



Newsletter Vol. 6. #6 Nov-Dec 2008

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. 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). If you are interested you can contact **Barry Baker**, in New Braunfels (830) 627-3926), barrybaker24@sbcglobal.net, **Richard Baxter**, in Liberty Hill (512-515-0133), richadntexas@dishmail.net, (RB's email is new) or **Brenda Herring**, brendalsv@gmail.com for more information. Hope you can join us. (Additions in this color are by the newsletter editor)

From the Desk of the Prez

As I **look back on the year**, I remember many gatherings: rides, food, sites, sounds and even smells. I think of our first gathering of the year and who attended. Then I think of the last one in LaGrange.

There is a **common thread** at every gathering we have. I bet y'all might think it's food. We do eat a bunch! Not many of you believe it's the bike. Since there has been no Voyager for 5 years, we have (and always have had) various models & makes of bikes. Y'all might think it's the rides. We have had many good rides. A lot of people have been attracted to us because we ride. By now y'all probably have the answer. It's the people!

Roger started the routine of a morning fire at the Caddo Lake Voyage Home. I noticed at LaGrange that the morning fire continued. A lot of talk about it may make it a mandatory event at our gatherings (haha). Of course, when we had the chance, we almost always had an evening fire. The other thing that has been decided (by me as a last decree), is that all future Voyage Homes will include a registration fee of 1 stuffed animal for donation to DPS or local sheriffs department for use with kids in bad situations. (Of course the group has to vote on this at the next HCT in Junction).....oh oh, I'm off subject.

As I was sitting around the fire at VH, with an adult beverage in hand, I noticed the large and small groups of people gathering together. They weren't riding, eating or sight-seeing. They were just simply enjoying each others company. Just like a family would. Remembering other times and other people. It felt good watching them. While they love riding, they also love each others company. They don't need to ride to find a common bond. They are all just good people. That's what the LSV is all about. Good people.

Of course we have a **new member** since the last newsletter. Very seldom does it happen there isn't a NewV to announce. Most of you know and fear him. It's the rainmaker himself, Chuck Hoefflin! Chuck is from Indiana and rides a Connie 14. He used to ride an '03 Voyager. It seems that every time he shows up to an LSV function, it rains. One time he was coming, got sick and

turned around for home. You guessed it. It was threatening rain, even sprinkled, then for some reason, cleared up! (haha) True story! This brings our new and renewed membership for 2009 to almost 40. The LSV has members in 10 states: TX, OK, NM, LA, OH, IN, NE, KS, IL & AR. Man have we grown!

Is anyone **missing an LSV t-shirt** with a pocket? It was given to me after I returned from the shower on Saturday night at VH in LaGrange. E-mail me or call if it's yours.

I saw and sat on the **new Vulcan Voyager** at the IMS in Houston. For some reason I thought I would have a different perspective after seeing it person. It is a very pretty bike. Unfortunately well, read my review elsewhere in this NL.

Our next gathering is the **Blessing of the Bikes** in San Antonio on January 1st. Last year there were 9 LSVers there, I wonder if we will top it this year? We will meet at the normal place, the Valero station on Hwy 46 about 2 miles east of Hwy 281. I'll get there around 9ish. We'll leave the station around 9:30. This is a slight change from the in times from the last newsletter. Rumor has it that Buddy, Richard, Hippi and Dennis are coming. Clyde is usually there if we find him. Anyone else?

I have an **updated 2009 calendar** for you:

Blessing of the Bikes	Jan 1 st	San Antonio
SFR (with EVA)	Mar 26-28	Alpine, TX
*Hill Country Tour	April 23-25	Junction, TX (AVA SC Regional)
AVA Nat'l Rally	July 14-16	Santa Fe, NM
*Voyage Home	Oct 8 -10	Paris, TX (area)
IMS	Nov (TBA)	Houston, TX

* - Denotes the two major Camp-ins with a business meeting

I would like to **wish y'all a very Merry Christmas** from the **Officers**:

Barry	President
Richard	VP & NL editor
Brenda	Sec/Treas
Dave	Road captain
Ray Holly	Chaplin
Rod	Web Master
John	Safety Officer

Hill Country Tour 2009, Junction, TX

The Fowlers & Dave Schani, our hosts, have stepped to the plate & already have a base hit. Preliminary scouting trip has been made. They've got 3 acceptable motels lined up (The Legends, The Hills, & The Sun Valley) & the campground is Morgan's Shady Park. Because Morgan's is a daytrip destination & not just an overnight campground, there will be a \$5 per person per day use fee for motel people visiting the campground and that \$5 campground fee gets you in & out all day long. I hope that the motel rates more than offset that monetary inconvenience.

All three of the motels have rates of about \$30 including tax for a single for 1, up to about \$50 for a double for 4. These are not special rates & you need to realize that budget motels in Junction will fill up quickly for April. All three of the motels are within sight of each other, scattered over about 2 blocks. In order to minimize motelers need to enter the \$5 park, we'll use the free City Park as a staging area for all rides and there will be a registration table at one of the motels.

We're going to have a looong (235-250 mile) guided ride south & west out of Junction to sample the 3 sisters part of the world & a "shorter" 160-170 mile guided ride for you long riders. We'll also have a guided ride probably in the 60-100 mile range and a few self-guided rides, both long & short. From what I've seen, there won't be the usual "paved goat paths." County roads aren't always paved in that locale so we'll be on US, TX, & RR routes. There will probably even a 150 mile round trip self-

guided ride that includes 120 miles of Interstate 10, with 80 mph speed limits for you straight-line riders. This event will again be an AVA Regional Ride-in. This time we're considered the South Central region. -SpeedBall

The Safety Corner: Rules For Group Riding

1. Arrive with a full tank of gas. Also be sure the air pressure of your tires is correct.
2. Before starting, let the ride leader know if you plan to deviate from the route or if you have special needs such as T. B. (tiny bladder), or G. G. (gas guzzler).
3. When starting, the leader moves out first, accelerating slowly enough for all bikes to move out in turn. No one should accelerate even with, or pass, another bike.
4. Each bike should ride in staggered formation within an automobile lane; the leader rides in the left tire track; the next rider, the right track, etc. We will use the 2-4 second rule. That is 2 seconds behind the rider immediately in front of you and 4 seconds behind the rider in front of you in your track. However, do not allow too much space to develop between bikes.
5. On curves, individual riders should pick their own track, then reform the staggered formation after the curve.
6. Everybody should be aware of everyone around him and watch out for objects in the road that may cause a rider to veer out of his position. If a rider has a problem with riding in staggered formation he will be asked to ride at the rear of the group, just in front of the tail bike. He should be aware that when he veers out of his staggered position and fails to return that he affects the rider he just pulled in front of by shortening his braking distance by half. Also that he just placed the rider he pulled in front of in an unsafe position and required him to slow which in turn slows the rest of the riders to his rear.
7. When stopping at a traffic light or stop sign, all bikes pull up, two abreast, directly behind the bike they were following. At stop signs, go through two at a time. Don't hurry; be sure the way is safe. We will wait for you if we get separated.
8. If someone in your group pulls to the shoulder of the road and stops, do not follow. The tail bike should be designated by the leader to stop and give assistance.
9. Be sure to check traffic before lane changes or other maneuvers. When passing other vehicles on a two-lane highway each bike should pass in order and in turn. The leader should accelerate far enough ahead for the rest of the group to pass, and the tail bike should inform the leader when the whole group has passed and is back in formation.
10. Groups should have a leader and rear tail equipped with CB radios when possible. The lead bike leads the group; the tail bike controls the group. Expect ride suggestions from the tail gunner and accept suggestions to improve the groups' riding performance.
11. All riders and co-riders should wear proper riding apparel; i.e., helmets, boots and motorcycle jackets if possible.
12. Relax and enjoy the ride, and remember, getting there is the fun!

LSV 2009 Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Hosts</u>
Jan 1, 2009	Blessing Of The Bikes	San Antonio	CMA
Mar 26-28	SFR (with EVA)	Alpine, TX	
Apr 23-25	*Hill Country Tour	Junction, TX	Fowler/Schani
July 14-16	AVA National Rally	Santa Fe, New Mexico	AVA
October 8-10 (??)	*Voyage Home	Paris, TX (area)	Bagley Clan
November ?	IMS	Houston	

*The asterisk denotes the 2 major camp-ins with business meetings. The dates for the VH should be announced in a latter newsletter and a confirmation of the dates for IMS (International Motorcycle Show) 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!

Nov. - Dec. Treasury Report Medical Fund

Beg. Balance	868.55	525.00*
Income	37.50	
Expenses	<u>138.25</u>	<u>300.00*</u>
End. Balance	767.50	225.00*

These will be my last reports as I will be retiring as your Sect./treas. come January when Sandra Judge will take over.

It has been my pleasure to serve in this position all these years. I hope to do so again some time in the future.

I am just retiring as sect/treas. not from the club, so I will be around. Hope to see you all at the SFR next year in March.

Have you gotten your membership renewals in??

Brenda

* Since the medical fund hasn't been previously published separately from the regular treasury, It is shown here for the first time with the beginning balance reflecting all monies that have ever gone into this fund & expenses shown as all expenses that have ever come out of this fund and the current balance. Our thanks to Roger Bagley for making a \$100 contribution to the med fund at VH.

Ride Report Junction to Brackettville to Junction (~237 miles)

In mid-November, I participated in a scouting trip to the Junction area in anticipation of having our 09 HCT there. Results were that our hosts have confirmed that location & the April 23-25 dates. Although there are several routes planned, they chose for this trip, the loong route. This was previously outlined by DS (Pathfinder) on our web site where he talked about butterflys and Brackettville. We started with 4 (Viejo, Dave, Mike G, & me) and eventually there were 5 (plus Ray H) in the ride group (a perfect number) & I rode tailgunner even though Viejo, the leader, could see us all in his mirrors (most of the time).

We left Mason for Junction at 7 a.m. It was 45 degrees, not counting the wind chill, & I was proud to be wearing my heavy jacket. As soon as we got out of town, we hit a wall of fog that didn't let up til we were almost to Junction. I could see the #3 rider's tail light nearly all the time & the #2 rider's lights (a well-lit HD) every once in awhile. Viejo announced the presence of 2 or 3 bar-ditch deer on the CB, but I never saw 'em. Kind of spooky. My windshield semi-frosted over, then thawed out twice during the 46 mile trip from Mason to Junction and the weirdest part was for the last 5 miles, we found sunlight and then hit a (relatively) hot, humid spot & everything fogged up again- like eyeglasses when you come in from the cold.

Breakfast at Isaack's in Junction, gassed up, zeroed the trip meter & began the "real" trip just before 9. The city bridge across the South Llano River is closed for construction. So to go South, we went North, back to US377 @ I10 & took I10 (yuk!) a few miles south to US83, then S. on 83 to Leakey. US83 is kind of blah until you get about 12 miles north of Leakey, then you hit that breath taking really, really, hill country stuff as suddenly as we'd hit the fog at Mason. It's about 60 miles from Junction to Leakey, we kept going (west now) another 25 miles to Camp Wood, where we inspected their plumbing facilities & gassed up the bikes with the peanut-sized tanks (we were pre-riding this for Gabi also). Leakey's probably a better first stop although both towns have plenty of all facilities & gas was cheaper than on the interstate at Junction.

Now we turn south on TX55 for 20 miles then west on RR334. Although numbered 334, it is NOT part of the 330's loop (3 sisters). RR334 is straight as an arrow & this is where, as previously

reported by DS, the desert starts. With a pretty-much-unheeded 55 mph zone, the scenery here was reminiscent of Big Bend, except flat for a pretty good stretch. 30 miles to Brackett, pit stop & north on RR 674 towards Rocksprings, Brackettville is home to Historic Ft. Clark, frontier home for Col. McKenzie & his Raiders. Six miles north of town on 674 (we didn't stop) is Alamo Village- a little tourist place where the John Wayne version of "The Alamo" movie was made. Brackett is the turn around point for this trip, although with about 130 miles on the trip meter, we are over halfway back to Junction. RR674 parallels the West Nueces River for quite a bit of its existence and there are some pretty good views of the river valley from up above on RR674. There's a good, unannounced scenic view pull off somewhere in there- I didn't clock its location, nor did we stop. On RR674, it's about 60 miles from Brackett to Rocksprings (& it's not ALL scenic). Although we didn't stop for lunch, RS is probably the spot to stop for lunch on this trip, unless you're waiting to get back to Junction. Rocksprings is the home of the Devils Sinkhole - a really big, deep hole in the ground. It's a state natural area & it's on private property, accessible only if you take the tour via bus. Those tiny-tanked Guzzi's are like a dog in a parking lot, stopping at every hubcap. We gassed up again & headed for Junction via US377. Where 377 parallels the S. Llano River, there is another scenic view pullout & this one is signed to give you enough notice to stop & look- you should do that.

Back in Junction, we went by the campground (Morgan's Shady RV) and about 3 motels to view rooms & get rate info (see the initial HCT blurb in this issue for more on that), then on back to Mason. Round trip from Mason back to Mason with one meal, 9 or 10 gas stops, & logistical stops in Junction was 8.5 hours. -SpeedBall

Richard's Ritings & Wridings

This'll be my last column here. I'm moving to the front page. We've had a good year- heck, several good years so far, I think. At the Voyage Home in La Grange in October, the club held officer elections for 2009-2010. Richard Baxter is the new president, John Herring is the new vice president & newsletter editor, Sandra Judge is the new secretary/treasurer, Rick Londigin is our new safety officer, Allen Hippi Boethel is our new Chaplain, Rodney Westphal continues to be our webmaster, and Dave Schani continues as our road captain. Barry's done a good job for a long time. This club has blossomed under his guidance. I don't pretend that I will lead like him or be as good a cheerleader as he, but I'll give it a shot. Brenda too, has set a pretty high benchmark for Sandra, but Sandra, like me, said she'd give it a shot & I know that John will be good help to me too. Thanks to Brenda & Barry for their years of service.

As this article is written, we already have **38** of our approximately 90 members renewed for 2009. We don't always see everybody, but we've got a lot of people that are interested in the status of fellow Kaw Voyager enthusiasts. I recall an Aggie joke wherein the Aggie sought psychologist help because he felt like something was missing in his life. The psych told him to go out & make 3 new friends & see what happens. On a return visit, the doc asked for a progress report & the Ag said, "Now it's even worse. I went out & made 3 new friends and nothing happened & now I'm stuck with these friends. More than being about a bike type, this bunch is friends & that's a good thing.

There's initial info here about Hill Country Tour 2009 and our planned Grand Tour for '09. I hope that you can be there with us. Also there's a registration app for SFR (Spring Fun Run) in Alpine with our neighbors, the EVA on hardcopies. If you have internet, go to the web site. **I hope this newsletter isn't too sappy but I'd already written this before I read Barry's Prez column & I didn't want to rewrite.**

The IMS Show

I did some rearranging of my Friday work schedule (don'tcha just hate working on Friday!?) so I could leave by 1pm to avoid bad traffic in Houston. BUT, I was surprised by the fact I was allowed to leave early so I was on the road by 12 noon! I was expecting light rain and clouds but got sunny skies, except for about 15 miles. Temps were in the low 60's. Of course I took the quick, direct route on I-10 to get to John and Brenda's. It's about 210 miles so I was planning on get there about 4pm.

Yup, I got there about 3:55, got my bags unpacked and an adult beverage in hand by the time John got home. He got home about an hour early. Great to see both of them again. They are such good friends! They are like a brother and sister to me. Heck, I even have my own room!

Like always, I quizzed John about his knowledge of safety gear. John has been a great safety officer the past year and will be a good VP for the LSV. John even offered me a pair of leather pants, 'cause he new I was looking for some. Alas, they were too short....go figure (haha). Believe it or not, John and I were discussing locations for the 2010 HCT and VH! John has some good ideas that he will bounce off the officers this next year. One of them may involve long time member Clyde Semar.....I guess I need to call him and let him know.

OK, now the IMS. Of course we had to stop and eat on the way. We had breakfast at Cracker Barrel and it was good. Then on to the show.

We dropped Brenda off at the door of the Reliant Center and parked the truck. On the way back to Brenda, we stopped at some of the ride trucks. I signed up to ride a HD Ultra Classic. There wasn't a Yamaha Venture Royal to ride, or GW. I didn't see a Vision either.....John probably wouldn't have given me a ride home if I had ridden a Vision! I had an hour wait for my test ride. We found Brenda and headed in. I checked my gear at the Progressive desk and stood in line for a ticket. J&B had purchased an e-ticket so they went right in. The wait was relatively short. I met J&B at the entrance and we headed straight for the Kaw area.

The new "**Voyager**" looks just like the pictures. I guess for some reason I thought seeing it in person would be different. Brenda asked about passenger arm rests and they are not available right now. Rear speakers are also available and would be placed where the arm rests attach to the trunk on the present Voyager. I found out that the CB will be placed in the fairing, not the saddlebag. The trunk is adequate but the bags are very small. I had the Kaw rep open the fairing pockets. The one on the right side is small but deep. The left pocket is about the same but contains the harnesses for the Ipod and another electronic gizmo. The oil filter is very accessible. It's a twist on (from the front) like a car. It is very small in diameter. I think it would be easy to change without a center stand but how do you get the bike level? The choice of colors is good. I like the blue over the deep burgundy or silver. The passenger seat seems to let the passenger lean back but doesn't support them sitting up straight. The pilot's seat was comfy when sitting on it for a few minutes and low to the ground. I talked to a couple of Vulcan owners and I think I saw drool! They love it. John's reaction was cold and mine was cool. It's definitely not the Voyager we all know and love. When the time comes to replace Vinnie. I will look, but probably not buy. It depends what's on the market at the time.

The test ride on the HD was about what I expected. Kaw and KTM took groups out for a ride but HD let you take the bike for a ride by yourself. They did have some arrows marked on the route they wanted you to take, but knowing the area so well, I deviated from the route and finally found the Reliant center after about 40 minutes. They may have thought I stole the thing! It seemed to handle better than Vinnie. [I need to get those progressive shocks installed] Lower center of gravity might be the reason. The u-turns I made were very easy. The radio was great! Controls were somewhat awkward probably because they are different from Vinnie. When I returned, my feet were somewhat numb so the smoothness touted by some HD friends of mine were not accurate. However, I could still feel my hands. It also seemed to run a lot more quiet than almost all the HD's I hear on the road (except for da Judges!).

There were quite a few vendors but I did not find the pants I was looking for. Oh well, the search continues. I think I will try the Beemer dealer in Austin. I had just a short time in the building. I wanted to try to get home before dark.

Of course we had to eat on the way home! We stopped at Sammys Coney Island and had.....coney dogs! They were goooood! Then it was off to J&B's to find Vinnie and hope he didn't 'smell' another bike on my pants (haha).

I made really good time on the way home. I left around 3:20 and drove into the driveway about

5:55. After I stopped for gas in Sealy, another road bike came up from behind and road with me for about 100 miles. It looked like a Vision. After about 30 minutes he pulled up next to me. I think he was wondering "what the heck kind of bike is that?". I motioned to him to follow me off at the Flatonia exit (thought of you Hippi). We talked for a while. It was an '08 Vision, black. He was from San Antonio. Name was Paul. He had the Vision for about 4 ½ months and had 4700 on it. He rides! He rode up to the IMS that morning. I invited him to look at our web site and join us for the Blessing on January 1st. I hope he shows up and I can find him. He wanted to check out his CB. So, he changed out helmets (to a modular Nolan) and we were able to talk on the way home. He had a problem with the CB only transmitting for about 6 seconds then shutting off. We had a good chat. I left him at Hwy 46.

I called J&B when I got home as requested and posted on the forum. It was a great time. Lots of emotions. Elation and disappointment all rolled into one.

MusicMan

Lone Star Voyager Grand Tour 2009

We're going to try a Grand Tour. During the 2009 riding season we'll have a competition where the entrants go to courthouses & take a picture of their bike in front of the courthouse and/or courthouse information sign. The picture will need to identify the name of the county (or parish) and the name of the state clearly enough so that a viewer of the picture will know where you've been. There'll be a specific "object" to be named later that must also be in the picture. This, to show that the picture was taken during the correct timeline. This contest will begin (entry package available) as of the Thursday of Hill Country Tour this next April and will end about three weeks before Voyage Home in October (to give time to evaluate entries). Not limited to LSV members, the contest will be to get pics in front of 16 different courthouses whose namesake counties start with each letter in the phrase "LONE STAR VOYAGERS". You'll need one courthouse for each letter (which includes 2 different courthouses each for the letters O, E, A, R, & S).

Since Texas is so big & our other member states don't have all 16 letters in them, there'll be multiplier points available for pics that are taken further from your home address. Ellis county OK would probably be more points for me than Ellis county TX, but probably vice versa for the Judges. \$10 entry, small prizes designed to yield more for the designated charity that will benefit from this. Not chosen but I'm leaning toward Salvation Army. Slightly more detailed & finalized rules, except for the designated "object" will be on the web site soon. -SpeedBall