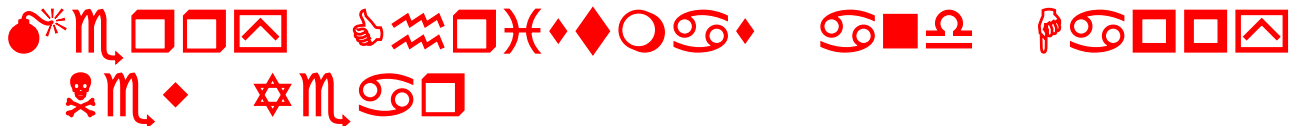
I've already heard that 25 are planning on going! Let's hope our plans don't change.

There are **new members** to report since the last newsletter. **Ron Dingle** from Lubbock has renewed after a years absence and ride a 2003 Voyager. Next, **David/Nancy Elder** from Iowa Park (TX) signed up just before the VH. We had a chance to meet them for the first time in East Texas. David and Nancy ride a 1992 Voyager. The VH must have been good because **Jim/Sandra Judge** decided to join the LSV. They ride a 2003 Voyager. Jim is a retired Air Force flight engineer and airline pilot instructor. Sandra's most important job is a mother but did spend 15 years working at an airport. Last and definitely not least is **Ramiro/Maria Sanchez** from Euless (TX). Ramiro is originally from Bolivia!! He works in a meat market, and Maria is a restaurant manager . They ride a 1997 Voyager. When I talked to Ramiro, he told me that Roger Bagley told him about us! We look forward to meeting them. These new members bring our total **membership to 90** our largest to date. What a record breaking year the LSV has had!!

We will have new **long sleeve and short sleeve shirts** are available to order. The prices will be: \$18 - \$20 for short sleeve/pocket and \$33-\$38 for the long sleeve button down shirt. Order from Brenda by phone or e-mail.

That will about do it from me for 2008. The officers thank y'all for making this a great club. We are proud to be associated with you. Be Careful & Ride Safe.

- Barry Baker, President
- Richard Baxter, VP and NL editor
- Brenda Herring, Sec/Treas
- Dave Schani, Road Captain
- John Herring, Safety Officer
- Rod Westphal, Web Master
- Ray Holly, Chaplain



MusicMan  
LSV Prez

I have personally decoded the MM's encrypted message above & it is G-rated & timely.

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### Voyage Home 2007 from Caddo Lake State Park

Thursday started out pretty slow so the trip to The Antique Hardware Store was cancelled as they closed at 2:00pm. By Dinner Time we managed to serve dogs and burgers with trimmings to about 32 people before enjoying a campfire and Rogers Famous "Stories"

Friday Up and at it for coffee around 5:30 – well, not everyone was up, huh Brenda. We left at 8:15AM for a long ride to breakfast (eating again) No one complained after a delicious giant meal at The Stagecoach Casino. Went for a great ride with the long trip and short trip meeting at Marshall Pottery. We tried to get Hippie's wife to buy a lot as she had a car. Rode back to the campground to get ready for another huge meal at The Pines Lodge. Went back to the campground and Russ provided us with a Movie.

Saturday went to McDonald's for breakfast. Everyone wanted to go back to The Stagecoach. Went for a ride and ended up in Gilmer, TX for a wonderful Mexican meal (eating again). Long and short riders split and met back at the Park. The Meeting was held while the meal was being readied

(eating again). Russ and Gabi won the cook-off having the most votes for The Chili. Prizes were awarded and Russ provided the movie Wild Hogs for us to enjoy. I would like to say the ladies bike judging was cancelled because only 2 showed up but truth is with so much going on we slam forgot. So they both win.

Sunday Morning, coffee and muffins and goodbyes

Roger Bagley

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### Treasury Report thru Nov 07

Beginning Balance	759.76
Income	280.00
Expenses	<u>298.00</u>
Ending Balance	741.76

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

If you want a long sleeve shirt, let me know.

I will be placing an order soon!!

Brenda Herring

LSV Sect./Treas.

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### Ray Had surgery in Nov from e-mail 11-16-07

Hi,

Wanted to let the club know that Ray is in the Austin Heart Hospital awaiting a very serious heart by pass surgery on Monday (11/19). All of his main arteries are almost completely blocked. He has been going to doctors for months trying to get to the root of his pain but the blockages were just discovered yesterday. He is resting comfortably in the hospital with a nitro drip. Please keep us in your prayers.

Thank you

Jan Holley

### Update

Ray is at home resting comfortably & healing at a better-than-expected rate. He sounded really good when I talked to him & he's looking forward to riding the bike again but for now, he's not even allowed to ride in the car (no seatbelt allowed). He thanks everyone for their thoughts & prayers.

SpeedBall

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## LSV 2007 Calendar

Dec.	Open	
Jan 1, 2008	Blessing Of The Bikes	San Antonio
Proposed 2008 Calendar generated at New Braunfels in Sept 2007		
March 27-29	Spring Fun Run with Enchanted Voyagers	
April ??	HCT* probably 3rd weekend	
May 25	Liberty Cookout	
July 8-10	AVA Rally	
Sept 18-20	SCI/CO New Braunfels	
Oct.??	Voyage Home*	

\*This is one of 2 camp-in/ride-ins that include our two business meetings each year.

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## **Blanco- Comfort area ride, Nov 07**

HMMMMMMMMMMMM, we met Barry & Sandi, ate some great burgers @ the Grist Mill (I think that was it) in Gruene that first night (if I spelled it right). DS led a good ride the next day. Barry & I had breakfast at D-D with the others. Again great food. Being my first trip to area I wouldn't have known DS missed a turn if Barry hadn't said something about it. Being a "flatlander" I have to admit I held the group up a bit. The turns, twisties & new roads triggered flash backs & butterflies in my stomach of my wreck in North Carolina Smokey Mtns. Really beautiful country, will be coming back to that area. Not a lot of detail here but still a great weekend trip for us.....Rene Ann said it was too long for just a weekend ride, but then she's always been a good "back seat driver"

Rick Londagin

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## **Lone Star Voyagers Safety Corner,**

I think that the following will make good sense to all that read this and ride motorcycles.

I was at my Doctor's office, he is a motorcycle rider, and I asked him if they went to the CWIMS or if they went to the Lone Star Rally in Galveston. He replied, "We are in a motorcycle crisis mode here in this office." I asked what was going on and he told me that they went to the rally both Saturday and Sunday and had a great time until on the way home Sunday their office manager who was riding pillion behind her husband was involved in an accident. It was a Bad one too! They were hit broadside by a car doing about 40mph. The driver said that he did not see them. He even ran a stop light. He got a ticket. The office manager, well she had her leg amputated at the knee and is in very guarded condition and they are fearful that they will need to take more of her leg. I do not know anymore particulars at this time.

I think that the article I have made available for you to read is appropriate. We must not allow the drivers of 4-wheelers to not see us. Bright colors are good. Read the article and try to glean some good from it, I think you can do it.

John Herring, LSV Safety Officer

These words were copied from:

U.S. Department of Transportation "National Highway Traffic Safety Administration" web site.

## **Motorcycle Factors: Conspicuity**

### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

Motorcyclists who are conspicuous are under-represented in crashes.

### **WHERE WE ARE**

A common complaint of street riders is that other motorists fail to observe them. Motorists who violate motorcyclists' right-of-way frequently state, "I didn't see him," or "He came out of nowhere" (Hurt 1981).

The problem of other motorists failing to observe motorcyclists apparently exists on several levels (see Motorist Awareness, page 31). An important Hurt Report finding was that conspicuous motorcycles and riders were less likely to have their right-of-way violated by other vehicles.

A variety of recognized tactics exists to make motorcycles and their riders more conspicuous: lighting, surface color and size, and rider traffic strategy.

Lighting factors include:

- Since 1979, most motorcycles sold in the United States have been equipped with automatic-on headlamps to meet some state requirements. This seems to have been an effective method of making them more conspicuous and reducing right-of-way violations. Currently, 86 percent of motorcycles on the road have their headlights on during daytime (Turner, 2000).

- Using the high beam of a motorcycle's headlight during the day also helps to prevent violations of the motorcyclist's right-of-way (Hurt, 1981).
  - In the cruising and touring categories, auxiliary headlights, usually of reduced wattage, are gaining popularity. Many sportbikes are equipped with dual headlights.
  - Recently, some automobiles have started using daytime running lamps (DRL), which may reduce the effectiveness of motorcycle automatic-on headlamps.
  - Headlight modulators, which cause the light to alternate between a higher and a lower intensity during the day, also increase conspicuity (Hurt, 1981). Headlight modulators are federally regulated lighting devices and as such, all state laws governing them are preempted. Motorcycle headlight modulators have not been studied to determine their effects on other motorists.
  - Many modern street bikes are equipped with position lamps in their front turn signals. This may help other motorists to identify the vehicle as a motorcycle and to better judge its distance and speed.
  - Few motorcycles have more than single-point rear lighting; though multiple lights at the rear would seem to offer similar benefits and also provide redundancy for the single taillight.
- The color of and equipment on a motorcycle can play a significant conspicuity role.
- Motorcycles equipped with additional frontal bodywork (fairings which protect the rider from wind and weather) were found to be under-represented in crashes where motorists violated the motorcyclist's right-of-way. The larger the fairing and the brighter the color, the more effective it seemed to be in preventing other vehicles' right-of-way violations (Hurt, 1981).
  - During the period of study for the Hurt Report, most fairings were aftermarket accessories added to motorcycles for touring comfort. By the late 1980s, most manufacturers offered some motorcycles with fairings as original equipment. In addition, most sportbikes have smaller; more aerodynamic fairings that tend to be more brightly colored and often have elaborate graphic designs. Whether the newer sport-style fairings have a significant effect on conspicuity is not known.
  - **One of the easiest and most effective ways for a motorcyclist to be seen by other motorists is by wearing brightly colored upper-torso clothing and/or retro-reflective material. However, only a minority of motorcyclists choose such brightly colored apparel, whether for fashion or other reasons.**
  - Social and fashion pressures are apparently a powerful reason for not wearing brightly colored clothing. Although sportbike riders, who imitate racers, have largely accepted bright colors, the larger cruiser category chooses apparel in almost nothing but inconspicuous black. Other categories often choose other hard-to-see colors such as gray, beige, and other neutral colors. The olive-drab and camouflage apparel that the Hurt Report found over-represented in the typical right-of-way-violation crash is still worn.
  - Manufacturers and distributors of helmets confirm that more than half of the motorcycle helmets sold for street use in the United States are black, which seems to be chosen primarily for fashion. Rider traffic strategy strongly affects visibility (see Rider Education & Training, page 17 and Lane Use, page 51).

### **WHERE WE WANT TO BE**

We want motorcyclists to be aware of how conspicuity issues affect their safety and prepare accordingly.

We would like states to reconsider regulations that prohibit proven and safe conspicuity-enhancing modifications to lighting systems.

### **HOW TO GET THERE**

Education of motorcyclists to overcome their resistance to employing conspicuity strategies is needed. Protective apparel manufacturers can help by promoting conspicuity in their advertising and in their apparel designs. Efforts that focus on peer acceptance of conspicuous colors are also suggested.

Research is needed into the matters of conspicuity and why motorcyclists are overlooked by other

motorists. Programs should be implemented based on the findings to correct this.

- Research that explores the reasons why drivers fail to observe motorcyclists despite attempts to be more visible should be a high priority.
- Information about specific high-conspicuity colors and the uniqueness of applying them to specific locations on the bike or rider would be useful to riders seeking greater conspicuity.
- DRL usage on cars may influence the environment and effectiveness of motorcycle automatic-on headlamps and warrants investigation.
- Motorcycle lighting should be studied to find safe ways to increase conspicuity and enhance recognition during the day and at night.

Recommendations

- Conduct research to determine why other motorists fail to see and identify motorcyclists and implement countermeasures.
- Encourage motorcyclists to enhance their conspicuity.
- Encourage manufacturers to make motorcycle apparel and parts conspicuous.
- Reconsider state requirements that prohibit safe conspicuity-enhancing modifications, including safe modification to lighting systems.
- Conduct research on the effect of automobile DRL on motorcycle safety.

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## Richard's Ritings & Wridings

I'm over my wheel problems & knock on wood, the bike is running good lately. I made VH ok & two club rides of over 200 miles each since VH.

**Voyage Home 2007** We were a little late getting there. Activities started on Thursday & we didn't arrive until Friday afternoon. By doing this, we missed "the big breakfast", that I understand involved a serving of half a pig per person. Roger's directions to the campground were accurate. I didn't mention the MC group when I checked in, assuming (you know what that means) that my reservation request had covered that. Anyhow, our campsite was pretty far removed from the group but very close to the highway & train track. Between Jake brakes, choo choos & barking dogs, I was reminded of why we only like to camp out one night in a row. Over at the LSV area however, the setup was great. The Bagleys had all well in-hand with a headquarters cabin for the group for kickin' tires & viewing evening movies. Of course we arrived in time to make the evening meal. We rode to the Big Pines Lodge, a catfish place literally right down the road from the campground. Good food but evidently the place tends to get a little rowdy- there were 10 or 12 policeman there (ok, they were in line to get fed).

Fridays ride was over to Gilmer (2nd place 3A football- lost to Liberty Hill) where they had a festival going on that had the small town bursting at the seams with people & traffic. For lunch, we settled in at a Mexican restaurant a little early which was a good thing. By the time we were done & leaving, there were about a zillion cars trying to get in to the restaurant lot. SugarBeet & I left the group & took a leisurely ride back to the campground- mostly following the route that the short group took. All the roads that we occasioned were great. We packed up & moved into the motel for the 2nd night. It was nice to have a bed & a private shower but the moving twice was kind of time consuming. We didn't miss any meals though. We were back to the campground for the meal, the meeting, with LOTS of door prizes & the movie - all very nice.

Up early Sunday (ok not as early as Viejo & Granny) & headed for home. I was struck with an increasingly problematic gastric disturbance & was REALLY glad to be riding home in the cage instead of on the bike. I believe that I picked up a communicable intestinal virus from one of my fellow riders while I was there because I got well in the proverbial 24 hours & SugarBeet was afflicted about 8 hours after me. I like to visit deep East Texas - it's very different from where I grew up & if fortune has us in the Marshall area again next fall, I plan to be there. -SpeedBall

## **Blanco area AGAIN!**

Right before publication deadline, I took part in a little Hill Country ride. MusicMan, Dave S & I rode to the Blanco- Johnson City area, then on down to Boerne & Comfort to view the landscape, count early-winter road-kill deer, & check out a couple of Motels and Campgrounds that might be suitable for use in the HCT this next April. When I left the house at 8 a.m., it was 49 degrees and the promised northerner was just arriving. When I got home at 4:30, it was still 49 degrees but the wind was really going, blowing me sideways with reported 30-40 mph gusts. I wore insulated coveralls all day & never seriously thought of taking them off.

After eating a mid-morning breakfast in J. City at the Silver K Restaurant, we visited the Miller Creek RV Park. Then went on to Blanco & inspected a couple of motels. From there to the Top Of The Hill RV park halfway between Boerne & Comfort, just off I10. Both campgrounds are suitable for our needs & the winner will probably determined by who gives us the best rate structure. The entire trip, for me, was about 250 miles and it was typical scenery and road conditions for that part of Texas - which is a good thing. One road had just been resurfaced & with its typical 30-45 mph curves, I was a little uncomfortable with the signed promises of loose gravel, but I just slowed down a little bit & it went well. Tired & cold, when I got home I took a long nap to get me ready to finish this newsletter. HCT 2008 will be another good one.-Richard Speedball Baxter

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## **Voyage Home 2008 in planning stage**

We don't exactly have a concrete offer for a host for VH next year but almost. We have an inquiry from Roger Bagley, concerning coming back to the Marshall area. He offered the following:

Has anyone volunteered for Voyage Home 2008? If the Bagleys were to do it again we'd plan to only make one meal on Sat night. Too many good places to eat. Most likely at a camp ground where I work. I have a 1/2 acre all grass, close to bath. Have a 400 by 85 Ft room & going to put in 4 cabins if Russ & I do it, it'll be here. So if someone doesn't want it here, better jump in. We don't have to make a commitment until Feb. -Roger Bagley

## **What a Gathering.....!**

It was a good time at the Voyager Home in Jefferson. Man for people! There had to be 40 in attendance. And, can Roger cook! The burgers and dogs were very tasty on Thursday night.

It seems that Thursday night should not be designated for early arrivals anymore because most of our attendees arrive on Thursday (haha). It's wonderful to be around these great people for 3 ½ days.

I left for Liberty on Wednesday afternoon and took scenic Alt 90 over to Houston. Then I got lost (of course), but eventually found my way to 610 south and backtracked around Houston to I-10. I gave John & Brenda a call for final mileage to their turn when I stopped for fuel. You can imagine there was a lot of conversation that evening but we turned in around 10:30.

We met Ken & Yong and Rocky & Pat at Whataburger in Liberty around 8am, had breakfast then headed for Caddo Lake State park. John was leading and Brenda was following in the pickup because of back problems. John did a great job of getting us there on time and safe. I did learn one thing, though. A GPS is not infallible. John did hafta turn around 2 times to get there! I don't feel so bad anymore about my sense of direction.

It was liked we planned to meet at the park entrance. When we had just gotten off our bikes, in pulls Hank on Rusty. After saying hello to him Steve and Carol arrive (I got the names right!!). When we got to the sites, DS was already waiting with his tent set up. Of course Roger and Suzie were there. A couple of new people were there, Happy Harvey, David Elder and LA. Those who didn't

make for the Thursday cook out missed a delicious meal. Roger made burgers and dogs on the grill.

Friday morning we left for breakfast in Louisiana. It was awesome!! One entrée' was a huge ham steak that covered the plate, hash browns and biscuits for only \$3.99. Roger sure knows how to pick a restaurant. All 19 bikes left the restaurant at the same time and split into 2 groups after about 60 miles. The country side was great, a good ride. After resting back at the campground, we just HAD to eat! So we rode off to have another great meal.

Saturday morning started around 7am with coffee around the campfire. This was probably the best part of the gathering. Every night and morning, Roger would build a fire where we all would gather. Old friendships were made stronger and new ones were solidified. Then, in the evening, Russ brought his computer, power point and a white bed sheet. What for? A movie of course. On Friday evening we watched Failure to Launch and Saturdays entertainment was Wild Hogs. Those of us that got to ride on Friday in Tijeras, remembered Maggie's Café in Madrid (NM). We have pictures on the web site of our bikes in front of it and we even got to sit in the booth that the stars sat in!

Oh, I almost forgot, the Friday evening meal was awesome. We traveled about 2 miles to the Red Pines Lodge for a great catfish supper. The story goes that there was a hoax planned for the evening. While we were eating, about 6 state troopers arrived and were waiting for a table. Two of my avid supporters went to them with a request. They wanted the troopers to come to my table and handcuff me and haul me out to the parking lot. It was just about to set in motion when the sergeant came over and squashed the whole deal. Thank YOU SEARGENT!! Anyway.....

The new members had to wear a goofy hat (surprise, huh) for the business meeting. First, I put the hat on Dennis, then was told that David and Nancy had sent in there membership but Brenda had not received it yet....So.....David donned the hat for the rest of the meeting. Jim and Sandra Judge did not get back from church until late, so Jim wasn't able to display ..... we'll get him next time!  
MusicMan

New ( )

2008

Renewal ( )

Lone Star Voyagers

Solo ( )

Membership Application

Two Up ( )

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Driver: Rider (co-pilot):

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (M) (F) First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (M) (F)  
[sex] [sex]

Primary Drivers Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Street/P.O. Box)

\_\_\_\_\_

(City/State/Zip)

( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

(Home Phone Number) ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell Phone Number) ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

(E-mail Address) \_\_\_\_\_

Year/Make/Model of Motorcycle: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdays: Pilot \_\_\_\_\_ Co-Pilot: \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_

**For newsletter and internet announcements, may we publish:**

All Information ( ); Name Only ( ); Name/Addy/Phone Only ( ); Name/Address Only ( ); Name/Addy/Ph/E-mail Only ( )

**Please indicate any assistance you would be able to give fellow LSV members:**

Pick Up Truck ( ); Bike Trailer ( ); Tools ( ); Tent Area ( ); Tools ( ); Local Info ( )

Send Application and Membership fee (\$7.50 each) to: **Brenda Herring**

LSV Treasurer  
325 Cty Rd 130  
Liberty, TX 77575

I/We, the undersigned, agree not to hold the AVA-LSV, it's officers, agents, members, or anyone connected with AVA-LSV functions responsible for any accidents, injury or personal loss before during or after attending any get together, rally, activity or event.

Primary Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Co-Pilot Signature \_\_\_\_\_