

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

Chapter Director - Sherwin White

On Saturday, November 1st, 9 members of our Chapter rode down to Lake Pleasant for a very nice Chili Lunch. I think a good time was had by all. Thanks to everyone who went. The weather was perfect.

At our upcoming meeting on Saturday the 22nd, we will be having a special guest. He is Gary Hengezeld, who is the new owner of Hale's Motorcycles. This will be a good time to tell him what you expect from the service department and also what accessories that you want them to carry. I understand they have great plans for our riders.

Bring a door prize to the next meeting and receive double you 50/50 tickets. Be sure and let Heather know if you brought a door prize.

On Saturday, November 29th is the Electric Light Parade in downtown Prescott. The parade starts at 6:00 p.m. We should be there no later than 5:30 p.m. Our staging area is on MARINA between GURLEY & WILLIS. We will be in the 2nd space off of WILLIS. We're right behind the Chino Valley Fire Department. Dress up your bike if you wish and dress warm.

On Sunday, December 14th, is our Annual Christmas Party at the Country Club. Happy Hour starts at 4 p.m. and dinner will be at 5 p.m. We will be exchanging nice gifts. A man brings a gift for a man and the ladies bring a gift for a lady. Fun will be had by all.

Our next meeting will be JAN. 24, 2009. THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN DECEMBER BECAUSE WE WILL HAVE THE CHRISTMAS PARTY INSTEAD.

This is our last article as your chapter directors. Heather and i want to thank you very much for your cooperation and support these last 2 years.

See you on the 22nd.

Asst. Chapter Director - Ron Neville
RON'S RAMBLINGS

Well most of you missed out on a fun State Rally at Lake Havasu City. There were quite a few vendors, lots of training classes, interesting places to see and ride and pretty good food for the most part. So, do make plans to attend next year's Rally, and there is some talk it may be a combined State/Region Rally.

You know that our leaders are retiring from the Director's position this year. We need YOU to step right up and take charge to keep the Chapter moving and progressing. As I have pointed out, there is also another advantage: you get to appoint (recruit?) your own staff and it does not take a huge amount of time, so please give some thought to volunteering for the Director position.

It would be a great idea if you do this sooner, rather than later so the required paper work can be done and you will be ready to go on day one! Jane and I have served several years, both in California, as well as one year with Chapter Y, and it is enjoyable. But, with travel, the home in Oregon, and my prison ministry, we cannot consider at present...so it's your turn to serve.

FINALLY, the elections are in the rear view mirror, seems like that process went on forever. But whatever, your political persuasion, keep our new leader(s) in your prayers as the country is in dire need of healing.

I hope most of you can attend one or both of the upcoming parades, which are always a lot of fun, as well as the Christmas dinner. With many other obligations we may not be able to attend, but wish all the very best of Holidays.

So, as I sign off my final offering to the newsletter, let me leave you with these words of Wit? Wisdom? Given the average age of our members I thought a few words about our generation would be in order.

I realize that our generation is approaching old age, but as I look around, I notice that people my own age are much older than I am. I also notice when driving by the college campus, that they are letting much younger children enter college. The average age of the freshman class seems to be about ten. Some of them seem to be more polite than in my time though. Several undergraduates called me "Sir" and one asked if he could help me across the street.

I ran into an old roommate at a bar the other day and he has changed so much he didn't even recognize me. It seems they are building stairs steeper than they used to. The risers are higher, or there are more of them, or something. Maybe this is because it is so much farther from the first floor to the second floor. It's getting harder to take two steps at a time, too.

Another thing I've noticed is that they are using smaller print in the newspapers. I have to hold the paper farther away than I used to when I read it. It is ridiculous to suggest that a man of my age needs glasses, but the only way I can get a telephone number is to have someone read the number to me. And that's not too satisfactory because people speak in such low voices now-a-days that I can hardly hear them.

Everything is farther than it used to be, too. It's much farther from home to the store, and they've added a small hill between the parking lot and the store. I've also noticed that lately people keep moving things. I have trouble finding my car keys, theater tickets, etc.

They don't put the same materials into clothes anymore, either. I've noticed that my pants have a tendency to shrink, especially in certain places around the waist and in the seat, and the laces they put in shoes now are much harder to reach. Food is more fattening than it used to be, too.

Even the weather is changing. It's colder in winter and the summers are hotter than they used to be. I even have to wear rubbers when it rains because the rain is wetter than it used to be.

I was thinking about all these things when I was shaving this morning. I stopped for a moment and looked at my reflection in the mirror. You know, they don't seem to make mirrors as good as they used to.

Ron

Chapter Educator - Dick Studdard

TIRES

Your tires are the only thing separating you from the road. Over the past decade, the quality of motorcycle tires has improved. In many brands of tires, the center of the tread is made of a more durable rubber for better wear and the sides of the tread are made of a softer rubber for better grip while the bike is leaning through a turn.

A visual inspection of your tires before every ride is a good habit that shouldn't take much time. Under well-lit conditions, look for any sign of punctures or cuts which might lead to a loss of pressure. Bulging or cracking might occur in old tires. On a Gold Wing with the bike on the center stand it is easy to rotate the rear and front tire to inspect them. Check the tread depth to ensure the tire's integrity. The grooves in the tread allow water to be channeled away from the contact patch, which helps maintain grip under wet conditions. To measure the depth of the grooves, use a quarter and place it in the tread groove. If the tread does not come up to Washington's head and cover part of it, it is time to replace the tire. Many brands of tires have wear bars across the groove and when the top of the tread is even with the wear bar, it is time to replace the tire. The tread depth at that time is normally at 2/16 inch. I use a depth gauge and replace my tires when the tread is at 3/16 inch.

Tire pressure is especially crucial on a motorcycle. Handling and ride quality can change dramatically with small adjustments. Tires wear more quickly when they're not properly inflated. Check the tire pressure when the tires are cold. The tires heat up when you are riding and that changes the air pressure. Check your owner's manual for the recommended tire pressure.

Rubber continues to cure and as the tires age, they wear faster. The rubber becomes harder and the handling of the motorcycle can be affected. Harder rubber means less traction. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) requires that manufacturers stamp the date the tire was manufactured on the side of the tire. The first two numbers are the week of the year the tire was manufactured and the last two numbers are the year. For example, 2207 means the tire was made during the 22nd week of 2007. The Tire Identification Number for tires produced prior to 2000 was based on the assumption that tires would not be in service for ten years. While they were required to provide the same information as today's tires, the week and year the tire was produced was contained in the last three digits. The 2 digits used to identify the week a tire was manufactured immediately preceded a single digit used to identify the year. There is strong evidence that tires become unsafe six years after the manufactured date especially in dry climates so if your tires are older than six years, you should replace them regardless of how much tread is left.

Below are some interesting links to additional information about tire ages. The first link is a video from ABC news about the dangers of older tires.

Ride safe and keep the rubber side down.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Video/playerIndex?id=4826897>

www.wjactv.com/news/17857339/detail.html

<http://www.detnews.com/2005/autosinsider/0505/20/A01-188098.htm>

<http://20somethingfinance.com/blog/2008/08/05/how-old-are-your-tires-your-safety-may-depend-on-the-answer/>

Dick Studdard

Ride Coordinator – Open Position