



Newsletter October, 2008

The Enchanted Voyagers is a chartered club of the American Voyager Association. The club started as a group of Kawasaki Voyager enthusiasts, but welcomes all makes and models of bikes. Dues are \$10 per year for a family and are due in January. Any applications received on or after October 1st will include the following year. We have a web site at <http://enchantedvoyagersmc.com/index.html> which has an application and one is also included with this newsletter.

From the President

We made it thru another summer and are to that beautiful riding time of the year. The temps around here are down to the low 50's and up to around 80 with clear skies. With all the rain we got this summer the mountains are a nice green.

The Enchanted Tour was a success. We had 10-12 bikes depending on when you counted. The rides went well, even with one off road excursion. The ride leader learned from that and will try to not let it happen again. I did learn from last year to stop to enjoy the scenery more often. Even with the stops we still managed to get to Alpine and the Bear Wallow right on time!! Contrary to what some people said!! That is where we lost Don Medina who went on to his reunion in Denver. But we did pick up Ed and Jeanette Graham.

Hank and I represented the Enchanted Voyagers at Pie Town for our quarterly lunch. The weather was great for that ride. I rode to Datil and stayed at Datil Well campground Friday night. Rode thru a little rain between Socorro and Datil, but the campground was dry. Then Saturday morning I took the scenic way to Pie Town thru Reserve, Alpine and Springerville. That ride was beautiful. The ride into Alpine was great without the rain. That is a beautiful road and the scenery all along the route was fantastic. I got to Pie Town about 11:30 and walked around their annual festival. Then I went to the Daily Pie Café and after about 5 minutes Hank showed up. We finished lunch with apple pie alamode for me and peanut butter pie for Hank. I took some strawberry / rhubarb pie home for Cindy and her parents. They thought it tasted great.

Our next quarterly lunch will be November 22nd in Corona. That is pretty close to half way between Albuquerque and Alamogordo. The weather should still be good then for that ride. Hopefully we can get a better turnout.

Upcoming events include the Spring Fun Run next March. We have the registration form and lodging info on our web site already. The agenda will be coming soon also. Be sure to mark those dates on your calendar. It should be a great time. We were in Alpine 2 years ago for that event and at the same places. The campground and hotel facilities were great. They even let us have a couple of our meals at the hotel and use their grill.

The International Motorcycle Show will be in Phoenix the weekend of November 1st. I plan on going to get a hands on look at the new Voyager. Anyone else is welcome. We could always meet at the show to look around and go out for lunch.

Y'all have a great month and I look forward to seeing y'all at the IMS or our quarterly lunch.

Rodney R. Westphal
President

Silver City Enchantment

It was only Wednesday and it had already been a long week; by mid morning, I was already on overtime. The bike was packed and in the parking garage at work waiting for my departure later in the day for the EVA Enchanted Tour. I was originally planning to leave about 1:00 or 2:00pm but around 11:30 I had accomplished what needed to be done and my mind was already drifting to the open road so I decided to alter my plans and leave sooner. I thought I might even be able to get as far as Balmorhea and take a cool dip in the spring fed pool at the state park.

I hit the road about 11:45 and temperatures were still relatively pleasant that began to change by the time I got to Harper and stopped for gas and chugged down a Gatorade. I picked up IH10 south of Junction and stopped for another Gatorade in Ozona. Now, it was beginning to get hot. For the rest of the day's ride, the RT's onboard air temperature sensor was hovering in the 100-102 degree range. In spite of the heat, I was considering continuing on to El Paso before stopping for the night. However, I wasn't sure I could make it in daylight. I prefer not to travel at night in unfamiliar territory where wildlife on the roadway may be a problem and I also wasn't sure what if any accommodations would be available in between. I stopped at a rest stop about 40 miles east of Fort Stockton and tried calling the state park reservation system regarding getting a room at the motel at Balmorhea State Park. After several attempts to get through I was finally successful but was informed that because I was calling the same day of the reservation I would need to call the park directly. The park's number was busy so I decided to try again further down the road. By then the park office had already closed so I called a Balmorhea motel that I had discovered on the web and reserved a room.

I arrived at the motel about 5:45pm and checked in. They were unsure when the park closed so I decided to forego a swim and walked down to the nearby Mexican restaurant for supper. After that, I walked next door to the convenience store and purchased two cans of beer. There was a tree shaded park like area that had a concrete lined irrigation channel running through. I took off my boots and soaked my feet in the water as I sat and drank my beer.

The next morning, I left about 6:00am and kept my speed down until daylight started to appear. I reached El Paso in time for rush hour but fortunately traffic wasn't bad enough to slow me down drastically. I took IH25 north to Caballo and headed west on 152 to Hillsboro where I stopped for breakfast. Leaving Hillsboro, the road really became twisty. I moved slightly forward in the seat and lowered the windscreen as I assumed a slight sport riding posture. It's times like this that I appreciate the RT's dual nature. Although, like almost anything, it has its faults, it had spent much of the last few hundred miles droning down the interstate with the cruise control set with a level of comfort comparable to any of my Voyagers. Although I have managed to move a Voyager around curves at a good pace, the RT was doing it with a lot less effort. When I reached the outskirts of Silver City, traffic was surprising heavy. Later I noticed a sport tourer going east and as we exchanged waves, I realized it was Rod. I got gas, explored the town and then checked into my motel. Later, I went to the campground and Rod and I sat around tire kicking while we waited for the others to show up.

The next day we headed northwest up US 180 through a grassland dotted by junipers and fringed by mountains. We made a left on highway 78 for a stop at the Mule Creek post office for a picture. After that the vegetation changed to junipers to piñon pines and finally ponderosa pine before we descended into an arid somewhat desert area. We headed north on US 191 (nicknamed "the devil's highway" because of its previous designation as US 666) and stopped for a view of the huge open pit mine near Morenci AZ. After that the road climbed back into the pines and we encountered what seemed to be an almost endless series of curves until we reached Alpine. It was 1:00pm AZ time so Rod claimed that we had reached Alpine on time even though it was 2:00pm NM time.

After large quantities of food and plenty of coffee to warm us up from the cold rain and hail we had encountered just a few minutes before we reached Alpine, we hit the road again. Heading southeast on US 180, we encountered some great scenery on our way back to Silver City. That evening, we took a short ride north to a steak house.

Saturday, we took a much shorter ride going north to the Gilla cliff dwellings. After exploring the

dwellings, we rode through Mimbres and back to Silver City. It had been a rainy morning so we encountered a few water crossings along the way.

Sunday morning I was up early and on the road by about 5:45 Texas time. Although it wasn't raining when I left, I had my rain suit on. The local conditions given on TV were still showing rain and the forecast was for a large area of rain extending from central NM all the way back to Austin. I traveled only about 10-20 miles before I encountered rain. As I traveled south on US 180 towards Deming, I chuckled to myself about the signs warning about reduced visibility due to blowing dust. Today, any reductions to visibility were due to rain and patchy fog.

Just before reaching Las Cruces, the rain stopped. Temperatures were cool enough that the prospect for more rain caused me to leave my rain gear on. As I approached El Paso, low hanging clouds on the Franklin mountains almost looked like snow cover. I encountered rain again somewhere west of Sierra Blanca that didn't stop until somewhere east of Van Horn. It seemed strange driving through Texas desert in heavy rain but at least the temperature was keeping down in the 80s. I ditched my raingear at Fort Stockton and didn't see any temperatures exceeding the 80s until Fredericksburg. I pulled into my driveway about 5:30pm after about 720 miles of travel. The combination of weather and conditions had made it a long day but it was worth it. I'm planning to be at next year's ET in Las Vegas NM.

New Members

I would like to welcome our new members who have joined since our last newsletter. We have Roland and Verla Caster from Carrizozo. They bought Don McMorris's old 1988 Voyager. We had two couples join at the Enchanted Tour this year. First was Bob and Dorothy Schneider from Vail, AZ. They ride a 2003 Voyager. The second couple was Ed and Jeanette Graham from Phoenix. They met up with us at Alpine and went on the ride to the Clif Dwellings Saturday. I met Ed at the Spring Fun Run last year. They are both great couples. Be sure to welcome them to our group.

Enchanted Tour 2008

I had been excited about this ride for some time and it finally came. As I wanted to do some recon in Silver City I left home Wednesday afternoon. It is only 200 miles, but I decided to spend the night at Iron Creek campground on the way there. The ride went well. I rode to Las Cruces and from there up to Caballo on 187. It more or less parallels the freeway, but is better than riding on the freeway. At Caballo I turned west towards Hillsboro and some clouds. I ran into rain as I started climbing into the pass. It was starting to get dark also, so I had to take it easy. On the downhill side I came to the Iron Creek campground and spent the night there. Got to set up my tent in light rain. It rained for a while and then quit for the night.

Morning came clear but everything was wet. Put the tent away wet, but I knew it would dry out in Silver City. The rest of the ride to Silver City was great. The road was mostly dry and the curves are great. A really enjoyable ride. I rode thru Mimbres so I could check out our breakfast place for Saturday. I made it to the campground about 10:00 and set up my tent. It was still wet, but dried out in no time at all. Then I headed out to check out the Copper Creek Ranch where we will be eating Saturday night. On the way there I saw Dave Schani just coming into town. I got back to the campground to finish setting things up and Dave showed up after a bit. People started trickling in and all were here by 5:00.

We headed out for supper in Pinos Altos at the Buckhorn. It was an old saloon converted to a restaurant. The food was good and we were filled up by the time we finished. It is a little bit pricy though. We headed back to our campground and hotel for the evening. The campground group was up til about 10:00 talking and enjoying the weather.

Friday dawned clear and cool. No one was really hungry, so we decided to forgo breakfast and head out for our ride. Stan and Helen were kind enough to provide coffee for those who wanted it. Wheels were rolling at 8:30 as we headed northwest on 180 to the 78 cutoff towards Three Way. We

stopped at the Mule Creek post office for a break. SpeedBall had said to honk as we went by, so I thought it would be good to take a picture of us there for him. The Postmistress was kind enough to take our picture.

We headed out further west and stopped just inside Arizona at a nice vista. It has a great view of the basin we would be riding into. We spent a few minutes there and then headed out for Three Way where we turned north towards Clifton. We stopped there for gas and then up and over the hill towards Alpine. The ride to Alpine was great. The road had lots of curves and great scenery. As we got closer to Alpine we saw dark clouds over the horizon. I kept going, but we ran into rain and a little hail with about a mile to go. We got to the Bear Wallow a little wet, but on time at 1:00 as was on the schedule. A few people argued that point, but you just can't deny what the local clock said. After we put our damp jackets up we sat down to another great lunch while it rained some more. Ed, Jeanette and Lowell from Phoenix were there eating already. Ed and Jeanette were going to ride back with us for the rest of the gathering and Lowell was heading back to his newly acquired cabin. Don was on his way to a reunion in Denver, so he had packed his tent this morning and after we ate he headed north to Springerville and on towards Denver. It was nice meeting him again. I had talked with him at the AVA rally and we met again at Laguna Seca. Another great Voyager rider. I was glad he was able to make it to our gathering. We put on our rain gear before heading back south which was a good thing. We rode thru rain for the next 45 minutes. When the sun finally broke out just north of Glenwood we stopped and took the rain gear off. Then continued a ways south and stopped at an overlook of the valley. After that stop we continued back to Silver City and were all dried out by the time we got there. We were on our own for supper that night. Some of us just stayed at the campground and talked until time to turn in.

Again, the morning dawned clear and cool. Wheels were rolling at 8:00 after a short ride briefing. We headed thru Pinos Altos to breakfast at the Inn. We stopped at an overlook and enjoyed the scenery. I learned a lesson though to be sure the road is good. The overlook was about 100 yards over a rocky road. The food was good and there was plenty. We enjoyed watching the hummingbirds while we ate. We headed back on the road to the cliff dwellings. We had one more scenic overlook, but this one was paved and the scenery again was great. We got to the visitors center to look around and then to the dwellings center where some of us went on the trail to see the dwellings. It was a nice walk and interesting. After we had seen all, we headed back and everyone was ready to head out. We had to go back the way we came out as there is only one road into the place. When we got to the Inn we took the other way and went out thru Mimbres. We went thru a few water crossings, but the water wasn't very deep. We just had to take it easy. On the way we stopped for pie and ice cream and more hummingbirds. The waitress talked to us about hummingbirds and we all had a good time there. After getting on to the main road to Silver City again we saw dark clouds on the horizon, but this time stopped earlier. We put on our rain suits just as it started to sprinkle and rode thru a couple miles of rain. Back at the campground it was dry and our rain suits had dried out.

We had our annual meeting where we elected the current officers to continue their positions. The notes for that are elsewhere in this newsletter. We also welcomed our two new families. Bob and Dorothy Schneider from Vail, AZ and Ed and Jeanette Graham from Phoenix. It was a pleasure having them at our gathering. Then the hotel people went back to their rooms.

We left a little after 6 to pick up the hotel people and headed out for the Copper Creek Ranch and chuckwagon supper. The meal was good and the entertainment was good. Also, while we were in the building it rained and was clear by the time we came out. We also saw a beautiful rainbow.

Then it was time to head back to the campground where we spent more time enjoying each others company. We slept thru a thunder storm and heavy rain for the night. It was clear when we got up, but tents were wet. It was time to pack up and head out. Things got put away wet, so we will have to open them when we get home so they can dry.

I think this was another success. It was nice going on the rides, being with old friends and meeting some new people. Dave Stech and I rode home over Emory Pass into Hillsboro where we had breakfast. I really like that road and it was beautiful this time of day. Then we headed to Caballo and down 185 again to Las Cruces and home. I made it home at 1:10. It sure was nice to see Cindy again.

RR

That time of year

Well, it is here again. Almost a new year and time to get those renewals in. I am including an application with this newsletter. At the meeting in Silver City at the Enchanted Tour we voted to change the dues for membership to \$10 per year for a family. It doesn't matter how many in the family it is still \$10. Any registrations received now will take care of 2009. If you renew now you won't have to worry about Guido and the boys coming to visit next year. Personally, I would not want them visiting me. Not that they use strong arm tactics, but people have ended up in body casts or worse yet, disappeared after their visits, so get your applications in NOW!! If Guido and the boys don't get things settled, the next step is BRENDA!! Consider yourselves warned!!

Rodney R. Westphal

Enchanted Voyagers

Membership Application

DATE: _____

Member Fees \$10 Family

() New Member () Renewal

Primary Driver Information

Riding partner/Co-Pilot

Last Name: _____ Last Name: _____

First Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ City: _____

State/Zip: _____ State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Gender: _____ Gender: _____

Birthday: _____

e-mail: _____ e-mail: _____

Cycle Year: _____ Cycle Year: _____

Make: _____ Make: _____

Model: _____ Model: _____

May we print your birthday and anniversary? (No years will be given) () Yes () No

Anniversary: _____

For the roster on our internet site, may we publish your? () Name () Address () Phone () E-mail

Please indicate any assistance you are willing to give fellow EVA members in time of need.

() Pick Up Truck () Bike Trailer () Local Info () Tent Area () Lodging () Tools

Other _____

Send Application and check to Brenda Herring
With check made out to 325 County Rd 130
Liberty, TX 77575

I/We the undersigned agree to not hold AVA-EVA, it's officers, agents, members or anyone connected with the AVA-EVA functions responsible for any accidents, injury, or personal loss before, during, or after attending any event, get together, activity or rally.

Signature, primary _____

Signature, co-rider _____