

February 2011 Newsletter
High Country Wings Chapter Y Prescott, AZ
<http://chapter-y.tripod.com>

Chapter Director – Sandy Gaston

**HIGH COUNTRY ARIZONA CHAPTER-Y
GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION**

I have received many welcomes and congrats, for being your new Chapter Director. Thank you all very much. I hope to do you all proud. I really want this year to be full of fun, rides, and activities. Can't do it alone though. So I will need everyone's participation.

We opened the meeting for this New Year at The Golden Corral at 8:30am on the 22nd. We were pleased to welcome Arizona District Directors Bill & Susan Trask & Harley & Debbie Funk. Thanks for coming and getting us off to a good start.

We want to thank Earl Spenard for all of his hard work over the past two years. Earl, you did a great job and you have left big shoes to fill. Our prayers and thoughts are still with you. We pray you will be blessed with a veeeeeeery long remission.

I am pleased to announce that Lu Crawford had accepted the position of assistant director. Thank you Lu. I am looking forward to working with you.

I am also pleased to announce that Mike Berman has accepted the position of being our Ride Captain. Poor Mike is now Ride Captain for C.A.R.R., Victory, Goldwing, & Daytrippers. Bless your heart Mike for taking on this job for all of us.

Dick & Tanni have graciously agreed to continue as our treasurers. They have done a great job in the past and I know they will continue to manage our finances in a great fashion.

Dick Studdard will no longer be able to be our Safety Coordinator. Thank you Dick for all your hard work and great information you have provided for us in the past. This means.....we still need someone to come forward and offer to help us with meeting our requirements for safety. Anyone?

Remember the weather is still tricky at this time of year. The roads in the morning can have some black ice, or slick spots. So caution is needed. We still need to dress in layers. The ride is no fun if you did not dress in enough clothes and you are cold on the ride.

When we are on our bikes, we are not seen by motorists very well. Always drive defensively. You have to watch out for others. Ride safe.

Keep watching for upcoming events. There were quite a few members who stayed after the meeting and we conducted our 1st ride planning meeting. Rod, our webmaster, has posted them on our site under "Events and Rides".

We, as always, had our fun gifts to raffle off. And as always we had our 50/50 drawing. Sherwin won the pot for this month.

Looking forward to our rides and our next meeting on February 26th.

Love,
Sandy

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Asst. Chapter Director – Lu Crawford

Lu is our new assistant director and will be providing articles starting next month.

Chapter Educator – Lee Crawford

“Don’t Leave Home Without It”

Rider Education and those especially who labor as educators have spent considerable time stressing the importance of proper riding gear and motorcycle safety inspections. It is most likely we can state that starting the riding season and hopefully before each ride, you and your co-rider have completed a full T-Clock inspection of the motorcycle. Remember, you only have two wheels, so there are some items that should get more attention than others in the inspection process. We could perhaps state then, that all inspections have been completed, and you are properly attired. You are now ready to hit the road, right?

Wrong! What did you forget? Ask yourself, what is the most important item to be checked before starting out on your motorcycle? The answer is “you”. If you are not prepared physically and mentally to ride your motorcycle to the best of your ability, what are you doing leaving home on it? The safety and life of you, your co-rider, and other persons in encountered traffic depends on your skill, your attitude, and your aptitude. Remember the sub-title above? It is a play on the old Karl Malden commercial for American Express that used to play on the television.

Another expression I like is, “your attitude and aptitudes will determine your altitude”. You can apply that in many areas. What I am stating, and your educators echoing is this; your frame of mind determines the way you ride, the way you are perceived, and the amount of risk you are either willing or unwilling to take. One figure I picked up in Motorcycle Consumer News states, “consider that a full 97.4 percent of those out there in the community don’t ride and see you as a fringe nut case”. Thus, your attitude etc. may determine how other traffic affects you and your safety within their driving habits.

Therefore, don’t leave what is the best of your abilities, the best of your personality, attitude, and knowledge behind when you ride away from home. Do a preflight check on yourself! Therefore, chin up, eyes on the horizon; ride with pride and confidence.