



Newsletter April 2010

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.

A note from the Publisher...

Good Morning, Everyone!

This is just a note from the Publisher (that would be me) to apologise for the tardiness of this Newsletter.

I have had some exciting (HaHa!) times last month with various health issues, which I will not go into here (as I understand that talking about your health all the time is an indication of very advanced age...and I'm not that old (yet!))

We had a Great time at the April luncheon (see my article below) and have a lot of Great runs and fun planned for the future, so stay tuned!!

Hank S
V.P./NL Publisher

From the President

The weather is really turning nice these past few days. Guess spring is finally arriving. I haven't really been doing much riding other than around town, but we do have the Spring Fun Run coming up in two weeks from now. Less than that by the time you read this. I will be going again this year. It is an area I really like to ride. So much scenery and the roads are great. We will be staying at Alpine again this year and will be riding the river road Friday and then up to Fort Davis Saturday. Most of you have been on these rides, so hopefully it won't be boring. We will try to vary things a bit just so we won't get in a rut. Hopefully the weather will be better than last year. It was a bit cool then, but we still had some good rides. If you will be camping, no reservations are necessary. We just find a spot when we get there. The area where we camp is nice, grassy and the facilities are good. We may even get some of our northern members to attend. Bud and Pat are planning on attending as are Jim and Sandra. Hopefully the weather will cooperate so they will be able to make it. A slight snow storm kept them from attending last year.

We had a lunch in Alamogordo last month which had 8 people. Hank came from Albuquerque and the rest from our local area. Hank thought it might be a good idea to have a local (to Alamogordo) lunch every month as we have quite a few members here and the turnout is much better than our traveling lunches. It sounded good to me, so we will be having another lunch next weekend, the 20th at noon at La Hacienda which is on White Sands. We will still be having our travelling quarterly lunches to get those who are further away. Our next quarterly lunch is planned for May 1st in Silver City to give our Arizona people a chance to go for a ride. The weather should be good for that time of year.

Then for a while during the summer months, nothing special is planned, but if anyone has anything they would like to schedule, please bring it up on the forum. We had thought about another Grand Canyon Tour, but I wouldn't be able to make it since I have a college graduation that weekend. Hank, who had wanted to attend one won't be able to make it the scheduled weekend. We didn't really want to delay it too much as we would be getting into the tourist season and it would begin to be really crowded. If there is still interest, please let us know and we can work on that. I had talked about cancelling as I hadn't heard of

anyone else interested in going. Bob and Dorothy were still willing to plan it if we could come up with another date or even if there was still enough interest for the scheduled weekend.

This is enough rambling I guess, so until we meet again, ride safe and I hope to see lots of you at the Spring Fun Run.

Rodney Westphal

Monthly lunch ride

We had our monthly lunch ride to La Hacienda in Alamogordo. The weather cooled off last night and it only got up to 45 today, so the turnout was low. Hank couldn't make it because of snow in Albuquerque and Roland and Verla couldn't make it because of the weather. Even with that, we had 5 people and spent almost two hours talking and eating and talking some more.

We talked about next month and will be at Wok Inn on April 10th at noon. We look forward to seeing yall then. Then in may, we will have our quarterly lunch in Silver City on the 1st.

Rodney Westphal

THANK YOU

Cindy and I would like to thank all for your prayers and cards and for the flowers from the Enchanted Voyagers. It means so much to know we have such good friends at times like this. We knew the end was near for Mom, but it is still a shock when death actually comes. Cindy is getting better a little at a time. This is such a great group and I am honored to be able to call yall 'friend'.

Rodney and Cindy

Spring Fun Run

Well, another one is under the belt. I had a great time. We had 8 people attend and it was great talking with them all. The weather was good, the roads were good.

I left Thursday morning about 7:30. It was 32 when I left, so I waited until the sun was just about ready to peak over the mountains. By the time I was about 20 miles south of Alamogordo, the sun was up and I was beginning to warm. I rode to El Paso where I turned left towards Carlsbad. About 10 I stopped at Salt Flat for my breakfast burrito. Then I continued on a ways further and turned right on 54 to Van Horn where I got on 90 to Valentine. A ways past Valentine I turned left towards Fort Davis. I wanted to scout out for a place for breakfast. The one we tried last year was no good. Anyhow, when I got there it was boarded up. I did find a good restaurant at the same place we ate a couple years ago. They didn't have burritos, but did have pancakes plus they had biscuits and gravy for Dennis. Then I headed south to Alpine and got to the campground about 3. Bob and Dorothy were just starting to set up their tent, so I did the same. As we were doing that Dave Schani showed up. He had been here a while and had already checked into his motel room.

After the tents were up we sat around and talked. We started getting hungry and as we were about ready to get something to eat, Richard, Dennis and Paul showed up. They weren't hungry, so we went out to a BBQ / Mexican restaurant. On the way back I got the peanuts and we had beverages and peanuts as we visited some more. It was a bit cool, so we turned in a little after dark. It would have been nice to have a campfire, but they were not allowed in the park.

The next morning was cool, but the sun was up a little after 8 and we left about 15 after heading south. We were stopped before getting out of town as a train was stopped at our crossing. We waited about 5 minutes and then headed south to Terlingua and Cathy's Cosmic Café. We had breakfast there and the temp was great. Then we headed west to Presidio over the river road. It was a nice up and down and around road with excellent scenery. We stopped on the side of a cliff to look over the river and had only a minor incident, but all was well. We kept our bikes in gear so they wouldn't roll away. After a bit we headed to Presidio and gassed up. Dave still had over 200 miles on his tank, but the rest of us were ready for gas. Then we headed north with a tail wind to Marfa and a DQ and then back to the campground. We were fighting a side wind on that last leg, so it felt good to get to the campground. We were back a little after 3 and sat around a bit more before heading out to supper.

It was warmer, so we stayed out at the campground later before turning in. We were up and moving around and ready to head north by 8. We headed for Fort Davis and breakfast. Then we went to Fort

Davis monument and walked around for a couple hours. It was again windy, but not too bad. After that we headed for the McDonald observatory visitors center and looked around there. Then headed north a bit and caught US 118 back to Fort Davis. As I had to be back for Palm Sunday I had packed up that morning and when we got to the turnoff for Valentine I peeled off for home. I battled a headwind most of the way to El Paso where it finally died off a bit. I made it home about 5:30 and was happy to be home and see Cindy again.

We talked about staying at Terlingua next year and visiting the national park again. Richard and I picked the last weekend of March again for 2011. Subject to approval of course.

All in all, I had a great time and hope everyone else did also.
Rodney Westphal

Two Strikes on the SFR

by
Bud Pacotti

Last year I had plans for attending the Spring Fun Run, but the weather moving into Denver scared me off. Strike one!



This year I was set to do it up right. I configured my new 5th wheel to be able to pull a swivel-wheel trailer so that I could bring my Voyager, wife, and comfortable living quarters. Here is a look at my rig:

This was taken near Trinidad, CO right before the bike fell on the trailer, breaking the handle bars. A closer look at the way I had mounted the bike tells the story:

First mistake was those orange ratchet tie-downs that I bought from Harbor Freight. They were on sale for only \$9.95 for four of them. Great deal, except one of them snapped right off! The second mistake was the straps on the handle bars that I used as tie down points. When I hit a bump on the south side of Raton Pass, the bike went a little

airborn, the handle bar tie snapped the right handlebar, causing the bike to fall hard toward the 5th wheel and breaking the left rear tie down. These two mistakes resulted in spending the week in Albuquerque, waiting for a new handle bar. Thanks to Hank Scally for his quick response in placing the order, I have the new parts and am heading back to Denver. So, I have swung the bat twice now. See you in Alpine next year!

