

The Enchanted Voyagers of N.M. Motorcycle Touring Association Members' Newsletter

March-April, 2011

A Note from the Editor

Hank Scally

Wow, how time flies! It seems like only yesterday that I was packing my bike for the trip south into the boot heel of the great state of Texas! I had planned on publishing the Club Newsletter before I left, but I decided to wait, for the simple reason that, at the time, there was nothing to write about. I think that the wait was worth it. Unfortunately, I had a problem with 'the Dinosaur' (my old computer), it did not want to download the articles, so I'm doing this on my laptop. Since I'm doing things this way, there will not be any pics, since my camera software is not compatible with Windows 7 (The software is 10 years old.) There should be plenty of enjoyable reading, though!

From the desk of the President

Good day all

It is getting late in the month, so decided I had better get this written for the newsletter. There isn't much to write as things have been quite for riding lately. We did have a lunch ride last month to the Cantina in Willard. We had a good turnout. I came up from the south and Hank from the north. Hank brought 5 others with him, so we had a total of 7, of which only 2 were from the Enchanted Voyagers. Still, it was a nice ride. A little cool to start out in the morning, but beautiful for the ride home. I took the opportunity to get a few more pictures of my cycle for the LSV Ghost Town Tour.

Talking about lunch rides, this month is pretty much filled up for me with Little League tryouts and the SFR. I guess the lunch ride will have to be at the SFR. We will be having a lunch ride to Silver City in May on the first Saturday, the 7th. It will be at noon at the same place we had last time. If you have any questions about the place, email or call me.

We should have a good turnout for that. I have seen several indications of intent to attend from EV members. This will be a great start to the season. John Herring has set up some excellent rides. They are pretty much what we went on a few years back with a few changes and I really enjoyed them. I enjoy the Big Bend area. It is not what you would expect of West Texas. The roads in the area are great for riding on two wheels. The weather should be beautiful this year also. So far the temps have been down to around 50 and up to the upper 80's. Hopefully this will continue into next week. Some of the past SFR events have been a bit on the cool side. We will even have some come all the way from Oregon for the SFR, so it will be great to meet someone new and have a chance to show off our part of this great country.

The next event around here will be the LSV HCT. Although not an EV event, it is still a great time for us to attend with our close friends from Texas. Then I plan on attending the Midwest rally in Illinois. It should be a nice ride up to that area and the country around there is beautiful. Also, it is not too late in the year, so the weather should be good. And then there is the AVA national in Arkansas. It is pretty close this year. I know they have great roads in that area from attending gatherings in the ARV era.

Then, there is the Enchanted Tour in August. I had better get with the program and working on the rides. The area north of Las Vegas is great for riding on 2 wheels also. We go back there every other year, so I have to try to get some new rides scheduled.

I guess this is enough rambling. I better get this out to Hank for the newsletter. Have a great season and I look forward to seeing ya at one or more of our gatherings this year.

Rodney R. Westphal President, Enchanted Voyagers

From the Vice-President's Desk...

Hank Scally

First, I lost his word file of this column that he sent me before the SFR, and since he is on his way to Colorado to see family, and would not be able to transmit the article even if I COULD contact him, so I had to do something, ergo, here I am...again. Also, we have an issue on the horizon. The Enchanted Voyagers is made up of between 20 and 25 people, of which a grand total of 5 families actually live in the state of New Mexico. Of these 5 families, only Rod and I have been active members for quite awhile (We're talking just NM members here.) Here's the Kicker...Rod and his family are planning to move out-of-state very soon, to Hutto, Texas, where I believe he will take a new job (or he may just be getting transferred, I do not really know). This, of course, leaves 'the ball' in my court, and I do not like playing alone!! If you are a member living in New Mexico, I would like to ask you to please consider getting more involved in your club. Check the Forum and the Ride Calendar for rides (I'll post in both places), and consider joining me on some of them. The lunches are fun, and the Enchanted Tour has always been a wonderful experience. Besides, I do not like riding alone!!!

The Spring Fun Run 2011

Rod Westphal

Let me begin by stating this was an excellent outing. The people were great, the rides were great and the weather was warmer than the past couple years.

Ron Riggs from Oregon had contacted me about attending the SFR. I told him it would be no problem and he was welcome. He showed up Wednesday evening to spend the night.

We left Thursday morning a couple minutes after 7 with cool temps and the sun almost over the mountains. We were in the sun in 15 minutes heading south to El Paso. There we headed east on US180 towards Carlsbad. We stopped at the Salt Flat Café for breakfast burritos. The temps were getting pleasant by then. We continued east to US54 which we took south to Van Horn where we stopped for fuel. As we pulled out from the station, Ron noticed his bike not handling well. He had a low rear tire. After getting some puncture sealer and airing up his tire, I headed south and Ron headed to El Paso for a new tire. He made it to the on ramp for I10 and the tire was flat again. He ended up calling ROK for their towing assistance and was in El Paso by 5 that afternoon. They found a Kawasaki shop that was open until 7. Ron got a new tire and new rear brake pads and spent the night in El Paso before heading to Terlingua.

As I was riding thru Alpine, Bob Bass flagged me down. He had seen me stopped in town as he was riding thru. He was with a friend Johnny and we rode the rest of the way together. We made it to Terlingua a little after 5 and hungry.

When we got to the campground, Bob introduced his friend Johnny Chavarria, also from Borger. He rides a HD and was also pulling a trailer. He is a really nice fellow, and fit nicely into our group. He ended up joining the EV this weekend, so our numbers are growing. We are getting a large group from the Borger area. If you see Johnny, be sure to welcome him to the group.

I registered at the campground and visited for a bit. Then I went to the hotel where the rest of the group was registered and we set up for supper at the café at the campground. After supper I set up my tent and we sat around the campground and talked some more. It cooled off nicely as the sun set. The campers in the high rent district of the camper area had nice trees which provided shade. We just had to move as the shade moved.

Friday morning dawned bright and cool. We had breakfast at Kathy's Kosmic Kowgirl Kafé and headed into the Big Bend National Park led by John Herring. It was an excellent ride. We visited the Stillwell Ranch and Hallies Museum. We then rode back south to Castolon and the Santa Elena canyon. It is very pleasant in the canyon. It has sheer cliffs on either side of the river. This keeps the sun out and the cliffs are cool, so it is really pleasant in the canyon. We then headed back to the campground for a little rest and then headed out to supper at the Rio Bravo café. It was very good. We then returned to the campground for more visiting under the shade of the trees. Bob and Johnny worked on Bob's trailer, installing tail lights. Apparently they had problems with the ones currently on the trailer.

Ron was at the campground all set up when we got back. He had arrived about an hour before we got back.

We turned in for the night after a bit of talking again and the temps were a little cooler than the previous night. I still went to sleep on top of the sleeping bag, but it cooled off enough I had to crawl inside sometime during the night.

Saturday morning we again had breakfast at the Kosmic Kowgirl Kafe and some of us decided to ride the river road to Presidio and some others went with the originally scheduled ride into the park. I rode to Presidio. That is still a nice road. I really enjoy that ride. We were back to Terlingua a little after noon, so some had lunch at the Kafe (really large hamburgers and BBQ sandwiches). We sat around under the tree at the campground again and enjoyed drinks and peanuts and snacks. Then about 6 we headed up to the café at the campground for the buffet. While at the buffet I noticed we had 10 EV members, 6 LSV members and 1 generic member attending the SFR. That is probably the first time the EV has outnumbered the LSV. We had a total of 12 in attendance on 4 Voyagers, 2 HD's, 1 Yamaha Star, 1 Triumph, 1 BMW and 1 Gold Wing for a total of 10 bikes. It was a good group and I enjoyed my time with them.

As usual, the weekend ended too soon and it was time to head home. I was up at 6:35 and packed and ready to head out by 7:30. I said my farewells and headed north. The sun was up shortly and it was warming up. I got to Van Horn and took the freeway to El Paso rather than taking the back road. It totaled 386 miles home and a total of 1130 miles for the weekend.

We talked about having the next Spring Fun Run out of Fort Davis for a little variety. Of course this will depend on the weather as Fort Davis is higher and cooler than Alpine. We might have to move further south at the last minute, depending on the weather.

As I said, it was a great weekend with the weather, rides and people outstanding. And thanks John for setting up the rides.

The Spring Fun Run...

Hank Scally

This is one of the best rides I have been on lately, and it was FAR better than the other times I had attended the SFR. I guess I'm getting old, but I decided awhile back that I wanted to ride for fun, not to try to brave the elements on a 28 degree night, or stand outside my tent freezing my whomsoever off in subfreezing weather. I actually hadn't planned on going, but as the date got closer, and I realized that it would actually be warm down there, I took leave from my job and packed up the Triumph, and headed out about 4PM Wednesday afternoon. I made Roswell the first day (a good ride for me), took a room in a motel, and bedded down for the night. I woke up refreshed Thursday morning, and after a light breakfast, gassed up, and headed on south, following hwy 285, as I had been for the last couple of hundred miles. I hung a right on FM1776, passed under I-10, and FM 1776 became hwy 67. I followed it into Alpine where I headed South on 118 into Study Butte and Terlingua. I found the hotel, where John and Brenda had already arrived, and after some negotiations, took a room. It was nothing to write home about but there was a hot shower and a comfortable bed, and-most important!-A.C. that worked, so I was satisfied. I went over to the campground, found Rod, and hung around a bit until we decided to go to dinner. I skipped dinner, went back to the motel, showered, and went to bed. Friday Morning, we had breakfast at Kathys' Kosmic Kowgirl Kafe (Best food west of the Pecos...Honest!) and left on our ride at about 8:30. My impressions of the Big Bend area are...Magnificent desolation, much of it volcanic in nature, with areas of unique vegetation and magnificent vistas...1500 foot cliffs, massive mesas, and a mountain called 'Casa Grande' that I got a great picture of (sure wish I could include some...That will come!) The people were, as always, very friendly and would go out of their way to provide assistance and information when we needed it, and my friends and compatriots from the LSV were a lot of fun to converse with and get in trouble with. Like Rod said in his article, it ended too soon.

Sunday morning, after breakfast at Kathy's Kosmic Kowgrl Kafe, I aimed the nose of the Triumph north, and retracing my route south, didn't stop until I pulled into the carport at my apartment complex about 11 hours later. The trips both south and north were about 565 miles each. That's the farthest I've ridden in one day since I started long distance riding again in '04, and the first time I've made it back from a run into

Texas in one day. I was honestly sorry to see it end. Starry cool nights, balmy days with temps in the low 90's and not a cloud or raindrop in sight, THAT'S the way I like to ride!!

EVA Treasurer's Report

Brenda Herring, our Club Treasurer, reports that there has been no change in the numbers for our club account. Keep it Simple!!

2011 RIDE CALENDAR

APRIL

MAY

- 7th CLUB LUNCHEON, HIGH NOON SILVER CITY
- 19-22 ASPEN CASH RALLY, RUIDOSO
- 20-22 MIDWEST REGIONAL RALLY, SAVANNA, IL.

JUNE

JULY

- 11-14 AVA NATIONAL RALLY, DEGRAY AR.

AUGUST

- 12-14 ENCHANTED TOUR, LAS VEGAS, NM

SEPTEMBER

- 14-18 GOLDEN ASPEN RALLY, RUIDOSO

A Final Word...

We have a wonderful riding season ahead, and it will be a lot of fun...Especially if we get more people from New Mexico participating! Remember, this is YOUR club! Participating in it makes us stronger, and makes our rides a lot more fun! I truly hope to see some or all of our members at a rally in the near future!!!