Newsletter December 2009

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. Our web at http://enchantedvoyagersmc.com/index.html has an application and one is also included with this newsletter.

From the President

Good day all. It was just a short 5 years ago we met on December 11th at Sadies in Fort Sumner to start the Enchanted Voyagers. We have grown since that first meeting with Bob & Donna Dyke, Hank Scally, Dave Stech, John Ward and myself. We have expanded to have members from Arizona, Colorado and Texas. Sadly though a couple of our members are no longer with us in body or spirit. I have enjoyed the times spent with our members. We have had good rides and great times sitting around the campground. Hopefully the next 5 years will be as enjoyable. I treasure the friendships I have gained thru this club.

We had a good quarterly lunch in Roswell a week ago. Hank rode down from Albuquerque. Saw Doug Richardson for the first time in several years. It was a nice time, always nice to go for a ride and see our members.

This will be the last newsletter with me as the editor. Hank volunteered to take over that task at the meeting during our Enchanted Tour in Las Vegas. Remember after this to get those articles in to Hank by the end of the month (or any time) for the newsletter. Hank will also become the new vice-president. Don't know if we will have an inauguration though. Will have to see what happens with Hank. That will be up to him.

This coming year should be another great one. We will have our annual joint Spring Fun Run with the Lone Star Voyagers in March in Alpine, TX. Then another Grand Canyon Tour in May thanks to Bob and Dorothy. I had a great time at the last one. The weather was perfect and it was great getting together with everyone. Then in July the AVA rally in New York and August our Enchanted Tour based out of Silver City. Be sure to mark your calendars and get the plans made.

Then, we still have our quarterly lunches. We will have our next one in west New Mexico so hopefully the Arizona group can make it. I am looking at Silver City for lunch or Glenwood for breakfast. We will look at sometime in March.

As this is the last newsletter for the year, one last reminder to get those renewals in for the next year. Only $10 for the family gets you this newsletter and all the camaraderie with the Enchanted Voyagers members.

Rod Westphal
President, Enchanted Voyagers

Quarterly Lunch

We had 3 at our lunch in Roswell. The weather was great. A little cool starting out, but it quickly warmed up. I left at 9:20 and headed up over the mountains thru Cloudcroft to enjoy the nice road east of there. I took the C14 as I wanted to change oil and I like to get it well warmed up before draining the old oil. As we didn't have a place designated for lunch we met at Champion Motorsports (the Kawasaki dealer) and decided where to go. I got there about 11:35 and was just taking my jacket off when Doug rode up. A couple minutes later Hank came out of the shop. He had been

there a few minutes before me. The place was busy. They had a bloodmobile and band and were cooking hot dogs. We decided on a café Doug knew of and he led the way. I had a good hamburger and Doug and Hank had chili cheeseburgers. It was a nice little café and we spent some time talking.

Then Hank headed home and Doug and I headed back to Champion. I went and donated blood and Doug picked up a couple things from the shop. After I got out Doug and I said our good-byes and headed home. I went back thru Hondo and Ruidoso. It got a little cool going over the pass west of Ruidoso, but warmed up again as I got into Mescalero. We decided to have our next lunch in the western part of the state so we could see the Arizona people.

Rod Westphal

Talladega trip 2009

When I got my VV1700 I was thinking I would not ride when it is too cold to be uncomfortable or in the snow. I have not managed to do that in my previous several bikes as I would usually go on trips early or late in the year. When I planned this trip I knew it would be a possibility I wouldn't make the Wisconsin part of the trip. As the time approached I kept checking the weather in Wisconsin. It was looking OK, but when the time arrived a cool front was coming into Colorado and bringing rain. Wednesday morning dawned with clouds over the mountains, but sunny here in the basin. By the time I left at noon it was cloudy all over and not very warm. I put on my electric jacket liner and winter jacket and insulated over pants and headed north. I stopped in Carrizozo for gas under cloudy skies and drizzle. As I filled up, the drizzle turned to sleet and snow. I headed north and the snow got worse. The landscape turned white, but it never stuck to the road. I had to reach around the fairing to wipe the snow off so I could see. I rode thru snow for 70 miles to Vaughn where it quit and the skies actually cleared for a while when I got to Santa Rosa. That lasted for about 100 miles and then it got dark and started raining again.

I rode thru rain the rest of the night, sometimes light and a few times fairly hard, but usually just a gentle rain. I stopped for gas in Greensburg and had about a gallon in when a clap of lightning hit and everything went dark. As I didn't get enough gas, I rode a little further to where the lights were on and filled up. I made Williamsburg late that night and stopped for a sleep in a dry motel (763 miles). That is only the second time in all my travels I spent the night at a motel while traveling, but it was wet and cold and I didn't feel like setting up the tent. The electric vest had been on since Carrizozo and sure made things a lot more pleasant. I set my alarm for about 5 hours sleep and left in the morning again in the rain. I made Kansas City and actually rode on dry roads for a couple hours, but that was the last until Wisconsin. I got to Reedsburg about 7 that night and again found a motel as again it was raining and cool, about 50°. I visited some old family friends and then headed to Culvers for a delicious hamburger and back to the motel. I was in bed by 10 (577 miles). I don't think I was in bed for more than 5 minutes and was asleep and didn't remember a thing until that annoying sound at 6:00 AM.

I got everything back on the bike and was on the road by 6:25 under cloudy skies, but no rain. I headed for a farm nearby to get my sorghum and then to Carr Valley Cheese for cheese curds for my

daughters, some 10 year cheddar and summer sausage for a friend and summer sausage for me. Then it was south for Georgia. I rode thru cloudy skies but no rain for several hours. A little after getting into Illinois, it started raining again and that was the last of the dry roads until Chattanooga. I had planned my route and uploaded it to the Garmin, but hadn't realized how well I had planned. I don't mind riding in the rain and I don't mind riding at night, but I really don't like riding in the rain at night. It is very difficult seeing with lights reflecting off the wet roads and all. I was riding on back roads most of the way so far and wasn't relishing riding those back roads at night in the rain. Just as it started getting dark (as it was the end of October, the days were getting very short), I got to the freeway just before Nashville and rode freeway the rest of the night. I don't mind that as much, since the roads are straight and wide. I had planned on spending the night on the road again and getting to Augusta Saturday morning, but since it was raining again (still!!) I asked my daughter if it would be OK to get there late at night. As I said, I got to just north of Atlanta and the rain finally quit and it was just a very light mist. I got to Augusta a little after 4 for my first 1,000+ mile day on the VV1700. I gave Dawn her cheese curds and she was surprised as I hadn't told either daughter I was going to Wisconsin on the way. She had to try some and they still squeaked. That was 1096 miles in 20 ½ hours. Not bad considering I had spent the first hour and a half chasing around Wisconsin for cheese and such. The VV1700was performing flawlessly and I wasn't really tired from riding, but the bed sure felt good.

I slept until about 9 and then it was time to get up and get ready for the day. We took her dogs to the kennel and headed out for Opelika, Alabama where we met my other daughter and her husband. Again, no sun, but no rain either until we got to Dublin where we stopped for lunch while the rain passed over. By the time the rain was done we were done eating also. We got to Opelika a little after 4 under cloudy skies, but no rain for a short 238 mile day. We had a great night and the next day Talladega was good although neither of our drivers did very well. This was our first time at Talladega. We stayed at the motel again that night and the next morning headed back to Augusta UNDER CLEAR SKIES!! Did a little riding around there, had lunch for another low mileage day of only 236 miles.

Tuesday we put on a storm door and rode around again for lunch and a quick ride into South Carolina to get another state under the VV1700's wheels. This was a really short 47 mile day.

Wednesday it was time to head for Crawfordville, FL and my other daughter Kim. The time with Dawn just went too fast. I rode on all back roads under SUN for only 320 miles to Crawfordville and more visiting with family. The bike sat for 3 days while we enjoyed ourselves riding a pontoon boat one day, riding bicycles on an old train track one day and just relaxing.

Sunday it was time to head west after again a too short time with Kim and her family. Wheels were rolling at 6:25 again as I headed for the freeway. This was a mostly superslab day until I got to Beaumont where I took off on 90 for Liberty to have supper with John & Brenda Herring. It got dark then and I headed for Houston where I caught 290 for Austin. I made it just past Austin where I stopped for the night (finally using my sleeping bag). I rode thru about 1 hour of rain just before Austin, but went to sleep under clear skies after a 904 mile day.

Monday I was on the road by 7 under cloudy skies, but again, NO RAIN heading for Richard Baxter to deliver an Enchanted Voyagers patch he had paid for. You don't come upon his place while just riding around. You have to actually determine to go to his place. I mean, he really lives out of the way. His dogs alerted him to my presence, and he had to wait until I took off my helmet before he knew who it was. Again, I hadn't warned him about coming to visit. We visited for an hour and then it was time to head home. I headed up thru Llano, Brady (where I had breakfast at a nice café), Eden, San Angelo, Big Spring, Lamesa (where I finally saw the sun again), Hobbs (where the bike turned over 15,000 miles), Artesia and over the mountains to home. I even saw more snow on the hills as I passed by the Cloudcroft ski area. I got home at 6 after a relatively short 590 mile day. Hugged and kissed Cindy and then drained the oil on the VV1700. It ran flawlessly for 4,771 miles in 12 days and thru more rain than I ever want to see again.

I realize I need new rain gear also as I got a little damp with all that rain and my gloves which are supposed to be waterproof aren't any more. That electric jacket liner really saved the day several times. As I sit here this Saturday morning writing this I think about all the rain and snow and cold I rode thru and wonder if it was worth the ride to Wisconsin. As I said I have seen more rain in the past couple weeks than I ever want to see again. I just finished an excellent breakfast of pancakes Cindy made, smothered with sorghum and with summer sausage, and think, that sure tasted good!!.

Rod Westphal (RR)

My trip to Peru with 'Wheels For The World'

Authors note: This article does not have anything to do with motorcycles or riding.

It describes an experience I had on a Mission Trip to Peru, and I'm submitting it because some club members have expressed interest in what happened while I was there. For the rest of you, just turn to the next article. For those with an interest in things of this nature,

Please read on. Thanks.
Hank S.

By Hank Scally

I am involved with a Ministry to the Disabled called Wheels For The World, which is a division of the ministry of Joni Eareckson-Tada, a disabled lady who wants to reach the Disabled for Jesus Christ. Every year in November, a team that is based primarily in Albuquerque travels to Lima, Peru to give wheelchairs to the disabled poor in that city. The 'outreach' this year was from November 6th to November 14th.

Let me give you a quick overview of the people we help. Peru is one of the poorest countries in the Americas. The middle and upper classes total about 15% of the total population, everyone else is basically 'subsistence level' poor. The average laborer makes between 500-1500.00 a year, and from this they have to pay all their bills, plus care for their disabled family member. There is no Medicare or Medicaid, and they cannot afford private insurance (if they can find any.) A standard wheelchair costs close to a year's wages.

If the family wants to travel anywhere the disabled member is carried by a sibling, or a parent. There is no hope because they cannot afford medical care or a proper wheelchair.

While we were there, we fitted over 350 wheelchairs to people like the cute girl in this picture (Below). The lady next to her is her mother. Her mother carried her in on her shoulders; this is the first chair she has ever had.

We also had a doctor, and 2 nurses with us, who were kept busy bandaging wounds, cleaning bedsores, diagnosing problems with the people, and praying with the people they helped. Everyone received a Bible, and the Gospel of Jesus. Many received Jesus as their Savior (the 'real' underlying reason why we were there.)

The place where we were working was a tent with no electricity and no lighting…which caused a problem when darkness set in. We finally wound up piecing together an extension cord (Peru-as well as most of South America-uses a 220v/50cycle line voltage), as well as some lights (obtained from a local hardware store.) so we could see to work. Our longest day was 14 hours-8A.M. to 10 P.M.!!

We arrived back home in the States at about 11:00 Saturday, 11/14, and we were all tired but happy. A trip like this changes your outlook on life, and your priorities. I know it has changed mine. I expect that you will never hear me complain about anything again, and I feel very blessed (and a little embarrassed) with all the material possessions I have. So many people do not even have 3 square meals a day, and I have seen that. I plan on going back next year, and am looking at the possibility of full time service as a missionary working with the poor wherever the Lord sees fit to send me.