

*April 2008 Newsletter*  
*High Country Wings Chapter Y Prescott, AZ*  
<http://chapter-y.tripod.com>

Chapter Director - Sherwin White

I would like to start out by saying THANK YOU to all of our Chapter members who called or sent cards to Chris Freeman after her accident last month. I also sent her flowers on behalf of our entire Chapter. I understand her bruises are healing and we hope to see her at our next meeting.

On Saturday, May 3rd our Chapter is participating in the MOTORCYCLE SAFETY & AWARENESS FAIR at the Prescott Valley Entertainment Center, southeast parking lot off Pave Way. We will have a booth and are donating a plaque for the touring class in the Bike show. It's from 10 AM to 2 PM. Come on out and have some fun. Polish up your trusty steed and enter it in the bike show. Flyers will be available at our meeting. You can also look at the link below.

We have been urged by the Country Club to increase our participation for our monthly meetings. It seems we had only 18 breakfasts at our last meeting, which is not a sufficient number for them to justify opening for us. The number they require is at least 25 breakfasts. If our membership cannot turn out to support what has been a very good meeting place, then we may have to look for alternatives, which I understand is very difficult. We get a very good breakfast for a reasonable price. Even if you can't go on the ride after the meeting, come for breakfast - the more members, the bigger the 50/50.

Don't forget to bring a door prize and get double the amount of 50/50 tickets. It doesn't get any better than this!

See you Saturday the 26th at 8 AM.

Asst. Chapter Director - Ron Neville

Where does the time go? Another month has sped by already and for the most part, spring appears about to be "sprung".

We are still envious of those of you riding and will join in soon as our new ride is shipped (should be a done deal as you read this). Downside is that I will be in Prison (doing the Prison Ministry) when it arrives and shortly after I take delivery, I will be heading up to Oregon for about three weeks. Maybe we can catch up with you in May???

If you haven't already done so, be sure to give a "Thanks" to Rod for the wonderful product he is turning out in the form of your Newsletter and also to Chuck Taylor, who I thought had an excellent idea for Chapter Rides following the meetings.

Has anyone given any thought to additional fundraisers for the Chapter? In the past we have supported the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's "Ride for Kids" and that has primarily been supported by funds earned working the rodeo. We have also provided some support for the "Toys for Tots" program and either an adopted family for Christmas or helping out with a donation to a worthy charity that assists needy families at Christmas. If you think these are worthwhile endeavors

and have an idea, please share with your Chapter Director... time moves along so swiftly and we would need to get moving on any fundraiser ideas.

Nuff' said, so here are my words of Wit? Wisdom? for the month. After all, it is the political season...

After the politician won his first election, his defeated predecessor gave him three envelopes, saying, "You're going to find times when the job of being in this office becomes very difficult. At such times, open one of these envelopes". A few weeks went by and the elected one was attacked by every faction of his constituency because he hadn't solved every problem in sight.

He opened the envelope marked one and on a piece of paper inside were the words "blame me". He blamed his predecessor and it worked. About six months later, problems began to multiply so he opened envelope number two. The message said, "Blame the other political party." That worked fine, too.

Sometime later, as he approached re-election time, things looked so bad that nothing seemed to work. Then he remembered the third envelope. Opening it eagerly, he found a piece of paper with words that read, "*Prepare three envelopes.*"

That's all folks.....Ron

### Chapter Educator - Dick Studdard

#### Packing the Gold Wing

There are three points to consider when packing for a trip on your Gold Wing. They are weight, location and security.

**Weight:** Check the owner's manual for weight limitations and recommendations for tire pressure and suspension adjustments. Every motorcycle has a maximum load specified by its manufacturer. It is the difference between empty weight and the maximum allowable weight of the motorcycle and its load, including the operator and co-rider.

**Location:** Due to a motorcycle's size and weight, and the fact it only has two wheels, where the load is carried is important. Keep the weight low and as close to the center of the motorcycle as possible, and keep it evenly distributed side to side. Place heavier items in the "load triangle", the space formed within the top the rider's head and the two axles. Although luggage racks and top trunks appear to be ideal places to pack things, carrying weight high and to the rear of the rear axle will lighten the front wheel and may cause a degree of handling instability.

**Security:** Be sure the load is secure. Bungee cords may come loose and cause the item to get lost. I use the elastic netting and have had very good luck with keeping items on my tour pack. The only items I have on my tour pack are my rain gear or an extra jacket. I like to keep everything out of sight and locked in the saddle bags or tour pack. If I am riding solo, I have a "T" bag on the rear seat and it is locked to the bike with the same cable I lock the Wing with at night.

These are the recommendations of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and I have seen riders not follow them and get in trouble with the handling of their motorcycle on trips.

When we ride on a trip “two up”, packing for the trip is always a problem. When Karen and I were first married and took our first trip on the Wing, she thought she could bring everything she “may” need for the trip and a few extra things. Of course it wouldn’t all fit. Now we put the things we will need to get our destination in pile number one. Then we put the things we will need at our destination in pile number two. We then put the items we will need for the trip home in pile three.

Pile one gets packed in the Wing. Piles two and three get packed in a box and shipped to the motel or hotel where we have reservations at our destination. Leave extra room in the box because you will need room for the items you buy at your destination. When you get to your destination, you have clean clothes and don’t have to spend time washing. Karen likes to buy things for the kids and grandkids and we don’t have to worry if we have the room on the Wing to carry the things home because they go in the box. On one trip, I bought a piece of furniture and had it shipped home.

Many Gold Wing riders like to tow a trailer. I have two problems with towing a trailer. One is the extra weight behind the rear axle and the second problem is the limitation it has in certain states. For example in California any vehicle with three or more axles is required by the vehicle code to stay in the right lane except to pass a slower vehicle and can not exceed 55 MPH. I know of several riders who have been stopped for speeding while towing a trailer. Some received a citation and some got off with a warning. They were just keeping up with the riders that were not towing a trailer and riding under the posted speed limit. A number of states have similar laws. Riders who camp don’t have much choice and need the extra space to carry their camping gear. When I was camping on the bike, I rode solo and was able to get all my gear loaded on my Wing. I was very restricted on what I could carry and spent time in the laundry at the campsite. At our age, Karen and I consider we are roughing it when the motel doesn’t have a refrigerator or a microwave in the room.

Ride safe and keep the rubber side down.

Dick Studdard

### Ride Coordinator - Chuck Taylor

We will not be attending the meeting in April due to a last minute one day 2-up skill enhancement class being offered on the same day as our meeting. In this sport you need all the classes you can attend. The class is offered by Arizona Precision Motorcycle Drill Team at the Honeywell Aerospace Facility located at 21111 North 19th Avenue, Phoenix. Class will begin at 8:00 AM and will finish no later than 5:00 PM. All brands of motorcycles are welcome, and while there is no charge for the classes, the Team gratefully accepts donations to help defray costs. See you next month.

RIDE WITH PRIDE  
Chuck & Lucy Taylor