

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

Chapter Director – Earl Spenard

The only good view of a thunderstorm is in your rear view mirror.

As we have ridden through the month of May and most of June many things are happening. As you read this newsletter we will have finished the ERC and Trike Training with Dave Mills and Ray Handyman here in Prescott. Thank you Dick for setting that up for us. The Trike Training was Great; I only say that because it was. (I'm on my new trike)

Projects:

- GWRRA Banner (For Parades etc.) (DONE)
- Motorcycle hangers (DONE)
- GWRRA info hand outs (DONE)

The Banner was sponsored by StarIsland Motors and designed by Sandy Gaston; Sandy also designed and created the hangers and hand outs. Thank you Sandy.

Many other great events and rides coming up.

July 4th Parade in Prescott (With the New Banner)

District Rally Oct. 30, 31, Nov. 1 in Lake Havasu.

Red Rock Ridge Ride: October

Ride for Kids: October 11, 2009 in Mesa, Arizona

Photo Rides (All year Long)

Week Day Rides: Every week (Big thanks to Dick Stehle & Ron Gaston)

OUR NEXT MEETING IS JUNE 27, 2009 AT PETE'S.

Guest Speaker: Tina Woods (WoodZDesignS)

START MARKING YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS PARTY. IT WILL BE A PLATE DINNER AT HASSAYAMPA COUNTRY CLUB ON DECEMBER 19th. MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW LATER.

Suggested Rides for after June 27th meeting:

#Cameron Trading Post located just north of Flagstaff on Hwy. 89

#Red Rock BBQ located just south of the Y in Sedona

#Wild Horse West, 99 Avenue and Carefree Highway. They have really great "burgers" and were mentioned in one article as among the best in the metropolitan area. Would go over Yarnell Hill and through Wickenburg and cut across Carefree Highway (believe is route 74), then afterwards take the New River Road back to I-17 and head back northward.

Give me your feedback before next meeting with any other suggestions.

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

Asst. Chapter Director – Bill Balzer

Hello everyone in Chapter Y,

Well, here is my first attempt at writing on my new coputer, thanks to Rod and his help. As some of you know I was gone to Michigan for about a month. I was helping my son put a metal roof on his house. What a job!!!

While I was there, I was reminded of why I moved to AZ. We had lots of rain and cold weather. The high was only about 68 and the lows ran in the high 20's and low 30's. I saw more bikes out than I thought I would, being that it was colder than normal by about 10 to 12 degrees and wet.

While I was there, I heard of several major accidents with local people. They have the same problems with car drivers not looking out for bikes. One accident was fatal. The guy was only 1 block from home. They said it was the car driver's fault, but that didn't help the rider.

Please be careful out riding even near home.

Bye for now,

Bill & Debbie Balzer

P.S. It is great to be back in AZArizona seeing the mountains again and with even better riding weather.

Chapter Educator - Dick Studdard

Ageing and riding a motorcycle

I recently took a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Experienced Rider Course (ERC). In the past I have not only taken an ERC, I have instructed the course. I have been riding motorcycles for almost five decades and have over twenty-one years riding as a motor cop. I have over one million, three hundred thousand miles on motorcycles. This ERC was an eye opener for me. It showed me what my age can do to impact my riding skills. I will be seventy-one years old in July and my age is catching up with me. The question I have to ask myself is "what am I going to do to continue riding my gold Wing and be safe". I am not ready to give up riding my Gold Wing.

Riding a motorcycle is 90% mental. I will continue to practice my riding skill by going to an empty parking lot and practicing braking, swerving, turning my head through turns and looking where I want to go. If I am not feeling 100%, I don't ride my Gold Wing that day.

I know my reaction time is not what it was when I was younger, so I take that into consideration while riding. I have slowed down and don't take the curves as fast as I did in the past. I also make more stops and that has made my riding more enjoyable.

Maintaining my Gold Wing is always been very important in keeping me safe while riding. Every time I go on a ride I perform the T-CLOCS inspection on the Wing. An example how I maintain my Wing, I replace the tires when the tread is down to 3/32. The wear bars on Dunlap tires are a 2/23 and that is when it is recommended that the tires be replaced.

My grandfather stated to me a long time ago, “You don’t get old and give up fun things, you get old by giving up the fun things”.

Keep the rubber side down and ride safe.

Dick Studdard, Chapter Educator

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Ride Coordinator – Open Position