



Newsletter Vol. 8. #4 July-Aug 2011

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 Sandra Judge will accept dues and applications at 214490 E. County Road 33 Mooreland, OK 73852-8959. Sandra can be reached by phone at, (580) 851-0202.

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 our New President, [Brenda Herring](mailto:brendalsv@gmail.com), in Liberty (936-336-2840), brendalsv@gmail.com, or our Vice President, David Dunn, in Houston, TX. (281-622-0509) ddunn.tx@gmail.com or our Sec/Tres [Sandra Judge](mailto:jjudge@pldi.net), jjudge@pldi.net for more information. Hope you can join us.

From the Prez.

It's newsletter time again?!

Plans for Voyage Home are just about done. It will be hosted by our VP David Dunn. Thanks DD. From what I've heard it's gonna be good.

It will be at Rocky Creek Park at Lake Somerville, Somerville, TX. The lunch and brunch rides have been going well. I hope the next few go well too.

Hopefully we will see you at Voyage Home Oct. 27/29. Be safe.

LSV President
Brenda Herring

Treasurer Report:

Sandra has the new shirts for sale.

We have \$600 in Down Riders fund

In our General fund we have \$692.

We still have a lot of tee shirts, and other items for members merchandise to buy.

Secretary/Treasurer, Sandra Judge

The Safety Corner:

The Invisible Man
by Jackie Vaughan

The sun was balancing gently on the horizon as I packed up my gear after a long day of amusing the fish with my clumsy efforts. I was stowing the tackle box in the back of the truck when the sun abruptly winked out behind a large bank of very dark clouds.

The sun lost its battle with the clouds and sank below the horizon, leaving the heavily tree-lined road in a darkness that blended into the blacktop. Storm winds set the tops of the pine trees swaying, bringing down flurries of slippery pine needles and occasional pine cones. The first drops of rain were huge, splatting on the windshield and causing the pine needles to stick to it. The wipers only smeared them. All I could do was turn the wipers on high and hope the rain would wash the needles off.

Obligingly, the rain became a full-force pressure wash. The needles disappeared, but so did everything else. I crept along, the headlights' beam absorbed by the darkness. A sudden movement caused by a falling branch reminded me there might well be deer, rabbits, or other animals on the side of the road, ready to cross without warning. I leaned as close to the windshield as I could get, eyes straining to see ahead and to the sides at the same time. I knew it wasn't safe to stop because there was no place to pull

over.

I thought I saw the red eye glow of an animal. Looking ahead, I saw it flickering between the swipes of the wipers. I immediately hit the brakes, glad for the anti-lock option I'd chosen. I shuddered to a halt about ten feet from the animal, which hadn't moved. I turned off my lights briefly so it would move on, but it remained.

I finally crept closer. As my headlights cut through the watery darkness, I saw it wasn't an animal, but a black motorcycle stopped in the middle of the road. The rider was making futile swipes at his face shield, succeeding only in creating greater smears. His black leather jacket and pants were no match for the rain, and he was soaked from the top of his black helmet to the soles of his black boots. He finally pushed the face shield up, started the bike, and continued his miserable trek.

In a very short moment, he became the Invisible Man. Although the weather and the terrain helped to hide him, he had become invisible long before he ever slung a leg over his bike. He had done it by unknowing choice, by following tradition.

When he bought his motorcycle, he took that first and sometimes fatal step. He chose the most popular color for a bike—black. Black is the traditional color for everything motorcycle that's not chrome. Black helmet, jacket, pants, boots, gloves, all to match the black motorcycle. Black can also be the color of death and mourning.

Black, far from being the friendly identifying color of the motorcycle community, is a rider's major enemy. The majority of the time, especially when contrast is poor, such as dawn, dusk, dappled shade, or darkness, black disappears into the environment. Dress a rider in black from head to toe, put him on a black bike, especially one with a small, low taillight, and he's the Invisible Man. He cannot be seen until the very last moment, and that's sometimes too late.

The typical car driver is not motorcycle-aware, and a bike suddenly appearing seemingly out of nowhere may slow the driver's reaction time or cause him to make the wrong decision. When there's an collision of this type, is it the driver's fault, or the rider's? Both were culpable, but it is the rider who must bear more of the blame. He made himself nearly impossible to see, and it worked. He chose to be the Invisible Man.

Could he have become the Visible Man instead and avoided the price he paid? Yes, and all it would have taken was the right choices beginning when he bought his motorcycle.

His biggest mistake was to follow motorcycle tradition in making everything about him and his bike, except for the fancy bits of chrome, black. He should have heeded the old saw, "Bright is right." A light- or bright-colored motorcycle should have been the first item on his list.

His next choice should have been a full-face white helmet with highly-reflective material all around it. No color matches or fancy graphics, just plain white. The first thing a motorist sees, or fails to see, is the rider's helmet, because it's the highest part visible. Next seen is the upper body, then the lower body and the motorcycle. By that time, the driver is too close for comfort.

While the bike and rider don't have to look like a circus wagon, bright clothing and reflective material, especially on the upper body, are a must. A rider wanting the black leather look can wear a reflective orange vest while on the bike and tuck it into a saddlebag or tank bag when he arrives.

Adding extra lights on the back and sides of the bike creates greater visibility, too. Seeing a black-dressed rider on a black bike from the side is almost impossible. There's virtually no contrast. Add a few lights and the riders' bright clothing, and the bike suddenly appears.

Our miserable Invisible Man? He made it home that night because I followed at a safe distance behind him until he pulled into his driveway. He might not be so lucky next time.

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Until next time;

Ride smart to ride safe

Rick Londagin
LSV Safety Officer

Working on Bikes **And Other Things**

It seems to be too hot to work on motorcycles at this time! It is almost too hot to ride!

Ride Reports **2011 25th AVA International Rally**

AVA National, DeGray Lake, Arkansas, July 2011, getting there I traveled with Larry Lawson, Bob Enger, & Rodney Westphal. Working my way eastward, I met up with RR in downtown Hutto, then we met Larry & Bob in Rockdale. I think we left Rockdale about 8:30. We stayed on US79 to Palestine, then switched to TX155 thru Tyler & on to Atlanta. Then US59 to I30, & I30 to our destination exit just south of Arkadelphia. About Tyler, if you ever decide to build a loop around a town of 100k population, first

drive the loop around San Angelo, then drive the loop around Tyler, then follow your common sense on which model to use. If you have no common sense, build it like the one in Tyler.

We were all 4 campground-bound and we (we?, WE? - ok, it was me) only made one wrong turn once we got off AR7. Arkansas state parks are more easily accessed than TX. There's no charge for day-use entry. For me, the lake area was somewhat of a maze and I couldn't really find my way back to my tent on purpose till I'd been there a couple of days. It was almost too hot to camp. I was really glad that I had a fan - but no mosquitos! There were about 10 from this club in the campground and at least 8 that moteled it. - RB

Brenda and I left early the 10th of July (Sunday) for Lake DeGray Resort and the rally. I rode my yellow Goldwing and Brenda followed in her car. We arrived around 12:30 PM and it was already 100 degrees. Whew!! The AC in the lodge felt real good!

We had a good time and enjoyed seeing all who were there and missed those who were not. On one of the guided rides (The Glen Campbell Tour) we got to visit with Glen Campbell's brother, John in front of his home in Billstown, AR. He was very friendly and would have talked to and entertained us all afternoon if we did not have to get on down the road. I really enjoyed visiting with him and he enjoyed it too in my opinion.

Brenda, Richard and I worked stop number #1 on the "Fun Run" and enjoyed the ordeal we were asked to put the participants through to score points. They had to choose to jump rope for 2 points per jump or work a paddle ball for 5 points per hit. Believe me when I tell you it got fast and furious when they showed up in groups! LOL! Whew again it was hot too!

I rode Kawasaki's new Vaquero on their guided demo ride, it had lots of power and the transmission worked very well, but it was still a v-twin and not smooth enough for me to ride for extended periods. Too much vibration for me now, if I was 30 years younger I might feel different though!

Wednesday evening the LSV got together at Vic and Juanita's trailer to cook hamburgers and we had some good ones too. Vic fired up his propane grill and Rick and I fired up the campground charcoal grills, we had just started loading the patties on the grills and I noticed that Vic's grill was very quickly becoming a bonfire; I think the regulator went haywire, so we shut it down and put his patties on the campground grills. All the burgers were GREAT and the companionship was excellent. Got to hand the credit to our ladies though who prepared all the food, Rick just did not burn the meat! LOL! We left there and went to one of the bike shows and watched James win another plaque for his trophy case. Had a good time looking at the pretty bikes.

I don't remember exactly what went on Thursday except that we had a good time and I tried to get ready to leave the next morning for Skiatook, my home town to see my Mom and family.

We had a great time at the rally and I was glad that I was able to help Larry locate another battery for his Voyager. Any time Larry or any other of our friends and club members! I know that anyone of the LSV would do whatever they could for any of us if asked. We have a great bunch of people.

Friday on the way to Skiatook it reached 107° and I was sure glad I had brought my Joe Rocket Sahara Cooling Vest, because it worked great! Especially when we stopped for a break and I dunked it in the ice chest in the back of Brenda's car. I would do that and throw it on real quick because it was COLD, but it became very comfortable quickly and doing that a couple of times for the 4 and a half hour trip made it a pleasant ride. We spent Saturday with family and left early Sunday for home and arrived around 4:30 in the afternoon. I was still not ready for work Monday, just did not want to go! Figure that! LOL!

John Herring

Here's Brenda's Story....

Day1: Sunday- 4:30am

Leaving for DeGray. My car and John's truck played a game of tag. John's truck played a little rough. Umps! Rest of the trip went well, but hot. Arrived at the lodge at 12:30pm.

Day2: Monday

Checking out the lodge. Waiting for the others to arrive. People watching.

Day3: Tuesday

Went on the Glen Campbell ride. It's not supposed to be this hot here!

Day4: Wednesday

Working the Fun Run with John and Richard Baxter. Our stop is the Hot Springs Visitors Center, Stop 1. Our games are jump rope and paddle ball. Poor people!!

We had the LSV cookout that evening. Good hamburgers and company.

Day5: Thursday

The banquet and packing. Leaving Friday for Okla., then home to Texas on Sunday.

PS: James Curren won two of the bike show awards.

Next year's AVA rally will be in Kanab, Utah.

Brenda Herring

Sheila & I left for DeGray on the Sunday before from Brownwood. Sheila had a family reunion on Saturday. We left the hotel about 7am after the Great breakfast served at the Hampton...went up US 67 to Stephenville to Mineral Wells to Gainesville then

into Oklahoma. Caught US 70 to Hugo about 3-4pm & decided to stay at the Holiday Express. I learned a real important lesson there. DON'T pay for the room UNTIL you ask about the POOL.. It was so hot & we were so tired & it was 100+ outside, we promised never to stay at a place WITHOUT a Pool ever again.

Monday, left Hugo at 6 am on US 70, making good time until we got to Broken Bow... About 10, ran into construction. Had to park on the road for an HOUR. No Wind, No Shade, No Nothing... ended up using the van in front of us for shade. North of Broken Bow there is a beautiful lake/camp ground. We didn't have enough time to scout it out but planned for a future trip. Rode into Arkansas, checked-in at DeGray and the Hotel. It was HOT. Did the riverboat ride/supper that night. Got to see Rick & Rene, James & Nola on the boat.

Tuesday, decided to just sightsee. I didn't realize Ark had SO many Pine trees. We did learn to be out by 6am and be in by noon or 1pm. Took the unguided tour around DeGray lake & got lost lots of time. Did have fun, tho.. Did the BBQ, at DeGray resort, enjoyed the food but some people did not get served.

Wednesday, Did the poker run/fun run with Ed & Nora and another rider, just can't remember his name. Glad we had him 'cause he had a GPS that saved us several times... Did get RAINED on. It was Great. I did learn that I had to slow down in Ark. I was used to go 70 mph in Tx but in Ark the roads aren't straight enough or long enough to do that speed So after I slowed down to 55 mph, I started enjoying the trip.... We didn't win but sure had fun. Got to see Little Rock. The KAW dealer was a great host for a stop. Had a burger dinner hosted by the LSVr's...probably the best part of the day. Got to hang out with all the LSVr's that came to DeGray then went to the light show.

Thursday, out of the hotel by 6pm. When to Mena then TheQueen Wilhemena lodge. Ride below the clouds, in the clouds and above the clouds. It was soo cool. Rained so hard, we could only see about 10 FEET in front of us. Back thru Mena then south thru Wickes. I have Never seen so many pine trees. Saw deer & fawns, foxes & rabbits that day. Back to DeGray resort for the closing ceremony...can you believe we had BBQ!!!!

Friday, we left DeGray and wandered thru ARK, LA then into Texas. Ended staying in Henderson. DON'T eat a Lupa's in Henderson. There was a DQ & Lupa's, no one at Lupa's & DQ was covered up. Picked Lupa's to get quick food. BAD mistake!! Should have got to DQ. I'll learn someday.

Saturday, got home about noon. Had a great time. Saw some sights that we will go back to see. Got to ride with Ed & Nora. Saw lots of people I haven't seen in a long time. Making plans to go to Utah next year. Have been thinking about trailering my bike maybe with others then riding. Just don't have the time to ride there, do the rally then ride back. It's only 1200 miles but its

a long ride...

David & Sheila Lawson

EVA Enchanted Tour Aug 2011

I just got back from the New Mexico mountains. I'd known the details for the Enchanted Tour for months but I didn't think I'd want to go so soon after going to DeGray. But as summer and daily triple digit temperatures wear on and on, I started looking at the highs and lows for Las Vegas, NM. Man they looked nice! So, I made a late RSVP to RR, called my mommy for an en route overnight & headed out. First day on the road, I made less than 200 miles to overnight where I had a free room. Then Thursday, I drove 400+ miles to Las Vegas. Yes, it was a little bit warm. My last Texas gas stop was Lubbock & it's still Texas summertime there, but blessedly low humidity. The change was rather subtle because it was approaching the heat of the day, but I could see the temp drop as I elevated into the NM mtns. I think I got there about 4:30 Tulsa time and PathFinder was the only other arrival. Others started straggling in with some arriving as late as 11-12 midnight. That was the Borger Bunch (not to be confused with the Brady Bunch), including a couple of new (to me) riders. On Friday, the 1st ride day, as expected, RR had a plan and it started with riding to eat. AIII Riiight! 6:30 a.m. (was that still Texas time?) it was 53 degrees - in fact the 6:30 temp was 53 every morning I was there. AIII Riiight! From Charlie's Bakery, we headed north to eventually ride the Enchanted Loop. A nice, curvy (left and right, AND up and down) loop that includes Taos, Red River, Questa, and several small towns. One segment was so narrow & curvy that there wasn't room for road signs. Luckily we didn't meet many cars there. During one easy 100 mile stretch, two of us (Pat O' & me) XII riders got 53 miles per gallon, using 88 octane, mid-grade fuel. We visited a Viet Nam war memorial, built by some of RR's kinfolks, I think. I can't remember where all we ate this trip but I do know that I ate too many meals with green chiles included. Saturday, same breakfast, then follow RR & PathFinder again or rather go where they'd been & catch up to them when they stopped to wait for the slow fokes. I'm not sure where we went the 2nd day, but there was a lot of high desert (gasp!) and the crown jewel (for me) was a 10-12 mile long, very circuitous crossing of the Canadian River. We were somewhere east of Vegas. The last night there, somebody found a pool table & Pat treated us to a few games of 8 Ball. Early Sunday morning, PathFinder headed out & I was off & running after him about an hour later. Extra cool riding in the morning & not so much in the afternoon. Home by 7ish & two days later my rear tire went flat while setting in the garage. Not a bad place to have a flat considering where I'd been. Richard Baxter

Lunch Rides

August Lunch....er....Breakfast

I haven't written for a while but feel the need to report on the last ride to eat. I thought I would have 5 bikes tagging along but alas, 1 canceled because of the heat and the other 2 had other problems.

I met Charlie and Walt at the intersection of I-35 and TX 46 about 7:45am. It wasn't really hot but the prediction was for 104 or so. We headed east on TX 46 to east US90 Alternate in Sequin. Traffic was light going through Sequie which was welcomed by us. We were going to take 90 Alternate to Gonzalas and then pick up FM532.

Well, as luck would have it, Mapquest wasn't exactly accurate so we missed FM532. I knew that if it happened we could just continue on 90 Alternate to US77 then head north to Shulenburg. I went past US77 just in case FM 532 was still coming (being an eternal optimist) but Walt caught up to me and motioned to just take US77.

We pulled into the restaurant parking lot about 9:50. There were already bikes in the parking lot but I didn't see any Voyagers (this is slowly not becoming a surprise). DD was there with Todd and a new couple. Alice was with Big D and Karen managed to get out of the house to chaperone the Ol' Hippi who was already eating! When everyone finally got there, there was about 25 in attendance. Awesome!

I did have a present for Hippi but since the Red Baron wasn't there, I couldn't give it to him. However, Karen had an appropriate riding system for Hippi in the rocker that was in the back of the pick-up. I think Hippi was too embarrassed to ride out of the parking lot but I bet he got in it before they got to LaGrange.

The food was awesome. What a great spread of food: scrambled eggs (2 varieties), sausage (2 varieties), bacon, grits, hash browns, potato cubes, fruit and if you wanted pancakes or waffles, you could order them fresh made just for you at no extra cost. I'd go back there in a heartbeat.

After that great meal we kicked some tires in the parking lot and went in all different directions. Charlie decided to head for home on I-10 but Walt and I wanted to ride some more back roads so on the return trip we used US90 and went through Flatonia and Luling. I got home about 12:55. I believe Walt got home just ahead of me and Charlie rolled into his car port around 12:20. Yes, it was getting warm but I don't think it was more than 95.

What a great ride to meet with great people. I can hardly wait for the VH. DD hinted it would be this side of New Orleans(!). I hope we find out soon where it will be soon. See y'all later. Musicman

Up and Coming:

Lunch Ride to City Market in Luling, TX	03/12/11
SFR in Terlingua, TX	03/24 thru 03/27/11
HCT in LLano, TX	04/28 thru 05/01/11
AVA International Rally, Lake De Gray, AR	07/11 thru 07/14/11
Voyage Home, Somerville, TX	10/27 thru 10/29/11

Come join us!

LSV 2011 Calendar:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Hosts</u>
Jan 1, 2011	Blessing Of The Bikes	Boerne	CMA
March 24-27	Spring Fun Run	Terlingua, TX	EVA/LSV
April 28-30	* Hill Country Tour	LLano, TX	RB
June	nothing at this time		
July 11-15	AVA National Rally	Degray Resort State Park, AR	AVA
Oct. 27-29	* Voyage Home	Somerville, TX	David Dunn
December 2-4	IMS	Dallas	

* These two events are our two ride-in weekends and include a business meeting.

Ride Safe

&

See you at Voyage Home 2011

2011 LSV VOYAGE HOME
REGISTRATION FORM

The annual LSV Voyage Home 2011 will be in Somerville, TX October 27 thru 29, 2011.
This is open to all LSV members, their guests & AVA members.

David Dunn will be your host. Headquarters for this event will be at the Rocky Creek Park, which is located on FM 1948, about 4.5 miles west of Hwy 36. You can approach Somerville from the north or south on State Hwy 36. FM 1948 is about 3.5 miles south of Somerville or, 14 miles north of Brenham. From either direction, FM 1948 only goes to the west. The park will be on the north side of FM 1948 and is well marked.

Call David Dunn at 281-622-0509 for information regarding campground reservations. The rate per night is \$20.00 per site. Two tents can share one campsite. Only one RV will be allowed per campsite. Each site is a back in type that is 75 feet deep. There are 50 and 30amp hookups plus 110volt as well. Each site has a covered picnic table, water, fire circle and a grill. However; during the burn ban, only propane or gas grills will be permitted. All of the roads are wide and well paved. The RV parking is on well packed crushed gravel.

The motel of choice is the Americas Best Value Inn located 3 miles north of the FM 1948/Hwy 36 intersections. Address: 18018 SH 36 South, Somerville, TX. For reservations call 979-596-3884. Rates appear to be in the \$60 per night range. There are several motel choices in Brenham, which are only 15 to 20 minutes away. There is no daily fee for visiting the campground.

All activities are pay as you go. The Saturday night dinner and business meeting will be held at the campground. Please remit \$9.50 per person with your registration. This will pay for your meal on Saturday as well as defray some expenses. Please make checks payable to: David Dunn; Send payment with this form to: David Dunn, 10014 Gilson Ln., Houston, TX 77086

Please register by the 7th October 2011. The first 30 applicants will receive a Voyage Home 2011 ride patch.

David can be reached at 281-622-0509, e-mail at: ddunn.tx@gmail.com.

We will use channel 24 as the official AVA/LSV CB channel.

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 Wednesday/Thursday / Friday / Saturday: (Circle one)

Club Affiliation: _____

Enclosed: (\$9.50 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 while we are en route to or from or during any LSV get together, rally, activity, ride-in or event.

Primary Signature: _____

Co-Pilot Signature: _____