



## Newsletter Vol. 6. #5 Sep-Oct 2008

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We're the **Lone Star Voyagers Motorcycle Club**, a chartered 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. Our ride calendar is established at a business meeting that is held at a fall meeting. Normally we plan to host at least 2 camp-in weekends each year. We feature this bimonthly newsletter where members submit articles, & our web site is ([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), [richadntexas@dismail.net](mailto:richadntexas@dismail.net), or **Brenda Herring**, [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

The year is coming to an end and I am really **excited about the future** for the LSV. The new leadership is awesome, the gatherings are growing in number and the membership remains constant, around 90+. The talent in the membership also continues to grow. We all come from varied backgrounds and have learned about the Voyager from the willingness of others to share their knowledge. Great people continue to be attracted to us for this reason as well as the attraction of just plain good people.

Yes we have **5 new members** since the last newsletter. Ed/Nora Hilldreth from Arkansas joined at VH. They ride a 1995 GW 1500. Ed is a former truck driver. Another couple is Marty/Kathy Johnston from Burleson, TX. Marty works for ATT and Kathy is a homemaker right now. They have 4 children, 9 grand children and 1 great grand child. They are also members of the CMA. They ride a 1996 Voyager and 2005 Yamaha 1100 V-Star. Kevin Sawatsky from Caddo Mills also is a NewV who rides a 1993 Voyager. He works for a hotel management company based in Washington DC. He and his wife have 4 children at home and his wife is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Kevin recently had an accident on his Concours, which led him to the Voyager. This brings the states represented in the LSV membership to 9 states!! These states are: TX, NM, OK, AR, OH, KS, IL, NE, LA.

The **Voyage Home** was awesome! Hippi did a great job....and he was worried! Just like everyone else hosting their first gathering. It's getting easier and easier to host a gathering. Somewhere around 30 attended on 24 bikes. The food! What an awesome stew Karen (and Hippi, hehe) made for the Thursday meal. And the Saturday catered brisket was melt in your mouth tender. Where else can you get food of that quality for only \$7.50!! Look for Hippi's report on the VH for more info.

The **2009 calendar** was approved at the VH without a coordinator(s) for the 2009 HCT. However, there are rumors that there are members contemplating stepping forward to host the HCT in the Junction, TX area. BUT, that is yet to unfold. The 2009 approved calendar is:

|                       |                      |                    |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Blessing of the Bikes | San Antonio, TX      | January 1st        |
| SFR (with EVA)        | Alpine, TX           | March 26-28        |
| *Hill country Tour    | TBA                  | April 24 - 26 (??) |
| AVA National Rally    | Santa Fe, New Mexico | July 14-16         |
| *Voyage Home          | Paris, TX (area)     | October 8-10 (??)  |
| IMS                   | Houston              | November ?         |

The asterisk denotes the 2 major camp-ins with business meetings. The dates for the HCT should be announced in a latter newsletter and a confirmation of the dates for VH as well. We have around 20 members who have hosted a gathering. These people are ready willing and able to help with encouragement and advice for those of you thinking about hosting a gathering. The format, date and location are entirely up to the host. You can cook or cater or eat out. The

members attending are also very good at helping with serving and cleaning up. Step forward in the next year to host a gathering!

This Voyage Home included **election of officers**. The New Officers for 2009 - 2011 are as follows:

|                |                                    |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| President      | Richard Baxter, Liberty Hill, TX   |
| Vice President | John Herring, Liberty, TX          |
| Sec/Treas      | Sandra Judge, Mooreland, OK        |
| Road Captain   | Dave Schani, Austin, TX            |
| Safety Officer | Rick Londagin, Stinnet, TX         |
| Chaplain       | Alan Boethel (Hippi), LaGrange, TX |
| NL Editor      | John Herring, Liberty, TX          |
| Web Master     | Rod Westphal, Alamogordo, NM       |

Some of them have served before, some are new. They all are great and the LSV is in capable hands.

A **trooper from the DPS** was also in attendance for a short time to accept the teddy bears, which were donated by members. The stuffed animals will be used to help comfort children who are in distress from accidents or other traumatic incidents. When officer Darrell Lokel accepted the gifts he asked if it would be possible to share these stuffed animals with the sheriffs department who also are involved in these situations. I told him they were to be used at the discretion of the DPS and that would be fine. There also was some controversy when he arrived. There were 2 requests for arrests to be made: Roger thought Hippi should be hauled off and Hippi thought Roger should be hauled off (haha). I assured them both that the officer probably had enough cuffs to haul them both to the cage!

The next gathering is the **Blessing of the Bikes** in San Antonio on January 1<sup>st</sup> at the corner of US281 and Loop1604 in the Wal-Mart parking lot. Most of us are meeting at the Valero on 46 about 2 miles east of US281 at 9:00am. The Blessing begins around 10:00am (I think).

Did **anyone loose an LSV T-shirt** at VH? I have one. With pocket. Size large. E-mail me if it's yours.

Just in case there isn't another NL this year, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the other officers for leading this club into the successful family it has become over the last 5 years. However, this success wouldn't be possible without the extraordinary membership in the **LSV**. We began with around 30 members and have grown into a strong 90+-member chapter of the AVA. The **Lone Star Voyagers** is the chapter with the most pride, most talent, most caring, most fun loving, most helpful with the most sincerity. You'll never find a group as close knit. If ever a **LSV**er needed something, a **LSV**er would be there to help. I've been proud to lead you over the past 5 years (even if it was on the wrong road at times-haha). Your new officers are just as dedicated as us 'old' officers. I thank them for stepping forward to lead you in the future.

Thank you for the good times I look forward to meeting you all on the road again.

With Fond Memories

Barry  
MusicMan  
LSV Prez  
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### Treasury Report thru October 08

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Beg. Bal.     | 520.05      |
| Credits       | 349.50      |
| <u>Debits</u> | <u>1.00</u> |
| End Bal.      | 868.55      |

- We have all LSV Merchandise for sale.

Brenda Herring  
LSV Sect. /Treas.

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## THE SAFETY CORNER

### JUST A BIKER

I saw you; hug your purse closer to you in the grocery store line. But you didn't see me put an extra \$10.00 in the collection plate last Sunday.

I saw you pull your child closer when we passed each other on the sidewalk. But you didn't see me playing Santa at the local Mall.

I saw you change your mind about going into the restaurant when you saw my bike parked out front. But you didn't see

me attending a meeting to raise more money for the hurricane relief.

I saw you roll up your window and shake your head when I rode by. But you didn't see me riding behind you when you flicked your cigarette butt out the car window.

I saw you frown at me when I smiled at your children. But you didn't see me, when I took time off from work to run toys to the homeless.

I saw you stare at my long hair. But you didn't see me and my friends cut ten inches off for Locks of Love.

I saw you roll your eyes at our Leather jackets and gloves. But you didn't see me and my brothers donate our old ones to those that had none.

I saw you look in fright at my tattoos. But you didn't see me cry as my children were born or have their name written over and in my heart.

I saw you change lanes while rushing off to go somewhere. But you didn't see me going home to be with my family.

I saw you, complain about how loud and noisy our bikes can be. But you didn't see me when you were changing the CD and drifted into my lane.

I saw you yelling at your kids in the car. But you didn't see me pat my child's hands knowing she was safe behind me.

I saw you reading the newspaper or map as you drove down the road. But you didn't see me squeeze my wife's leg when she told me to take the next turn.

I saw you race down the road in the rain. But you didn't see me get soaked to the skin so my son could have the car to go on his date.

I saw you run the yellow light just to save a few minutes of time. But you didn't see me trying to turn right.

I saw you cut me off because you needed to be in the lane I was in. But you didn't see me leave the road.

I saw you, waiting impatiently for my friends to pass. But you didn't see me. I wasn't there.

I saw you go home to your family. But you didn't see me. Because I died that day you cut me off.

I was just a biker. A person with friends and a family. But you didn't see me.

## Ride Reports

### **Trip To Wisconsin by Barry Baker, aka MusicMan**

As I was riding back to Texas I started thinking about different things that might be interesting for y'all out there. I thought I would begin with a list of statistics:

Dates: Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> - Monday August 25<sup>th</sup>  
Mileage: 3722  
Longest Day: 1030 miles in 24 hours  
Average Speed: 71mph actual (76mph on the Voyager clock)  
Average MPG: 41 - 42 (highest....52mpg [2x's], lowest.....33mpg)  
Longest Time in the Saddle: 3 hours (211 miles)  
Most Friendly Riders: Texas and Oklahoma!  
Most Courteous Drivers: Texas!  
Lowest gas Price: \$3.37 (OKC)  
Highest Gas Price: \$3.79 (MN, WI)  
Coldest Temp: 59 (MN)  
Warmest Temp: ?? (in Texas, of course)  
Weather: Sunny and warm (20 miles of mist north of Waco)  
Most beautiful section: Wisconsin

Now that you have some interesting facts, let me embellish on the actual trip itself. I left at 12 noon on Saturday because of an interesting problem that developed with Vinnie. He wouldn't start after I checked my tires (on Friday at noon!!), so I did some calling. After conversations with Carl Leo, John Herring and Rick Londagin, I attempted to work on the ignition switch but ended up taking it to the local Kaw dealer who told me the battery was dead. I found this strange since I just had a new alternator put in. The local shop told me the alternator was not charging. Sooooo, off to Universal City Kawasaki.

I told the owner of the shop I was on my way and asked when they closed. She said 6. It was 5:30 and I was in north New Braunfels. I thought I might make it but asked if they would wait....."well, we have to be somewhere by 6:15, and everyone stayed late last night. Maybe I can get someone to wait." This irritated me since they put in the alternator and I was planning to be on the road by 4am!

Making the story shorter, I made it there by 5:55, got the bike unloaded and thanked Gary for taking it in (most of the time it is better to show them you know you are at their mercy are in a case like this) and was hopeful he could get it ready tomorrow (Saturday). I got a call the next day at 10:30 and had the bike home by 11:30, was packed and on the road at noon! Oh yeah, what was the problem? He said it was two wires I had connected to the ignition fuse. They operated the amber marker lights and my driving lights (which were never on in this time period). When they were connected, the alternator wouldn't charge. When he pulled them out, viola, the alternator started charging. I found this really strange since this electrical connection had been on the bike for the last 50,000 miles! Neither my son nor his roommate, both MMI graduates in the HD and Kaw program respectively, could believe the diagnosis. Anyway, I was on the road.

I took the big road most of the way, only stopping in Enid on my way north. I met Bruce around 7:30pm just off I-35. We ate and then he led me to his house, where I met his 2 kids and Mary when she came home later. The shower felt good and we talked until about 12 midnight. I got up at 3 am, had a small breakfast (prepared by Bruce), and both of us left for the big road again. Bruce and Mary are really nice people.

Bruce rode with me for about an hour before turning around. This day was gonna be exciting for me. First, I wasn't sure where I was gonna stay the night and second since I didn't stay anywhere....I just kept going. Well before I knew it, I was coming up on 1,000 miles and it wasn't quite noon yet. Sure enough, somewhere south of Des Moines IA, at 12 noon on Sunday, I hit 1030 miles! I almost hit another goal before the end of the day....the Butt Burner. That's what the Iron Butt Association calls it: 1500 miles in 36 hours. When I finally stopped in Fall Creek, WI, I was at 1290 for the trip. 210 miles short of the 1500 needed and I had 5 ½ hours left. I knew I could do it because I couldn't feel my a\*\* anymore so it wouldn't matter!

As I said, I took the big road to make time. And in Albert Lea (MN), I left I-35 and turned east on I-90, but only for a short way. I turned off at Eyota on WI 42. The rolling hills and sweeping curves were great! But probably the best part was the smells. Sure there was manure, but cut grass, hay, and too many others odors to identify. I actually slowed down on I-90 to follow a hay truck for a couple miles! Riding through 8 - 10 small towns was awesome, very picturesque, almost turn of the century. I turned on to MN 60, which crossed over to WI, then took WI 25 through Durand and finally 85 to Eau Claire. What great roads!

Next, I get to my son's house. He's outside "doin' stuff". Without getting into the mushy father/son things, I'll only lightly touch on some activities. [There were many hugs!....just hadta throw that in]. We went out and ate, met with other relatives, sang Karaoke but I didn't have a chance to ride with him.

I did get out to his shop and meet his partner, Aaron. Aaron had parts from a KZ400 spread across the floor. It was a parts bike they bought. He was preparing to put the parts on the shelf and even box some up for shipment to buyers! Ben was able to take off 2 days while I was there. Besides buying parts bikes, if they run across a bike they are interested in refurbishing, they will tear it down, clean up the parts, powder coat the frame and put it on e-bay for sale. They had increased their investment at times 10 fold. Way to go kid!!

On Tuesday I made a run to Minnesota to visit gravesites of my son and parents. I also was able to see a friend of mine I graduated with. My class reunion was the previous weekend so I just missed it. I also used the big road for most of this trip except for about 200 miles. I used US 53 to Barron, then cut across on US 8 to Minnesota. After stopping in Rush City, I went across Minnesota on state highway 23 to St Cloud then picked up I-94 to Fergus Falls. I finished the trip to Breckenridge by heading west on MN 210. I used I-94 to get back to Eau Claire. It was 660 miles round trip.

The next leg of my trip took me to West St. Paul and Fridley (MN) to visit aunts. Both of them are in their mid 80's. I was planning on seeing my cousin Rick play (he's a drummer) but the band got double booked and we ended up talking until 11pm.

I left Fridley at 6:10 am and headed down I-35 to West Des Moines and visited with my cousins there. Man did I see a lot of relatives!! My first stop was in Emporia KS for the night. It had traveled 540 miles and I was ready to get off. I left about 5:30am the next day for Mooreland OK to meet with Rick Londagin and see the Jim & Sandra Judge.

I arrived in Mooreland about an hour before I planned. I hollered for Rick on the CB but to no avail. It was about 45 min later (he was right on time) that I hollered at him and he answered. He was about 4.5 miles from Mooreland. We hooked up and headed for the Judges.

The Judges live about 6 miles north of Mooreland in Highway 50. Their daughter, Teresa, was in the yard when we got there. She let us in and I gingerly gave Sandra a hug and carefully shook Jim's hand. Yes they are much better but have a long way to go yet. Jim is talking about buying a 2001 Voyager in Illinois and taking it on an Iron Butt cross-country run next year! I may go with him.....hopefully I can keep up! After some coffee, tall stories and a super homemade cinnamon roll, I left to head for the Currens in Norman, OK. Rick was just saddling up as I left. I went south on 50, then caught 270 to I-44, which tied into I-35 south. I rolled into James and Nola's driveway around 5:30.

Boy, I know how to pick a place to stay. Got there for supper, got a shower, again tall stories and finally to bed. The alarm rang about 6am and after a quick breakfast I was on the road by 6:45. Now there's nice people!

This is the third day of travel and should get home by 3PM or 4PM. The weather for the entire trip has been awesome. Cool and Sunny. But, now I cross into Texas. Still sunny....but it's August. I'm thinking this is probably the hottest day of my trip. I got to exit 302 on I-35 and need gas; I'm in Temple. Hmmmmm, I'm slightly ahead of schedule. Should I stop and see Mike and Chere'. Sure, why not.

When I pull into their driveway, Chere' is shaking out a tarp and Mike is rummaging around in the garage. Turns out they were putting in a new battery in the car. I find out a startling fact.....Mike is driving! He passed his test and can now drive with Chere'. I said to Mike that a bike must be on his list next, he held up 3 fingers. He eventually wants to get a trike!! He hasn't had a seizure for over 6 months. Thanks to the medication, the lack of seizures is allowing his brain to heal. GO MIKE!!

I also had a chance to see Mike's folks as they showed up while I was there....in a Smart Car! I looked it over pretty good. It's a roll cage surrounded by plastic parts. Doors, hoods, etc. can be changed out very quickly. At a rally, if you see doors that you like, you talk to the guy, and if you can make a deal, you swap out doors! Kinda neat.

After an adult beverage (don't worry about this John!), I climbed on Vinnie for the last leg of my return trip. Austin was even easy to get through at 2PM. I was surprised. I arrived home at 3:30, a little tired, but glad I made the trip.

Total mileage on Vinnie is now 94962. What a great bike!

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## La Grange Trip

October 25, 2008

After filling up with gas I drove by the Bee County Courthouse and stopped for a short Photo opportunity. I rolled out of Beeville about 9:00 AM In no time at all I pulled into Goliad and decided I would stop in front of the Goliad County Courthouse. The Courthouse in Goliad, and In Beeville had both recently gone through renovations so both looked to be in pretty good shape.

I left Goliad by highway 183 and traveled on to Cuero. Unable to find a courthouse for Dewitt County, I went on to Yoakum and took a break there.

After that I headed on out to Hallettsville. As I was coming into town I noticed a tall spire like a church or courthouse would have so I turned left into the downtown area and came upon the Lavaca County Courthouse, so I thought, why not. I just decided to photograph courthouses as I passed through each of these counties on my way to La Grange.

While I was taking the picture a guy walked up in a white T-shirt and jeans, holding some wire in his hands. He introduced himself as the Sheriff of Lavaca County. Volunteering his time on the Christmas light detail.

We talked for a while and then he wanted me to invite all my motorcycle riding buddies to come up there the Friday after thanksgiving to watch them turn on the Courthouse lights and the lights they would be putting up all over the downtown square. I can tell you, that from the number of lights I saw them working with that day, you will probably be hard pressed to find any county with a better lighting display. I hope I can find time to travel thru Lavaca County some evening in December so I can get a picture of all the lights they were working so hard to get set up. I will bet a lot of towns will be well lit come December.

When I came to Schulenburg I was listening in on the official CB channel of 24 for the Lone Star Voyagers club. I thought for a minute I could hear their Road Captain giving some turning directions but when I tried to call them, I couldn't get an answer so I decided to head on to their campground in La Grange. Cuero, Yoakum, Hallettsville, Schulenburg, Lagrange, all these towns are just about evenly spread out along highway 77. It seemed like they just came and went so fast that before I realized, it was 11:30 and I was pulling into my final destination of La Grange Texas.

The reason for my trip this day was to meet the Lone Star Voyagers Club of Texas. They are an affiliated club of Kawasaki Voyager owners who are dedicated to riding, stopping to eat, and riding some more. (Sounds like our Beeville gang don't it.) They were holding their annual "Voyage Home" Rally this weekend. I knew I didn't have time to campout with them but I did want to visit with them because I have been a member of this club for several years. This was our annual get together, and elect new officers gathering.

I rode out to the camp ground checked in with the office and they directed me over to their campsite. I found that no one was there, so I decided to ride back into town and get something to eat. While cruising around town looking for a burger place I spotted the Fayette County courthouse. Well, you know what that means. It was time for another courthouse photo.

I finally found a Subway Sandwich shop and got a bite for lunch. After lunch I went back down to the campground and another couple rode in on a 2003 voyager. We talked for a while and they gave me a map of the route the rest of the club was riding for today. So I reversed the directions and met up with the group at their last stop before heading back to Camp. We got back to camp around 2:15.

About 4:30 I figured I better start heading for home. I said my goodby's, and rode into the sunset.

It was a fun day, I did about 260 miles up and back. I was only a few miles from home when I shot this photo so I guess you have to call it a perfect ending to a perfect day.

The Prickly Pear Mobile ran flawlessly that day racking up 44 miles to the gallon as an average. Knocking out music when I wanted it, and took me on an adventure I will always remember.

So Who wants to go with me the next time I go looking for a courthouse to photograph.

Clyde Semar

AKA the "Cactus Kid"

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### **Voyage Home by Brenda**

Left home.

Got to the campground, set up camp.

Talked and told lots of lies.

Ate, sat around the campfire and talked.

Got up, had coffee. Went to eat.

Took a ride to see longhorn cows.

Went to see some churches, ate, went back to the campground.

Ate some more, sat around and talked.

Got up had coffee, took a ride to see some churches.

Ate some more, had elections, gave some stuffed toys to the DPS.

Went to bed. Got up, packed up, went home.

Had a Good Time and Enjoyed seeing everybody again.

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### **Voyage Home by Roger and Sue**

This years Voyager Home was a blast, except I was disappointed that I did not get to ride the Bull. I was really looking forward to that (NOT) however, the Church Tours made up for it. Hippie made me Honorary Sheriff of La Grange County. I gave him a parking ticket which he promptly threw on the ground so I tried to have him arrested when the Policeman came to collect the toys but Hippie caught on and spoiled the arrest. Look out in Paris Hippie you still need to be punished for your unlawful deeds.

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### **Voyage Home By Dennis C.**

I left my house on Thursday morning for VH. Darn its only 140 miles what should I do? Well I sought out all the back roads and made a days ride of it.

Got to VH about 3PM. That's when I noticed a rather large tent being set up. Hay, Barry got a new tent, bigger than mine it looks like. He's joined the BIG TENT group.

I was curious as to what the painted church thing was. I was pleasantly surprised, great idea for a ride. You have to appreciate the work and skill people put into them buildings.

I've never seen a long horn up close so another kool ride that was. The catered BBQ was so good; I tried not to over-eat. Yeah, can you say 3 helpings?

It was a little sad to see it end, and the ride home was to quick. Looking forward to the next campout and seeing everyone again.

Dennis C.

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### **Richard's Ritings & Wridings**

We'd read about the Fayette County area painted churches for some time via Texas Highways and Ride Texas magazine articles plus my in-laws had done the tour & reported back, and had intended this trip for a couple of years- very timely Hippie.

I'd seen the grandiose displays in Catholic churches before but not in such relatively small churches. These are breath-taking vistas when you enter the church. Evidently around the end of the civil war was a really good time to start a church that would last. Nearly all these were circa 1865ish - one was 1855. Before the end of the trip, they started to all look alike & I was concentrating on using the word ornate instead of gaudy. SugarBeet's favorite was the Methodist example (the one at the horse wreck)- a very old, very well-kept & very (by comparison) plain place of worship.

The churches are very close together- the commute from one to the next was very short & the roads (well, most of 'em) were very nice- like Texas highways are supposed to be. A very successful trip it was.

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## LSV 2008 Calendar

| Date        | Event                   | Place       | Hosts |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Nov 14-16   | International bike show | Dallas      |       |
| Nov-21-23   | International bike show | Houston     |       |
| Jan 1, 2009 | Blessing Of The Bikes   | San Antonio | CMA   |

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