

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

Chapter Director - Sherwin White

Well, the monsoons** are finally here. Although that depends where you live in the county.

It has been mentioned that some members like to ride during mid-week. Also other members would like to ride with someone but don't know who. What I would like to do is make a list of members who like to ride during mid-week with their phone numbers and e-mail addresses so that if your looking for someone to ride with, all you have to do is go to this list.

At our last meeting we were pleased to have Steve Cohen from our sponsor, The Law Tigers come up from Phoenix to speak to us. I thought he presented some very useful information. Be sure to contact The Law Tigers if you have any motorcycle problems.

On September 20th & 21st there will be a Craft Show in Oak Creek Canyon at The Apple Orchard. Two of our members, Joy and Leon Haulot will be showing their crafts. We've all seen what beautiful things that they make and bring to our meetings. This would make for a nice ride.

At the next meeting we will pick out our menu for our Christmas Party. The Country Club wants to know well in advance.

The Arizona District Rally at Lake Havasu is Oct. 24th -26th. There is still time to register. Hopefully our Chapter will be represented.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting Saturday, August 23rd.
Ride dry until then!

** Lastly, here's a little monsoon trivia: 'The word 'monsoon' is derived from the Arabic word 'mausim' which means season. The term monsoon actually refers to a seasonal wind shift, not to precipitation. May and June tend to be very dry and warm months over Arizona. By the end of June, however, afternoon clouds can be seen building over the higher terrain of northern Arizona, and by the beginning of July, the skies typically begin to release its store of moisture. The monsoon circulation occurs in a pattern of bursts and breaks. This cycle of bursts and breaks continue from the onset of the monsoon circulation until the time when September cold fronts begin to move across the state of Arizona, which returns our winds to a westerly or northwesterly direction. The term 'monsoons' as typically used in the phrase 'when the monsoons arrive...', or 'we had some monsoons move through town last night...' is wrong. The word should be used the same way the word 'summer' is used. Thus, the proper terminology is 'monsoon thunderstorms' not 'monsoons.' - from www.noaa.gov.

Asst. Chapter Director - Ron Neville
RON'S RAMBLINGS

I trust everyone had a safe Memorial Day weekend, and hope everyone remembered what it is about. Grilling out is fun, as is getting together with family and friends, but stopping a moment to

give thanks and remembrance to all our veterans, past and present should be the order of the day. And, I hope everyone did just that.

By my count we had twenty in attendance at the May meeting, which is really not too bad; given it was Memorial Day weekend. As most of you know, the weather did not cooperate so we did not get to join together for a ride. Jane and I were hoping to spread our “wings” a bit on the new ride. However, Mother Nature frowned. Perhaps, next month, and we do have a destination in mind unless someone else has a good idea.

I overheard about five of you were planning to attend Wing Ding. That is great! I have attended six (as best as I can recall) and there is always something great happening, lots of vendors and programs, etc. so those of us not attending will expect pictures and a report on your return. But, as a Chapter perhaps we can have a good turnout for the Region and/or District Rally so pick up the registration forms and get signed up!

Sad to note we cannot participate in the Rodeo/Roughstock events to raise funds for our charities and Holiday events. Perhaps each of us can make a little extra effort on our own to ask everyone we know for money to help “the kids” or any other charity you choose to support.

By the way, Jane and I will be spending a fair amount of the summer at our place in Oregon, so this will be my last newsletter contribution until about September; but we are expecting all of you to ride safe until we can rejoin you.

I’ll hush for now, so here are my words of Wit? Wisdom? for the month.

Up in hillbilly country, there was a struggling little church where there was some talk about buying a new chandelier. The Board of Deacons held a meeting to discuss it. The first two spoke in favor of it. The third Deacon stood up and said, “I’m agin this here proposal for three reasons. First, there ain’t anyone here knows how to spell it, so we couldn’t order one. In the second place, nobody in the congregation knows how to play it, and in the third place if the church has any extra money to spend, I think we ought to buy a new lighting fixture.”

That’s all folks.....Ron

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 by 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

Ride Coordinator – Open Position

Humor

Off the clock

By Rebecca Dudley
News-Tribune Editor/Publisher



My ex-husband had this annoying habit of bringing greasy old carburetors and things into the house to work on. So, last week, when my friend called to tell me this story, my first response was, "Where did this guy live?"

Now reassured that I was never related to him by marriage, this really is too hilarious not to share.

The way my friend told it, this guy pushed his motorcycle from the patio into his living room, where he began to clean the engine with some rags and a bowl of gasoline. When he finished, he sat on the motorcycle and decided to start it to make sure everything was still OK. Unfortunately, the bike started in gear, and crashed through the glass patio door with him still clinging to the handlebars.

His wife had been working in the kitchen. She came running at the noise, and found him crumpled on the patio, badly cut from the shards of broken glass. She called 911, and the paramedics transported the guy to the emergency room.

So far, the story is humorous — in a "that is what you get for being a big enough lout to bring your motorcycle into the house" kind of way.



But here is where I really split a gut.

Later that afternoon, after many stitches had pulled her husband back together, the wife brought him home and put him to bed. She cleaned up the mess in the living room, and dumped the bowl of gasoline in the toilet.

Shortly thereafter, her husband woke up, lit a cigarette, and went into the bathroom. He sat down and tossed the cigarette into the toilet, which promptly exploded because the wife had not flushed the gasoline away. The explosion blew the man through the bathroom door.

The wife heard the explosion and her husband's screams. She ran into the hall and found him lying on the floor with his trousers blown away and burns on his buttocks. The wife again ran to the phone and called for an ambulance.

The same two paramedics were dispatched to the scene. They loaded the husband on the stretcher and began carrying him to the street. One of them asked the wife how the injury had occurred. When she told them, they began laughing so hard that they dropped the stretcher, and broke the guy's collarbone.

Talk about instant karma.