

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

Chapter Director – Earl Spenard

**There are two types of people in this world; people who ride motorcycles and people who wish they could ride motorcycles.**

The above statement is so true. As we rode the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade route and looked into the faces of the spectators there would be the gentleman with his wife and you could see drool coming from his mouth as we passed by. Ha, Ha.

A great many thanks to the riders in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and to our banner bearers April and Sydney Scudder; a lot of fun had by all.

As I write this newsletter, Wing Ding has come and gone. We should have a report on the event at our next meeting from those of you who attended.

I know many of you have had great rides this summer. Let us know about them at our next meeting.

Many great events and rides coming up:

District Rally	Oct 30, 31 & Nov. 1 Lake Havasu
Red Rock Ride	October TBA <a href="http://redrockride.org">redrockride.org</a>
Ride for Kids	October 11 <sup>th</sup> in Mesa
Photo Rides	(All year Long)
Week Day Rides	Every Week
Picnic at Bill & Debbie's	September 12 <sup>th</sup>
August Guests	Law Tigers (Sponsor)
Christmas Party	December 19 <sup>th</sup>

Mark your calendars for all the above events and many more.

I hope you have all marked your calendars for our next meeting at the **Golden Corral at Frontier Shopping Center** in Prescott July 25<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast at 8 AM and Meeting at 9 AM. I'll be sending out an e-Mail for a nose count for Breakfast very soon. Don't forget to bring a gift for the drawings.

Suggested Ride after the meeting is to Sedona at the Red Rock BBQ Rest. Located just south of the Y in Sedona.

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

Asst. Chapter Director – Bill Balzer

Hello chapter Y,

It's hard to believe that summer is half over already. We have been blessed with great weather. Even though it is monsoon weather, a little rain won't hurt, as long as we ride with caution. Debbie and I had to change our get-together to September 12th. It will still be at 1:00, and we will plan to eat at about 3:00. Mark your calendars now so you will be able to come. Please let us know if you plan to come. We will have a lot of fun. (We always do when we are together.) You can ride your bike if you wish. Our driveway is black topped, so it is safe for a bike. We will furnish hot dogs and fixings. We can come up with a menu later if it will help everyone decide what to bring. Don't forget to start raising money for the ride for kids in October. It is a great ride that helps some wonderful kids. See ya at the meeting.  
Thanks, Bill and Debbie

## Chapter Educator - Dick Studdard

### **RIDING SMARTER**

**Ace H. Peterson**

**Region F Educator**

After reading Nick Hoppner's last two articles I found myself looking at a glowing light bulb mentally. The last one on "Fear" really hit home, especially after taking the ERC course a few weeks ago. More on that later. But the idea came to me that there is an easier way (other than getting rid of the motorcycle) of doing things to ensure we ride smarter and safer.

It come to that I am indeed not as young as I once was so to speak. Of course the brain, who attempts to rule the body, still insists I can do all the things I used to do. Of course the body does not always go along with that philosophy. I especially learned that this past weekend while taking a Dirt Bike riding course! Perhaps more on this later.

And it has been said "you can't teach an old dog new tricks", however, perhaps the "old dog" can learn to modify the tricks which is where riding smarter comes into play.

Take the last ERC for instance; not having had a riding course for some three and a half years, all the confidence in some maneuvers had long since left the building in a sense. Oh yes, the mind said no worries mate! That is until mind and body got crossways with each other and I found out just how hard this makes things in riding. Things went somewhat okay until the side hill "box". Fighting the fear of falling, which I did, made this obstacle impossible for my eroded skills. Now the "old dog" would have set back, analyzed the situation and said "sit this one out". That is where riding smarter comes in once again.

So how do we ride smarter than we once did? Analyze the situation before getting to deep into what becomes an impossible task. Do gravel parking lots terrify you? Sometimes we have to park there regardless of our wishes. So, riding smarter, we make as few maneuvers as possible; straight in, straight out if at all possible. How about those sharp corners on our highways for instance in making the heart beat a little faster. You know those speed cautionary signs in yellow that say 25mph for instance? Where does it say we have to ride those at 10 mph over that posted recommendation? Ride it at 25 mph or a tad slower if that makes you feel more comfortable and to heck with the ego. And those tight turns in parking lots which seem to get tighter each year we ride. Again, make the least operations necessary, even to stopping safely, back around and so forth to get where you need to be. What about parking on a slanted parking lot or street? Past experience has

told me to avoid these by riding on by to a much more level place to park to avoid dropping the bike. The “old dog” system you see. In other words, let’s put all the wisdom we supposedly gained all these years to work for us instead of letting our younger ego get us in trouble. These are just a few situations we all encounter, and you can fill in the blanks of your own problem areas. Think things out, and adapt your riding to make the ride in all aspects more trouble free for you and your co-rider.

The last part of this lesson revolves around practice. There is a saying that “if you do what you have always done, you will get what you always got”. Another one I like is this; “we are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit.” You can credit Aristotle for that verse. In these words of wisdom, do not refuse to take any and all riding courses or other instruction courses that are available, or else another little saying may come into play. That one is “experience is a great teacher. However, it often gives the test before the lesson”. If we have indeed gotten wiser in our later years, then at least experience should allow us to recognize past mistakes when we do them again! Practice may not make perfect, but it beats the alternative. So we often say to ourselves, “well, I don’t have time or a place to practice”. Wrong motorcycle rider! If you live on a street without a lot of traffic, practice U-turns in front of your house. If you live on a cul-de-sac that is even better. I often use vacant areas of parking lots to do this by riding my turns as tight as possible into parking places for those hard right or left turns, 180’s and so on. Manhole covers make a great obstacle practice for swerving; again making sure one does not stray into traffic. In other words, think about all the lessons we do in a riding course that apply to our daily riding in and around town, and we will find that we can practice every item everywhere we ride somewhere. Except for that infernal sloped box!

The Dirt Bike experience taught me a whole new set of meanings for age versus youth. It was loads of fun, and I found out that fear can indeed be put away even if not conquered. This course was one of those smart decisions on my part because of some ulterior motives. However, in riding many of the same ERC lessons in dirt, I found I can handle a motorcycle in some adverse conditions. Call it cross training if you will, but I came out of that course feeling like a pretty smart “old dog”. Of course there is a big difference in motorcycles and technique, but the cross over of the lessons learned definitely applies to my riding.

Perhaps you the reader get the message to analyze your riding habits, skills, and training plus where you ride and how you ride. If there is a trick to all this it is that by recognizing our limitations and mind sets, we can overcome those impediments with some thought and planning. Think, decide, execute (or in some instances don’t execute), or if needed, stop and rethink the situation before executing the action. Remember, the choice of what we do or do not do is ours alone. Ride smarter, ride safer and therefore-

**RIDE WITH PRIDE AND CONFIDENCE.**

Dick Studdard, Chapter Educator

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Ride Coordinator – Open Position