

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

Chapter Director – Earl Spenard

February 2009 a great Snow Storm came into Yavapai County and the month ended with a great Ride to the historic Vulture Mine in Wickenburg, Arizona with our Chapter-Y members.

Our meeting hosted 46 in attendance on February 28, 2009 with many announcements and guests.

Our first announcement was to welcome aboard Garry and Kerry Woo, our new District Directors. We wish them well as they tackle their new jobs.

Bud and Dot Kapp were introduced (District Couple of the Year) who spoke on the programs of Couple of the Year (COY) and Individual of the Year (IOY), after which we announced our Chapter Couple of the Year: Sherwin and Heather White and our Individual of the Year Rod Riggenschach. Sherwin, Heather and Rod have given their time and talents for a number of years to GWRRA Chapter-Y and other Chapters.

Star Island Motorsports presented an apparel show which gave us information on new plug in outer wear and a new helmet line.

Many thanks to Dick Stehle, our Treasurer, who has been putting together weekday rides for our Chapter. To get an idea of the fun we have been having on these rides click on our website above and check out the great pictures that have been taken by our Historian Jim and others. Rides to Seligman, Arizona on old Route 66 west of Ashfork, Montezuma's Well off of I-17 north of Verde Valley, Arizona, Bagdad, Arizona where copper mining is still very active and we were able to see the longest Bar in Arizona.

Last, but not least, at our meeting ride to the Historical Vulture Mine in Wickenburg, Arizona, the word Shaft takes on a whole different meaning.

Our next month's, after meeting, ride will be to the Grasshopper Grill in Cornville, Arizona where we hear that the BBQ is GREAT, but between now and then we will be having some great weekday rides.

Dick Studdard (Rider Educator) spoke on our Safety Issues, Training, Co-rider training, and parking lot practice (PLP). Go to our Website and click on Education and Safety and hear what Dick has to say.

Speaking of Websites, go to ours, it will keep you informed about your Chapter Officers, Education And Safety, etc. along with links to National, Region and District GWRRA Events, current Weather. And much, much more information.

Our next meeting will be March 28, 2009: breakfast at 8:00 AM meeting at 9:00 AM.

**Pete's Restaurant
1355 Iron Springs Rd.**

[Gray-haired riders don't get that way from pure luck.](#)

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
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Ride Coordinator – Open Position