



## Newsletter Vol. 7. #3 May-June 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 President, **Richard Baxter**, in Liberty Hill (512-515-0133), [richadntexas@dishmail.net](mailto:richadntexas@dishmail.net), or our Vice President, John Herring, in Liberty, TX. (936-336-2840) [voyagerjohn@gmail.com](mailto:voyagerjohn@gmail.com) or our Sec/Tres **Sandra Judge**, [jjudge@pldi.net](mailto:jjudge@pldi.net) for more information. Hope you can join us.

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

The deadline for this newsletter is going to come before our 2nd trip to Beeville so I can only preview it. In a couple of days, a few of us are going to go down & say hi to LSVer Chong Semar & see how she is recovering from the bike wreck that injured her and killed her husband. The club is going to make our memoriam for Clyde Semar, to her instead of to a previously designated charity.

About Clyde. He was a biker. That was his passion. He had at least two bikes- the 1200 HD that he used mostly for his solo rides and the V12 for when Chong was accompanying him. They're located so far south that we didn't get to see them very often. They made at least one HCT and then he made it up to La Grange last fall for the VH. Mostly, the two of them showed up on new year's day in San Antonio & we'd always count him among the few Voyagers to be seen at that affair. Most of his social riding was done with the local bike group there in Beeville. Clyde was my inspiration for the (apparently) ill-fated Grand Tour of courthouses that only 3 of us are involved in this year. Clyde had shown me some pictures of his bike in front of South Texas courthouses. He just thought they made a good picture backdrop & was riding from courthouse to courthouse smiling for the camera. His was in the printing profession & had created the ataboy certificates to be used in that courthouse run. Like all of you folks, I considered him to be a friend.

Voyage Home for 2009 is firming up. It is confirmed now for the dates of October 9 & 10 at Pat Mayes Lake just north of Paris Texas (i.e., just south of the Red River). The camping area will be in the West section of that lake area. It's a federal facility (Corps of Engineers), so if you've got that Fed golden age pass, you'll get a discount for entry. Russ says he's got two sort-of-close-by motels- one is cheap, er, budget, and the other is newer, nicer & more expensive. I don't have word on RV space availability yet. These dates do not conflict with the CMA rally in Hatfield, AR., which is two weeks later.

Everything that we'd heard about Chong is true. She got beat up pretty badly but evidently she is tough. She appears to be healing nicely. Two more months in a body brace to steady her back bone injuries. She has lots of help - friends & family & sometimes little grandchildren. We got to visit for awhile. She asked us to share her thanks with all the folks in LSV.

-Richard

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## In Memoriam

I was talking with some members after a tremendous downpour. Of course Rain Man Chuck was in Mason for the HCT 2007! I heard someone say that another green Voyager had just arrived. I thought it was another '03, but it turned out to be Clyde Semar on his 1998 forest green Voyager.

Clyde had been on the roster for a couple years but I had never met him. This was kind of typical for the LSV because the state is so big. He rode in with Jay Harris and another. This was his first attended event. He seemed to be a quiet spoken, reserved, intelligent man. He knew what he wanted and how to get there.

After talking with him for a bit, I told him he needed to make more of our events. He then said that he had been at 2 previous events....the Blessing of the Bikes in San Antonio. I told him he was wrong because we never saw him there. Apparently, he always looked for us but we were gone by the time he got there.

We did meet up with him twice after that at the Blessing, the last being January 2009. Some of you may remember him arriving on Saturday at last year's VH in LaGrange. He stayed for about an hour and then left before "deer season" so he could get home safely. He wrote an article about his trip to LaGrange, it being a part of a 'courthouse' ride for another motorcycle group, and submitted it to Speed ball for inclusion in a NL. Nice article....even pictures.

I was shopping in Wal-Mart when I got the call from Speedball about Clyde's accident. I had to lean against a shelf. Clyde was 57 and left his wife, Chong, his mother, two sons and other relatives I didn't quite pick up on, sorry. His love of riding was very evident in the attendees. There was an overflow section of just bikers from his Riders of the Purple Sage club. There were 10 LSVers in attendance on 8 bikes, 2 came in cages. There were 32 bikes total in the procession. Hippi led the procession through town when requested by Tomas, a club leader, because of his 3'x5' flags his had mounted on the Red Baron.

We will probably do a joint ride with the other club. I hope it is a Clyde Semar memorial ride.

The ride to Beeville was dry except for about a 20 mile downpour around Seguin. We started with four: John B., Speedball, MusicMan and Catfish. When we stopped at Stockdale for Gatorade, DS saw us and rode the rest of the way with us. The ride home was bright and sunny (and warm). Four of us, Hippi, Don S, Catfish and myself, went to visit Chong at University Hospital in San Antonio. She was in good spirits and animated considering her injuries: a broken collar bone, broken ribs on both sides, broken leg and broken spine. She was very happy to see us and remembered me from the Blessing of the Bikes in January this year. I would like to conclude with the poem read at his funeral:

The gypsy wind, it called your name,  
No time to say good-bye.  
You left us here alone, old friend,  
To take your final ride.

The world it couldn't tame your soul,  
You lived your life with pride.  
Now you soar free-like an eagle,  
You're on your final ride.

Your memory won't fade, old friend,  
We'll hold you deep inside.  
We'd come with you if, we only could,  
Upon you final ride

It's time to say so long, old friend,  
As you take your final ride.  
We'll keep you with us in our hearts,  
If not riding by our side.

Clyde Vincent Semar

**He will be remembered, and fondly!**

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## **The Safety Corner:**

No true Biker would ever assume that the car with the flashing turn signal is actually going to make a turn. Or for that matter that a car approaching you from the opposite direction will not turn directly in front of you. So give the cars the R E S P E C T (they are much bigger than a motorcycle) that they deserve and give them plenty of room.

This next part is for those of us who tow a small cargo trailer behind their motorcycle. It is food for thought and I thought it interesting. I think that the web site that I copied this from is a source of some very good information for motorcyclist. Check it out.

John Herring, ~~LSV Safety Officer~~ Vice President

The following articles are from a web site [www.msgroup.org](http://www.msgroup.org) select "tips and techniques."

Enjoy.

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*Authored by James R. Davis*

*While at my favorite cycle accessory shop the other day I met a man who was the proud owner of a new Wing and a color-coordinated trailer that he was polishing mightily in preparation for a week out on the road.*

*He had 20 years riding experience and has 'always' had a trailer, so he said.*

*We talked at length about handling characteristics, effects on gas mileage, tire wear (including that of the rear tire on the bike), and proper weight distribution and loading practices. All in all I believe I learned a lot from him.*

*Then I noticed his hitch. It was a beauty - all chrome and besides having the typical ball connector, it had a swivel in it. Even the chains he used were chromed!*

*So what's this message all about? Those chains. The man did not have them crossed. In all his years of pulling a trailer nobody had ever bothered to tell him to cross those chains so that they form a 'catch' for the tongue should the hitch ever disconnect from the ball. (When he left the accessory shop they were crossed.)*

*If that man's hitch had ever managed to dislodge from the ball the tongue would have dug itself into the pavement and a good ride would have been over! Further, unlike what happens when you lose a trailer from the back-end of a car or truck, the trailer's tongue is right in line with the motorcycle's rear tire. Even if it could not quite reach the ground should it disconnect, that tongue can certainly reach the tire if the chains are too long. In all, bad news!*

*So, when you attach that trailer to your bike be sure to cross a pair of chains under its tongue before connecting the chains to the hitch and be sure that the chains are not so long that the tongue can reach your rear tire after a disconnect.*

*Also, don't use cheap spring clip connectors on the end of those chains. If those chains are supporting the tongue of your trailer and you were to then stand on that tongue (as some policemen are apt to try to 'test' them), they MUST HOLD.*

*Incidentally, in most states you are required to use TWO chains when pulling a trailer, and in every state you are totally responsible for any damage that the trailer might cause should it get away from you.*

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## Ride Reports

### Cleburne & rode FM 4 to Jacksboro

We are new to touring and I had got a subscription to Ride TEXAS and had seen all these great rides in Texas so I thought it would be a good way to "get into shape" for the AVA Santa Fe Rally in July. In the latest copy there was a ride on FM 4 from Jacksboro south to Granbury then back to the "MetroPlex". Well, we live in Marlin, Central Tx, so looking at a map, I figure we could go up Hwy 6 to Waco then FM 933 to Cleburne then the Famous FM 4 to Granbury and on to Jacksboro, eat, then back down 281 to Granbury, Cleburne, Whitney, Waco then home. 440 miles. Should be a "piece of cake". Good "training for the wife & self". We had a plan so Saturday we fired up the Voyager & off we go. Weather said "maybe rain but mostly "light showers to the south & west of Austin". FM 933 is a good ride to Whitney. Mostly a good road, gently curves, smooth road & lots of scenery. Whitney is a small lake/tourist town but another story. No rain. Took FM 933 to Cleburne, turned West on FM 4 & immediately understood what Ride Texas meant about "North Tx Hill Country". Rolling hills, twisty roads & beautiful scenery. Got into Granbury & it was their celebration time downtown. Looked at all vendors stuff & just as we were leaving a few drops. Just a few. I have to say the road from Granbury to I20, we played dodge the drops. We finally stopped at I20 & put on our Frogg Toggs. Talked to a couple from Dallas. They were on their way to Fredricksburg but had stopped for the rain & didn't have rainsuits. It wasn't "cool". Back on the road, we did a detour for the Palo Pinto lake. Very nice blue green lake with a very curvy road around it. Stopped in Palo Pinto for gas & TAKE off the frogg toggs then on to Jacksboro. We didn't have the time but Possum Kingdom is along the way but also for another day. Got into Jacksboro & stopped at the Green Frog for lunch. Maybe not the best choice. It started raining as we were eating so on go the FTs & back on the road to home. We played with the rain on US 281 until we got to FM 4 then turn back to Granbury. Sheila wanted to stop to take th FTs off & said "I don't care if it does rain, I will do without them. We played with the rain until we got into Cleburne. Sprinkle, Sprinkle, POUR. Best of all we had to stop at a light. A guy in a cage pulled up beside us & just smiled. Soaked, we pull into a C-store & dripped outside. Sheila ask what we do if it rains & I said we just wait. A friend of mine said "riding motorcycles is fun, riding motorcycles in the rain isn't so the best thing to do is wait." Anyway we waited out the rain then rode home. Over all it was a good not great day. 440 miles. Didn't fall down. saw some beautiful scenery.

It was a great Day.

David Lawson

### Breakfast ride from Johnson City, May 15, 09

Pretty good turnout for a pretty short-notice ride. We met at the Country Cupboard Restaurant at 9:30. Attending were Speakeasy & MusicMan from New Braunfels, Cattfish from San Angelo, Los Viejo & Mike G. from Mason, the Inspector from Lampasas & me from Liberty Hill. After a very good (Dennis bought!!!) meal, we rode to Blanco for the start point of an old HCT ride. Down CR102, sort of parallel to & west of US281 to almost Kendalia. West on RR473 thru Sisterdale & on to Comfort. En route, MM & I were joking on the CB about being hungry again, so Leader Los V called our bluff & went straight to Double D restaurant, where we pit stopped (but didn't eat again) & plotted the next leg of the run. Mike & Viejo had bidness in Junction so they headed west on I10 (ugh!). The remaining 5 of us backtracked a little, took Old Number 9 ( the bat cave road) toward Luckenbach. I didn't get lost but I was confused for a couple of moments. On Old #9 (also called OSR - but it's not THE OSR), I was looking for the Grapetown road sign which wasn't there, so we drove past it to turn toward Lbach on Luckenbach-Cain City Rd. When we got back over to 1376, I was thinking maybe we'd turned East before we got up to G'town & maybe we're south of L'bach. Do I turn left or right? I asked MusicMan & we went with his gut feeling because he's hardly ever wrong. It worked! We moseyed into downtown Luckenbach where I had an adult beverage with a delish Bratwurst sandwich.

Here, we split again. Barry & John B headed south & east back to Blanco & home while John W, Dennis & I went to Fredericksburg, gassed up & split again. John headed north on US87 back to Sangelo while Dennis & I went north on TX16 (& dangerously close to Enchanted Rock SP. When we "neared" the Rock, my deer shoulder started hurting. Dennis & I rode together back to Burnet where he went north & I

continued East & home. Good ride with good folks. -SpeedBall

### **Overnight at Junction (again)**

On kind of short notice, Dave S thought he'd spend a weekend at Morgan Shady Rest and a few of us decided to join him. We gathered on Friday Jun 19, camped Friday & Sat nights with a ride on Saturday & go home on Sunday. I couldn't make but the first night.

I left the house at about 12:30 Friday and took a leisurely route to Junction. I traveled SW thru the country to Marble Falls using FM1869 & FM1431, then south on US281 almost to Johnson City and west on FM1323 thru Sandy & Willow City then into Fredericksburg for a pit stop. West on US290 to Harper & NW from Harper using Ranch Roads to get on to Junction. The weather was unseasonably cool with clouds threatening rain for a little bit. I think the high was low 90s. Lots of roadkill & buzzards (they asked about MM) but only one suicidal deer in the road in the heat of the day. I missed her this time. It was 154 miles for me from L. Hill to Junction.

I made this trip without the trailer, packing all my things into a duffel bag (not a sea bag, Dennis). It worked pretty good & left my overall mileage at 44.5 mpg. I got there at 3:30ish & DS & Inspector were already set up. I pitched my tent & we went swimming in the river (note to self: pack water socks for such an event next time). While in the water, I told the guys I'd just watched Lonesome Dove again & I sure hope this isn't where the Cottonmouths swim. Two minutes later something stung my foot & I screamed like a little girl. The water was just right not too cold but certainly refreshing.

Supper at Isaack's, cold beer under the stars, to bed about 10:30. The Brownie Scouts two camp sites away stayed up a little later playing squealing games.

We left at 7:45 a.m. for Mason to meet Los Viejo for breakfast at Willow Creek. On leaving the restaurant, Cattfish was a little concerned about his tire pressure so we went to a service station for air. I guess he got that ironed out- I was distracted by a mid-20s blonde in a low cut wedding dress, so I wasn't much help on airing the tires. We headed west on 29/377 and at that split, I went back to Junction to pack up while the rest of the group went to Menard, Eldorado and Sonora. I took 377/29 home (that's the short route), lunch in Llano & home by 3 ish. Saturday was a little bit warmer & I was glad that SugarBeet had the AC running.

Speedball

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## **Up and Coming:**

### **Report from our Up Coming Voyage Home Hosts**

Richard,

Ben and I checked out our campground for VH '09 yesterday. I have attached maps to show some location details. *(if anybody wants a copy of the map just email me at [voyagerjohn@gmail.com](mailto:voyagerjohn@gmail.com))* We selected Pat Mayse West "A" Area sites 19-34. The restroom shown for this area has 2 showers for women and 2 for men as well as 2 stalls and a sink for each. They are cleaned daily. The park "closes" September 31 which really means they will no longer take reservations after that date. We talked with the attendant and she assured us there should be no problem. In fact, she typically moves down to site 13 about then and spends the winter there. The sites 1-18 are typically taken up pretty quickly by RV'ers. In the 2 years she has been there, there has never been any problems in this park.

We can put 2 to maybe 4 tents per site and split the \$15 per night cost. Also anyone with a Golden Age or Golden Access pass stays for half price so we could register the site in their name.

Each campsite consists of a pad for an RV, water, electricity, concrete picnic table, lantern hanger, grill and lots of shade trees. Nice oaks. We also have a dock for fishing if anyone wants to do that. Roger will probably be moving up there early with his camper and Ben and I will be setting up Thursday. That will cover 3 sites. I don't have the Golden Age card yet but can secure the site.

The nearest hotels for our more comfortable members is the Days Inn or a Best something at Hwy 271 and Loop 271. I would recommend the Days Inn. The other may be cheap but believe me, you get what you paid for. It is a 15 mile easy ride between the camp and hotel. I expect we will meet at the camp Friday and the hotel Saturday for the rides.

I am still looking for best tour/event locations for each day. I want to do a "wine tour" one of the days. Something different for us. Gabi is checking out the best shopping for some of our ladies. Unfortunately the Allen Outlet Mall is pretty far as is Stonebriar Mall but it may work on Friday if I choose the Wales Winery in this area. There is of course Choctaw Casino if everyone is so inclined. Very, very close to the campground. Gabi is pushing for the casino!

We won't have a covered shelter at this park but I picked this park over one with a shelter for it's facilities and view. Group meals are no problem. Gabi insists one night has to be the Sirloin Stockade. All you can eat for about \$8 and the food is very good. I have to agree.

Well it looks like we are a GO for October 9-11. This will also leave some time to recuperate between VH'09 and the CMA Colors ride the end of the month for those who want to take it in. Gabi, Ben and I will be doing this ride so maybe we can meet and do the ride together.

Russ

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Our club president asked me to give you a short heads-up from Gary Mize about a pending ride-in at Lake Medina, which is between Bandera & San Antonio. The date has not been finalized yet but it will probably be after Sept 1, 2009, & Richard will get with Gary Mize and provide some more details that will probably show up on our web site. We haven't had a little gathering in a long time. -rb

### Lone Star Voyager Courthouse Grand Tour 2009 rules

The object is to take a picture of your motorcycle in front of county or parish courthouses whose county names start with the letters in the phrase "Lone Star Voyagers". That's a total of 16 different courthouses in 16 different counties including 2 each beginning with the letters O, E, S, A, & R. To encourage some travel, there will be point multipliers for pics that are greater distance from your home. If the courthouse is 0-100 miles away it's worth one point, 101-200 miles 2 points, 201-300 miles 3 points, 301-400 miles 4 points, & 401 miles or greater, 5 points. Shortest distance measured via mapping software. That makes a maximum possible score of 80 (that is 5x16). Although you don't have to be in the picture, in order to prove that you took the pic during the contest period, there must be visible in the picture your bike and a white sheet of paper (like the back of this instruction sheet or something like that). Make sure that the county & state names are legible in the picture- this may require that the pic be made in front of some sort of lawn sign at the courthouse instead of the actual front of the building, you'll need to be creative. In the case of the lawn sign, go ahead & submit a picture of the actual courthouse also- most of these buildings are beautiful. The contest starts April 23, the first day of the 2009 LSV Hill Country Tour in Junction, TX. and ends Sept 22, 2009, with prizes awarded at the LSV Voyage Home in October at Paris, TX. That gives you 5 months. By Sept 22, your pictures (either a picture CD, SD memory card, or prints) must have been received by the judges (that's me). DO NOT e-mail the pictures. When submitting your pics, try to include a couple of unique pictures of something that you saw on the trip- not necessarily a unique courthouse. These, for a slideshow during the awards ceremony at LSV Voyage Home in Paris, TX. in Oct 2009. You need not be present to win.

The entry fee is \$10. There will be an "I-took-part-in-it" certificate for all participants and cash prizes for the top 3 winners (\$25-\$20-\$15). The remainder of the entry money will be given to Salvation Army in Austin, TX. The distance points are only used as a tie-breaker. To be eligible to win, you must have all 16 pictures. A second tie-breaker will be earliest postmark date received by the judges. Please include with your pictures a document that lists name of the county (& state) and travel distance from your home for each of

your pics. In questionable distance measurement, the judges will finally determine the distance (ie was it really 401 miles or just 400?)

Your \$10 entry fee as well as eventually, your pictures, need to go to:

Richard Baxter

LSV Grand Tour

256 Chaparral Dr

Liberty Hill, TX 78642

Along with your snail mail address, please include your email address so I can e-mail you a receipt for your entry. Your certificate will come later via snail mail. To get your pics back after the contest, please include a suitable SASE, or pick them up at Voyage Home in Paris in Oct.

Good luck & safe riding. [richadntexas@dishmail.net](mailto:richadntexas@dishmail.net) 512/515-0133

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## 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, NM.....	AVA
October 9-11	*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!

## Lone Star Voyager 2009 Grand Tour Entry Form

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Town\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

email address\_\_\_\_\_

If your mailing address is a P.O. Box, please include a physical location (street address) for your home also. Thanks.

\$10 per entrant. amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

return entry to:  
Richard Baxter  
256 Chaparral Dr  
Liberty Hill, TX  
512/515-0133