

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

Chapter Director – Earl Spenard

**Life may begin at 30, but it doesn't get real interesting until about 60 mph**

We had a great January meeting with over 30 in attendance! What a great way to start the year. Heather and Jenny, thank you both for working the reception area with our new check in forms, they save a lot of time.

Thanks to Randy Powell and his wife for the entertainment of their trip to Alaska. If you don't know, Randy is also a contributing writer for Wing World Magazine.

January 25, Sunday, I spent the entire day in Scottsdale, Arizona with the District GWRRA Staff helping plan 2009. If you have not checked websites lately, we have new District Directors, Garry and Kerry Woo. We wish them the best.

It was interesting to find out that Stu Oltman the writer of Work Bench in the Wing World Magazine is a member of Chapter S in Scottsdale. He holds "garage clinics" in his garage in Scottsdale. When I get dates and times, I'll let you all know if you would like to ride down and get in on his workshops.

Melissa Eason, the Executive Director of GWRRA, lives in the Valley and was in attendance at the District Meeting. She is a very pleasant Lady with lots of information.

Our treasurer, Dick Stehle, sent out an e-Mail for weekday riders and got a great response with 7 of us taking a ride to Bagdad, Arizona for lunch. It was great fun and had the opportunity to see the longest BAR in Arizona. No drinking took place.

Make sure you are reviewing all the websites with up coming events.

Rod, we all THANK YOU for maintaining our website and all of its links. What a great way to keep informed.

Dick Studdard our educator has a great article this month on Preparing for a Motorcycle Tour and one last month on Winter Riding with lots of great Links (see the Newsletter Archives).

I'll be updating you all at our next meeting, **FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>**, on this year's rodeo event, Ride for Kids and Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.

We are putting the final touches on the ERC program in Phoenix that Ken Olson discussed at our January Meeting.

We have a New Ride Coordinator; I'll announce his name at the February Meeting.

**(AS YOU CAN SEE, MISS A MEETING AND YOU MISS A LOT!)**

**Reminder**, I'll be sending out a request for a head count on February 24<sup>th</sup> for those planning on attending and wanting breakfast at our next meeting. The club needs to know.

**RIDE SAFE AND SEE YOU ALL SOON**

Asst. Chapter Director – Bill Balzer

Chapter Educator - Dick Studdard

## **Preparing for a Motorcycle Tour**

I received my March issue of Motorcycle Consumer News and was reading Fred Rau's article "Rookie Mistakes" and it brought back memories of my early long distance rides and the mistakes I made.

He starts off with the rider with brand new gear that has not been "broken in". The helmet that was tried on in the store and fit, but when it is on for an hour or two, starts to feel like your head is in a clamp and it is getting tighter. It can have pressure points that you don't feel in the store. My mistake was buying a new pair of boots and wearing them for the first time on a weeklong trip. By the end of the first day, my feet were telling me of the mistake.

Fred states the second mistake is to over pack. You will not have the time or patience to pack quite so perfectly every morning as you did when you started. Fred pointed out "that it is an undeniable motorcycling truth that your clothes will somehow expand in size as you go along". I solve this problem by putting aside old socks, under shorts and "t" shirts that I am going to throw away and take them on the trip. I use them once and throw them away. I was going to do that anyway and when I start to run out of these items, I stop at a Walmart and buy new ones. If I am going to be gone for several weeks, I make a reservation in a motel about half way through my tour and mail a box of clothes to the motel before I begin the trip. When I arrive at that motel, I then mail my dirty clothes home. I test pack the items before I mail them so that I know that they will fit on the bike later. Another reason not to over pack is that during one of your stops, you may see something you didn't know that you could not live without and buy it. You will need the space to pack it.

The next mistake is not packing gear you may need during the ride. The example he gives is have your rain gear in the bottom of the trunk or saddle bags. I keep my rain gear, cover for the bike, jackets, sun screen and water on top of all other items and easy to get to.

He also recommends that you carry some extra cash hidden on the bike. If you should lose your credit cards and cash, you have a backup to get home. Also have an extra key with you. I like to give my riding partner the extra key to my Wing in case I lose mine.

One of my pet peeves is the individual that shows up for a multiple day trip and has not checked out their motorcycle or was depending on replacing items on the trip. I had an individual show up with bald tires and state that they were going to buy new tires at the rally we were going to. The rally was 600 miles away and they became upset when I informed them they were not going to ride with me with those tires on the bike. They didn't arrive at the rally and I later found out they had a flat and had to be transported to a dealer for a new set of tires. The dealer did not have the tires they need in stock and had to order them.

A motorcycle tour can be a lot of fun if you are prepared for it. Be prepared for any weather. On Bear Tooth Pass between Yellowstone and Red Lodge, Montana I was riding through a snow storm in July. A few days later the temperature on the ride was over 100 degrees.

Ride safe and keep the rubber side down.

Dick Studdard, AZ-Y Educator

**Ride Coordinator – Open Position**