



## Newsletter Vol. 7. #1 Jan-Feb 2009

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 Sandra Judge will accept dues and applications at RR1 Box 162A, Mooreland, OK. 73852. (580)994-2411.

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 our new President, **Richard Baxter**, in Liberty Hill (512-515-0133), [richadntexas@dishmail.net](mailto:richadntexas@dishmail.net), (RB's email is new) or our new Vice President, John Herring, in Liberty, TX. (936-336-2840) [voyagerjohn@gmail.com](mailto:voyagerjohn@gmail.com) or our new Sec/Tres **Sandra Judge**, [jjudge@pldi.net](mailto:jjudge@pldi.net) for more information. Hope you can join us.

### Richard's Ritings & Wridings

New year, same old friends. At the end of 2008, we had about 44 members that'd already signed on for 2009, & now as of Feb. 9, we're up to 58 and hopefully, will continue to increase as returning members continue to get around to renewing. We currently have members in TX, AR, AZ, IN, NE, NM, OH, & OK! I'm proud to be an officer in such a widespread motorcycle club.

By the time we have our next newsletter, Hill Country Tour will be upon us. You need to make a reservation at either the campground or one of those motels & join us. I hope that John attaches a registration application to the snail mail copies of this edition and that you folks get your registrations in so the hosts can better plan the event. The registration fee went up from \$8 to \$10 but with that, we have added a Saturday night BBQ meal. The best phone number for making a campground reservation with the Morgan Shady RV Park is 325/446-2580. The other number, 446-2071 is not always answered.

As previously noted, we're going to have a Grand Tour this year. Take a pic of your bike in front of 16 different courthouses. Detailed rules will be issued on the first day of HCT, then on the web site immediately after HCT (when Rodney & I get back to our computers), and snail mailed to our non-net members also immediately after HCT. Remember there'll be a specific object required in the photo to prove the timeline, so don't start early.

We've got some new members:

**Kevin Sawatsky** of Caddo Mills joined in November after the last newsletter. His ride is a 93 Voyager. **John Barton** of New Braunfels, new member but has attended several of our events riding his 08 HD Heritage Softail. **Del & Jim Miksovsky** of Sun City, AZ on an 01 Voyager, are new members but old friends who've been with the Voyager riders since back when TX was part of the AR, group. We're hoping these newVs & Rainman Hoefflin will all make it to HCT for our planned newV activities. ;)

There is supposed to be a ride pin for Voyage Home and a hanger bar that tells what year(s) you attended. We are out of the main pins (but that will hopefully be corrected by Paris) and the 2008 hanger bars are now in hand. If you registered for VH 2008 at La Grange and have not been contacted

by me about the '08 hanger bar(s), let me know- I might have left you off the list. Not Chip & Rocky- you're on the list, just no electronic communication. - Richard SpeedBall Baxter

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## **Treasury Report**

Beg. Balance	\$842.00
Income	\$45.00
Expenses	<u>\$192.40</u>
End. Balance	\$694.60

## **Medical Fund**

\$225.00

Note:

*The LSV does not have a separate bank account for medical funds. The amount shown above is flagged as Medical Funds and is included in the above Treasury Report.*

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## **The Safety Corner:**

Greetings all;

With this being my first newsletter article as the Lone Star Voyagers Safety Officer I want to say thanks to the outgoing LSV leadership for the great work done for the Chapter's success & in the vote of confidence in offering me this position.

My main goal as LSV Safety Officer is to offer information and thought provoking topics of discussion in regards to motorcycle safety. There will also be various topics touched upon that will be posted on the LSV website homepage that I hope you find useful. It is not my intention to make this an opinion column, however I do have a very strong opinion concerning safety apparel, mainly helmets & apparel gained from prior occupational and personal experiences.

So, to get started, here's a question.....What is motorcycle safety? Ask that question to any number of people & you will probably get just as many initial different answers. But it all comes down to the same thing and that is ending your ride right side up, dropping the kick stand and walking away.

But to accomplish that goal there are a lot of things that have to happen, from pre-ride inspection to parking the bike & turning the key off.

Some of the things needed for a successful ride is a mechanically sound bike, safety apparel from head to toe (fingers included), being mentally alert to ones surroundings, being visible to other traffic & to some, being heard. These will be discussed in more detail later.

Motorcycle riding is inherently dangerous. It's what we do when riding that can put the odds in our favor or conversely increase the odds against us. I'd like to ask each of you to do one thing before your next trip out on the road & that is to do ask yourself a few questions. Am I mentally ready for this ride? Is my bike in sound mechanical shape? When I'm riding do I check side street intersections when I come upon one? Do I maintain vigil lookout 2 car lengths ahead when I'm in traffic? Am I constantly scanning my surroundings looking for that one person that is about to pull out in front of me?

Do I ride in a manner that promotes a safe and positive image of a biker?

What can I do to improve my safety while riding my beloved bike?

The next time you go out on a ride whether it's to/from work or a pleasure trip with friends do your part to make it a safe trip.

Until next time;

Fuel'em up, Rev'em up & enjoy the open road.

Rick Londagin

LSV Safety Officer

# Helmets To Wear OR Not to Wear Aka “I just hate helmet hair”

Do we as motorcyclists wear leather garments to look cool or be protected?

Why do we wear textile/mesh jackets with padding in strategic locations? In all likelihood it's for protection against road rash & injury if we go down with our bikes.

If that's the case, then why do so many people not protect their heads by wearing a helmet?

I've not ever been able to figure that one out.

I've heard arguments about loss of peripheral vision to being uncomfortable & hot. I've heard it said that “I'm only going a few blocks” or “A helmet messes up my hair” {helmet hair}.

According to a study done in 1994 by the National Public Services Research Institute, a helmet does not take away from any peripheral vision or auditory (hearing) ability.

What about your family? Would they like not having you around? I'd be willing to bet they'd love your helmet hair. Now for those that shave their head or by other genetic means don't have any hair, pretend that you have a head of hair like Elvis. Your family would still love to rub “The Chrome Dome”.

I've heard the argument that helmets won't protect you in a frontal impact. I'd have to agree with you, to a point. That would depend on your speed as you did the Superman trick & flew through the air to the point of impact. According to accident reports & the physical evidence noticed on helmets that have been studied by the NHTSA (Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Assoc.) and Dr. Harry Hurt (author of The Hurt Report), most head impacts are not a direct frontal impact but more of a glancing hit or side impact. In these instances a helmet would do wonders for keeping the “gray matter” intact & contained in its original container. It may get bruised a bit, but it would all be where it is supposed to be.

It's been argued by some that helmets are the cause of head & neck injuries in a crash. That is totally and completely false.

The crash itself causes the injuries, not the helmet. If one was not involved in a crash, then one wouldn't be injured.

Seems that would make it worth while to put up with a case of “helmet hair”.

Texas only requires helmets to be worn by persons younger than 18 or in certain recreation areas where posted as required for all riders, **OR** if one is covered with a minimum \$10,000.00 medical insurance. I don't think \$10, K would cover much more than the registration, the so called “necessity pack” of tissue, foam cup, plastic pitcher, lotion, mouth wash, tooth paste, & the puke pan. Oh yes, let us not forget that oh so drafty rear open gown “rental”. This of course doesn't cover any lost wages bestowed upon you or family members tending to your care while recuperating.

Here's a few numbers to think about:

- The first year that Texas had a helmet requirement for all operators & passengers, the fatality rate for motorcycle accidents dropped 23%.
- In the first year following the repeal of this law, fatal motorcycle wreck INCREASED by 31%.
- Based on numbers from 2004, the states that require minors to wear helmets, 40% of those fatalities were not wearing helmets even though required.
- A study done by the NHTSA between the years of 1984 through 2004, IF all riders involved in crashes would have been wearing helmets an additional 10,838 additional lives would have been saved.

It's a personal choice that affects you and your family. Make the choice wisely.

These facts and figures came from a NHTSA safety publication put out in January of 2006.

Until next time, Fuel'em up, Rev'em up & enjoy the open road.

Rick Londagin  
LSV Safety Officer

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### **Rules for Group Riding:**

Arrive with a full tank of gas. Also be sure the air pressure of your tires is correct.

1. 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).
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. On curves, individual riders should pick their own track, then reform the staggered formation after the curve.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. All riders and co-riders should wear proper riding apparel; i.e., helmets, boots and motorcycle jackets if possible.
11. Relax and enjoy the ride, and remember, getting there is the fun!

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### **Ride Reports for The Blessing of the Bikes:**

#### *Ride Report from MM.*

Sandi left for work about 6:20am. I got up about 7:30, walked the dog and made the coffee. I thought I had gotten up early enough! I heard a bike pull up about 8. I thought I was mistaken until I heard another bike outside. I went out and there was Debbie and John two of the three I was expecting to ride with to the Valero station. They were early. We had some coffee waiting for Jimbo. About 8:25, Jimbo called and said he would meet us at the Valero.

When we rolled into the Valero there were about 6 bikes already there. I thought it was another group until I saw Jimbo and Dennis Ray. Walt had trouble with his garage door and got there about

9:20 just before Richard and Dennis Cadran. We had 4 ladies with us!! I commented to Richard about this and he said, "It must be a younger crowd." He was ready to take over the reins of the LSV sporting a white hat and a new 'president' patch.

There were 10 bikes that left for the Blessing!! The biggest group I've led there. It was over 40 so a lot of bikers turned out for the Blessing. I'd guess about 400 bikes were there. I saw a Voyager when we got there. I guessed it was David and Sheila Lawson from Marlin, TX. They eventually found us in the registration line. They are very nice people and of course we talked about Voyagers.

I went through the bikes after registration to see if there were any other Voyagers. Sure enough, I found a 1986 with about 95k on the clock. Richard left a card on the bike and he found us later. He had some questions about the bike since he had only had it about a year. DS went to give him some help and information....the poor guy! (haha)

While waiting for the Blessing to begin, another guy came over and introduced himself to me. He had already been talking to Dennis. It was Scott from Illinois. He was visiting his son in S.A. and came with him to the Blessing. Of course I asked him if he road down and he said something about snow and cold, so he said no, he didn't.

I can't forget to mention that Clyde Semar road in with a group while I was looking for Voyagers and he had his wife, Chong, with him. She's a nice lady that I met for the first time.

After the Blessing, a few from our group had to get back so only 7 of us on 6 bikes ( 4 voyagers, a HD and a lawn mower..er...BMW) went to eat at the Shade Tree. We had a great conversation and got to know David & Sheila better. Dennis surprised me with a gift of a new speedo cable for inviting him to join the group. Actually, I think it was from his wife in appreciation of me getting Dennis out of the house more! After lunch we said our good byes. I hope I see more of David & Sheila, but they can't make SFR. Maybe HCT in Junction.

LSVers present were: myself, Richard, Dennis C., Dennis R., DS, Clyde. Hopefully Jimbo renews and David & Sheila will become NewV's.

On a bit of a downer, Dennis' son Paul was supposed to ride along but hit a deer hit him broadside on his way to Burnett. The bike was totaled but he was OK, just some bruises. Let's keep Paul in our thoughts and prayers. Remember those stupid big brown rodents will run out in front and into anything, so always keep your eyes moving.

I guess I've rambled enough. Keep the rubber side down. See Ya' in Big Bend.  
MusicMan

### [Ride Report from SB](#)

#### Blessing of the Bikes 2009

Well New Years day dawned at 30 °F- pretty chilly but 6 degrees warmer than last year so, much appreciated. I left the house at 7:15 intending to meet Dennis & Paul Cadran in Burnet & leave there by 8:15. The trip went much faster than I'd expected & I got there 15 min. early. Dennis was already there gassing his bike. No Paul. We drank coffee then D. called Paul & learned that he had been centerpunched by a deer at about 7:30. He & the bike pretty banged up but bike was rideable & Paul could still ride, but not to San Antonio. The two of us proceeded uneventfully to the Valero station 2 mi east of US281 on TX46. Quite a large group of riders there. LSV members now included Dave S, Dennis R, & Barry B. Eight bikes left there for San Antonio at 9:30. We had about 4 riders vying to be tail gunner- none with a CB, so I rode CB-armed tailgunner from the #4 slot & assured Barry occasionally that we were all still together, although sometimes I was guessing.

We arrived at about 10 for an event that was going to start at about 11 and yet there were already about 200 bikes there. CMA (Christian Motorcyclist Assn) does this deal up right. They had coffee, stew & soup. They've done away with doughnuts in favor of providing a hot brunch. It was good.

As we kicked tires we discovered LSV member Clyde Semar of Beeville & LSV prospects Dave & Sheila Lawson from Marlin. We also made contact with Scott from IL, an AVA member who was in Santone for the holidays. We all got blessed & made plans for lunch (of course). The group made its

way back to the Shade Tree Restaurant, on 281 in Spring Branch. We ate burgers & played with Barry's new GPS (it won't work in a sheet iron-roofed building).

After lunch, we broke into smaller groups & headed home. By this time, it was probably in the mid-50s, making for a more pleasant return trip. -SpeedBall

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### **What to do when it's too cold to ride**

Hey, let's replace the rear tire.

1. O.K. Start -remove rear wheel to bring to dealer.
2. O.K. Wonder how my swing-arm bearings are. Remove swing-arm, observation-great shape and well greased. (16k miles) heard some weren't greased at factory.?
3. O.K. ,let's check drive shaft while I'm here. Removed, checked bearings, looks great and well greased. Heard some weren't greased at factory.
4. O.K., let's check final drive while I got it out. Is the vent hole open- NO. Drill out vent hole. Change oil- Mobile 1 Syn. 1/4 inch below the fill opening is the recommended fill level.

Note: don't worry about cuttings getting into hub, they can't, as the oil runs out when you break through. Unless you're doing it on the bike.

5. Five nuts (shock) and its off and you can do it on the bench, much easier I think.

Also, my thoughts on repairs. Use your head when it comes to removing parts, study what you're about to do and come up with an attack plan.

The manuals are famous for having you do needless work. It's so they can jack up the labor rate when they make out the bill.

They have books for that, to tell them how much TIME to charge on a given repair. Doesn't mean they spend that time.

YES, It's all back together. As for the rear tire, I put 11,260 miles on it and its got 3/32 left.

I put the same model back on. Metzler ME880 .New it's 10/32.

I never got that many miles out of a tire before. YIPPI.

The end Dennis C.



Picture of drilled out vent hole in rear hub.

### **Up and Coming:**

#### **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 loooong (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

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## 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

## LSV 2009 Calendar:

Date	Event	Place	Hosts
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!

## HILL COUNTRY TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

The LSV Hill Country Tour 2009 will be April 23rd through 25th, 2009, & is open to all LSV members & guests.

Bruce & Jane Fowler & Dave Schani will be your hosts. Headquarters for this event will be at the Morgan Shady RV Park, 600 S. 6th St. <MorganShadyPark.com> which is located just South of Main St. (TX 481) on the northwest bank of the S. Llano River, in Junction, Texas. The rate per night is \$30.00 for full hook-ups and \$25.00 for tent sites. Additional tents per site are \$5.00 per person, so sharing a site would reduce the cost. Call 325-446-2071 for reservations and let them know you are with the Lone Star Voyagers group and if you will be sharing a tent site. Since the Park is a daytime destination, there is a day use fee of \$5 per person per day for those not camping (the motel people), but we hope the low motel rates will compensate for that. We will try to make arrangements so that those staying in the motels will not have to come to the camp ground more than one time. There will be a registration table at the Hills Motel as well as at the RV Park.

There are three close-together motels. The Legends Inn, 1908 Main, 325/446-8644, the Hills Motel, 1520 Main, 325/446-2567 and the Sun Valley Motel 1611 Main, 325/446-2505. Rates are from about \$30 for a single for 1 to about \$45-55 per night for two queen beds for 4 people, including tax for all three motels. These budget motels fill quickly in Junction in April.

All activities except the Saturday night BBQ are pay as you go. To help defray expenses please remit \$10.00 per person with your registration.

Make checks payable to:

**Jane Fowler**; Send payment with this form to: **Jane Fowler P.O. Box 1419 Mason, TEXAS 76856-1419**

**Before you send your application**, check with our website [LoneStarVoyagers.org](http://LoneStarVoyagers.org) for an updated registration app. and the agenda. Bruce and Jane can be reached by hard-wire phone @ 325-347-6664. If no answer, leave a message.

For CB radio use, we'll be on ch24.

**Pilot Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Co-Pilot Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approximate Miles to Event:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Will be staying at:** Campground / Motel (Circle one); If at Campground - Will have Hook-ups / Tent (Circle one)

**Will arrive Thursday / Friday / Saturday:** (Circle one)

**Club Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed: (\$10.00 per person) x people: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

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:** \_\_\_\_\_