

August 2009 Newsletter
High Country Wings Chapter Y Prescott, AZ
<http://chapter-y.tripod.com>

Chapter Director – Earl Spenard

People are like motorcycles; each is customized a bit differently.

At our July meeting we welcomed six new members by name. I would like to take this opportunity to also list them in the newsletter this month. They are: Patrick Nixon, Alan Ward, Bill Laman, Aaron and Carol Hettenbach and Tom Peter. A warm welcome to you all. Another lady by the name of Joy Tyson is also looking at joining us.

There is a welcome home Celebration for the Armed Forces on August 23 at the VA on Hwy.89. We will be in the Car and Bike show along with many other activities to thank our Veterans for what they have done for all of us. Many of you have signed up to participate in this function and you are all welcome. Others may join us . . . just let me know.

I know many of you have had great rides this summer. Let us know about them at our next meeting.

The Red Rock Riding group that will be here in Prescott in October requests that we go to their site: www.redrockride.org and register. It costs nothing.

Let's not forget Bill and Debbie Balzar's picnic on September 12th at their home. They are gracious hosts to invite us. We will be getting a nose count soon and will give directions and also ask for potluck dishes to add to the fun. .

Many great events and rides coming up:

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| District Rally | Oct 30, 31 & Nov. 1 Lake Havasu |
| Red Rock Ride | October redrockride.org |
| Ride for Kids | October 11 th in Mesa |
| Photo Rides | (All year Long) |
| Week Day Rides | Every Week |
| Picnic at Bill & Debbie's | September 12 th |
| Christmas Party | December 19 th |

Mark your calendars for all the above events.

I hope you have all marked your calendars for our next meeting at the **Golden Corral at Frontier Shopping Center** in Prescott August 22nd. Breakfast at 8 AM and Meeting at 9 AM. I'll be sending out an e-mail for a nose count for breakfast very soon.

Don't forget to bring a gift for the drawings.

The Ride after the meeting is open; bring your ideas.

Thank you Dick and Sandy for our weekday rides. They have been GREAT.

Keep the rubber side down, be safe and see you all soon.

Asst. Chapter Director – Bill Balzer

Chapter Educator - Dick Studdard

HELMET SAFETY

There are two organizations setting safety standards for motorcycle helmets in the United States, the US Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Snell Memorial Foundation. DOT sets the minimum standards that all helmets sold for motorcycling on public streets must meet.

“Why do I want to buy a helmet that meets the Snell standard and has a Snell sticker on the helmet?”

Snell standards exceed the standards required by the DOT. Helmets meeting Snell Standards provide the highest level of protection available.

“How long should I keep a helmet before I replace it?”

What happens is that many manufacturers use glue to put the liner into the shell. In some cases, the glue will degrade the liner. Also liners will degrade from perspiration and hair oils. And they become compacted through normal use. Only the individual using the helmet knows how the helmet has been treated. If the helmet has been damaged in any way, the helmet should be considered unsafe and replaced. Under normal conditions a well cared for helmet may last up to five years. There are helmet liners that a rider can wear under the helmet that will help keep the inside of the helmet cleaner. One brand is called Head Skins and they are made of cotton or satin. They can be washed in the washing machine.

“How do I know if a helmet is going to be comfortable for a long trip?”

When you are going to buy a new helmet, try it on and wear it around the store to make sure it will fit and is comfortable. Make sure the chinstrap is fastened and you have full visibility while wearing the helmet. The folks that sell helmets normally recommend this and will encourage you to make sure it fits properly. They don't want you to return a helmet because it is uncomfortable or just does not fit properly.

Dick Studdard, Chapter Educator

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