



December 2023 Newsletter

Our next Gathering is:

Saturday, January 18, 2024

Eat at 9 a.m. meet at 9:45 a.m.

Golden Corral 2530 Chimney Rock Rd Hendersonville

Website

<http://fourseasonswingsandthings.org>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/587996265048173/>

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Thoughts from Your Chapter Director



November 2nd we had a very good Cook's Night out at the Bay Breeze restaurant, then on the 4th, a cozy gathering at the Yager's home for "fireless Bonfire" evening, filled with lots of laughs and good eats.

Our monthly meeting was a great turn out. Libby Jennings and Don Weed were on hand to install Marty & Debbie Wood as our 2024-? Chapter Directors. Don also handed out fliers, cards and hangtags to help us promote new membership to EWMA and our chapter.



2 workers, 3 Supervisors!

I must give you all a big thank you for your giving hearts and donating \$200 to purchase Christmas gifts for Joel and Debra, our J. Iverson residents. They will have a happy and wonderful Christmas.

Merry Christmas

Joel



Merry Christmas

Debra



Following the meeting, we participated in the Henderson County Toy Run. What a beautiful day for a grand ride with our 13 bikes and 1 slingshot. Thanks to Mike & Kathy, for two new friends that joined us, Greg & Collette Ross, a lovely couple. I hope that they had a good time and will come back for many rides and events with the chapter in the future. The following Saturday was the Polk County Toy Run and again several M2 members gave of their hearts and time to help kids have a good Christmas.

Moving on to December, on the 7th is our Cook's Night Out and we will be dining at Mike's Pizza and Pasta, 6:30PM on Spartanburg Hwy.

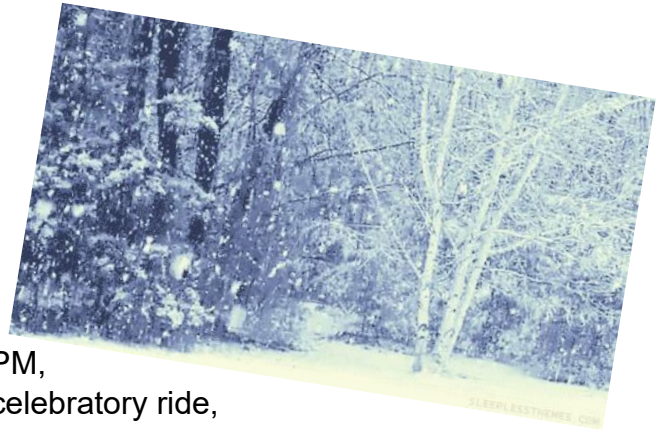


The "Hump Day" breakfasts will continue with riding to follow when the weather permits us to do so. Dale will need everyone to help with preparing and leading some of the rides.

Our big year end event is so close! Yes, the Christmas Party will be on December 16th at Jim & Norma's home in Rutherfordton, NC. With fun, laughter, food, and most of all fellowship! Watch for emails being sent for this and all events.

January 1st
Annual Ice-cycle Ride

As in the past we will have our annual "Ice-cycle" luncheon and ride on New Years Day, to jump start us into a new season of riding, friendship, and adventures. We will eat at Binion's Roadhouse, at 1PM, and hopefully the weather will allow us to do a short celebratory ride, again watch your email for details.



In closing, it has been a pleasure for me to be your director. You all have helped and guided me in this endeavor. You have given of your time, knowledge, and support to me, even when I went sideways!

Thank you, you're a great group!

Marty and Debbie have some new ideas and plans for the chapter, it should be a lot of fun for us all.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

&

Happy New YEAR



A View From the Top

Reflections of the Membership Enhancement
Coordinator
Bob Topper

So, the end of the year is finally here and the colder, not so fun, riding weather has come along with it. I don't think we can complain too much about it, as we've had some really fantastic riding days, even into late November. And with the end, it also means new beginnings, as you'll read about in this month's newsletter. Cheers to 2023! Now, to look forward to 2024 and all that it has to offer!



November started off with another fun Cook's Night Out, this time at the Bay Breeze Seafood restaurant in Hendersonville. We had a great turnout and, once again, shared wonderful stories and times with good friends. The CNO for December will be at Mike's Pasta & Pizza on Spartanburg Hwy in Hendersonville. Watch for the email and be sure to RSVP to Gerry or Rusti. You don't want to show up without a seat!

As usual, we did not have a ride planned for the first weekend in November, but rather our annual Bonfire at Dale & Michelle's to kick back, reflect on the past year, and enjoy snacks and beverages in the cold air around the warmth of a mild fire. (We don't go for roaring fires in Dale's back yard.) Well, the dry, rainless fall had us concerned about the growing fire danger in the area, so we opted for sitting around some propane and electric heaters, and still had a great time! Dale & Michelle, thank you for opening up your home and hosting this wonderful event, year after year. And thank you to everyone that came out and brought the delicious food and desserts. There is always plenty to choose from and warm up our tummies.



On the 18th, we held our last Gathering for the year and with our largest turnout of the year, welcomed our NC District Director, Libby Jennings and EWMA VP of Operations for the Southeast, Don Weed. It is always a pleasure to have guests at our Gatherings. Libby was on hand to swear in our next year's Chapter Directors, Marty and Debbie Wood. Congrats to them for taking on this responsibility and please join me in supporting them to continue to grow our Chapter and share our knowledge and fun with others.

After our Gathering, we had 13 bikes and a Slingshot ride over to Fletcher Park to participate in

the 26th Henderson County Toy Run. Welcome to Gregg & Collette Ross, friends and neighbors of Mike and Kathy that joined us for the ride and are possible new members. The Run was one of the largest turnouts that they've had with 630 motorcycles! We also enjoyed lunch, beautiful weather, and another safe ride through the county to the courthouse to deliver our presents for the foster care children. Thank you to all that came out!



The following Saturday, the 25th, 4 of us met at the East Flat Rock Ingles to ride down to the Polk



County Toy Run in Tryon. This was another great turnout, with 463 bikes winding around the beautiful countryside of Polk County, ending at the County Courthouse in

Columbus. This ride, too, was in great weather, like 50 degrees and dry, with a well escorted route keeping everyone safe. It was a pleasure to participate.

In December, we will not have a Gathering, but will celebrate at our Annual Christmas Party, this year at Jim and Norma's home in Rutherfordton, where we have been invited to enjoy a day of fun and dining, potluck style!

Our next riding adventure is scheduled to be our Annual Ice-Cycle Ride on January 1st, following lunch at Binion's in Hendersonville. The short ride, to a destination yet to be named, is also dependent on the weather, of course, but we have been known to still ride in a drizzling rain.... just because.

So, just one more ending and beginning. This issue is to be my last newsletter. Debbie Wood has stepped up to become our next newsletter editor. Please welcome Debbie into this new role and assist her, as you have me, if not better! I

agreed to take on this duty when we were about to be left without, but it is not fair to deprive other members of assisting where they can and want. The more that we can share in all the duties, the less chance of anyone becoming burned out and leaving. If you are interested in taking on anything at all, I'm sure that Marty would love to hear from you.

Ride often and ride Safe,

Bob



Safety and Ride Coordinator – December 2023

By: Dale Yager

Ok, it's time to take a breath. The main part of the season has ended with only a few riding events for the rest of the winter. We have a few things on the schedule, but as always watch our Facebook and e-mails for updates. Don't forget our Christmas party on December 16th. This will take the place of our December gathering. There will be more information from those in charge of the party.

Hope you all can make it!

On November 4th we did have our first non-fire bon fire. Due to the drought we didn't have any open flames but we still packed them in for a fun "end of the season" night. There was lots of food and fun, at least until everyone got cold. M2 tried to get a direct coffee infusion. (See picture)

NEW INFORMATION:

We have been talking about it, now we have time to make it happen. We are scheduling training classes for Chapter members to become better educated in all types of riding situations. Marty has secured a training room at the Salvation Army building at 239 - 3rd Ave E, Hendersonville, NC. The date will be Saturday 01/27/24 at 9:00am. We expect about 4 or 5 hrs. of training. The Chapter will be providing coffee and pastries.

We will be training in probably our most needed course, **Group Riding**. Sure, most people can straddle a motorcycle, point it down the road and throttle up. This class gets more detailed on how to ride with a group of several bikes and the expectations when group riding. The safest way to ride in our group is when everyone follows the same guidelines.

We will also cover **1st on the scene response** regarding accidents and incidents. We will learn how to safely manage the situation, prepare for emergency personnel to arrive and learn how to keep everyone on scene safe.

Riding in the Mountains will be our third topic. We all group ride, ride in the mountains and could be at the scene of an accident. Training is paramount. Fire Departments train, Police Departments train, and the Military train. We as motorcyclists should do the same.

There will also be segments about riding in the cold, riding in the heat, and first aid kit suggestions. We are also looking into First Aid and CPR classes for the future. We are progressively going to train this coming season. Don't just straddle your bike, point it in a direction and twist the throttle.

Speaking of the coming season. Did you like the rides this past summer? Enjoy the ride destinations, attractions, wide variety of types of rides, and Hump Day rides? It was pretty awesome if I say so myself. During the winter months we will have ride committee meetings to come up with a schedule for next year. Everyone is welcome to participate and give suggestions. We usually knock this out with 3 meetings in order to have a paper schedule. We are looking to have short day rides, long day rides, and maybe a couple of long weekend rides. We need suggestions for places to go and things to see. To have a full schedule, it takes a lot of suggestions. We will soon be announcing the location and time for our first meeting.



Don't forget, we meet every Wednesday (Hump Day Ride) for breakfast at Eggs Up Grill on Spartanburg Hwy. If weather permits, we usually have a lunch ride to follow. Destinations are decided on Tuesday based on weather conditions. As the weather is changing, there will be fewer rides planned and they will be shorter and closer to home.



Henderson County Toy Run 2023

Tech Tip:

Cold weather riding: Yeah, I still do it. I don't do it often, but I will do so for a special event. There is nothing like heated riding gear. I personally have a heated riding jacket, heated riding pants, heated socks and heated glove liners. The brand I have is Gerbings. I have had them for years. They are powered from your bike and will keep you toasty warm. I had tried the bundle up method. It makes you bulky, and it's hard to manipulate your hands. It makes it harder to control your bike and you may still be cold. You're relying on your body heat not escaping the 50mph ride. With heated gear, it literally feels like you put on warm clothes right out of the dryer. There are other brands and I believe they are all good as heated clothing has come a long way. Yes, they can be expensive, but isn't Christmas coming up?

Dale Yager
Chapter Safety and Ride Coordinator
Chapter M2



Riding the 3 Flags (Part 2)

By Mike Claywell

So, when does road construction become destruction? The 511 system that many states use is very nice. It can provide great information on road construction, closures, and especially conditions in winter weather. However, several times I have found that the websites may not tell you the extent of



the construction. You think of construction delays, etc. as lane closures, resurfacing, maybe some detours.... However, we came across 2 instances outside of the 3 Flags, one in Colorado and another in Montana, where several miles (15-20 in total) of the road had been completely REMOVED!!! What remained was a sketchy mix of dirt, sand, gravel, rock, potholes, and washboard. As much as I dislike high heat, those road conditions were the 2nd worse that I have ever

encountered. The worse was several miles of deep mud, 2 up on our 1500 a few years ago in Northern Colorado (but that is another story). Luckily the areas were dry or a dropped bike by one of us was possible as there was no path through the mess and the bikes slid and bounced all over the place. Turning around would have cost us almost half a day, so through we went.



When going on a ride, being able for your family/friends to track your position is great. After checking into some of the satellite tracking devices, which usually cost several hundred dollars and a yearly usage fee, I decided on trying Spotwalla. With Spotwalla, you just create an account, download a free app for your Apple or Android phone, and link the app to your account. The tracking is very cheap, but not free. Kathy and I did a practice track on a summer trip to SE Ohio to ride the Triple Nickel and it worked perfectly. The SCMA also offered a

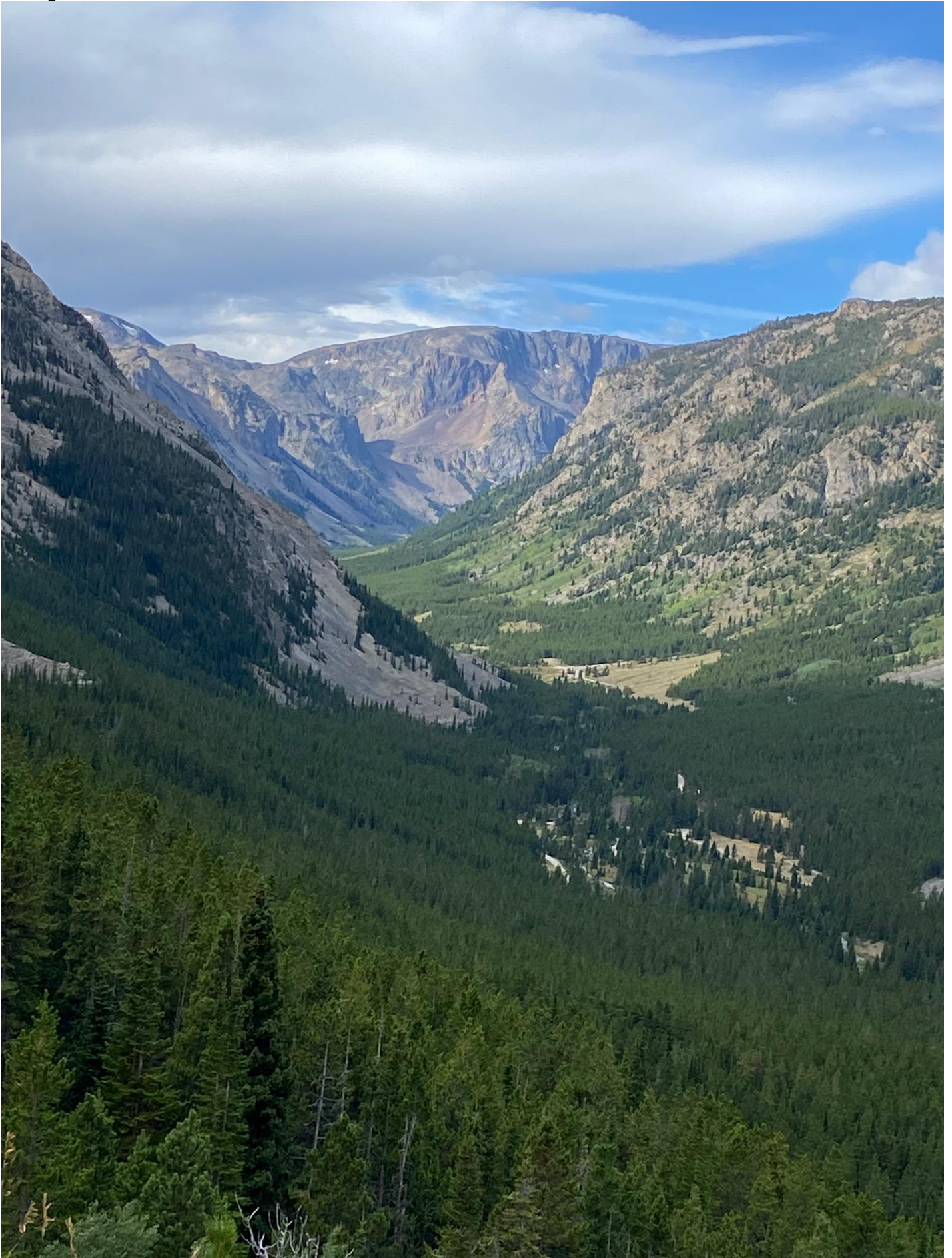
Spotwalla voucher for those with accounts for the 3 Flags, so tracking this trip was free.

The 3 Flags is as much a mental challenge as it is physical. The correct attitude, bike, gear, seat, and comfortable helmet are a necessity, as is an understanding spouse. The 2024 3 Flags will begin in beautiful Hot Springs, BC and end in either Tijuana or Mexicali. Kathy is planning on riding with me next year, which should be a lot of fun as she is a great passenger who doesn't mind an adventure.

Just a few stats from this year (most are estimates). Approximately 200 bikes participated, 12 of which were 2 up. Just under 170 completed the tour on time. Goldwings are the predominant bike of choice, followed by Harleys & Beemers. 19 bikes were piloted by female riders. The youngest rider was a 30 yr. old female from Minnesota on a Victory Cross Country and the oldest was a 92 yr. old man from Nebraska on a Spyder. One female rider was doing her 43rd of the 46 rallies. 6 riders received performance awards (speeding tickets). The oldest and smallest bike to complete the tour was a 1995 BMW K75. A very diverse group of riders and equipment. If you like long distance riding and are ready for a unique adventure, I highly recommend participating in the 3 Flags or one of the other touring rides sponsored by the SCMA like the 4 Corners of the US or the Cabot Trail through Southern Canada.



Just get out and ride!!!



Member Info:

December

Birthdays:

6 Bob Martin
13 Gerry Boykin
15 Craig Lembke
16 Bill McGill
25 Cliff Gammons

Anniversaries:

No December Anniversaries

Monthly Gathering Winners:

Ride Pots: October Ice Cream Ride - Bob Topper
November CNO - Gerry Boykin

Chapter Pride: Norma Brabb

50/50: Richard Arceneaux

M2 Caretaker: Marty Wood

Wing Nut Award: Marty Wood



EVENTS:



December 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Cook's Night Out	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Chapter Christmas Party / Jim & Norma Brabb's Home
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Notes

CNO – RSVP to Rusti or Gerry at trikelady@yahoo.com

Chapter Gathering – Eat at 9:00 am, meet at 9:45, possible ride to follow. (Except December)

Ice Cream Rides: KSU at 6:00pm, Ingles at Spartanburg Hwy & N. Highlands Rd (East Flat Rock)
(March thru October)



January 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 Happy New Year! Lunch @ Binion's Ice Cycle Ride	2	3	4 Cook's Night Out	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Chapter Gathering
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Training Day
28	29	30	31			

Notes

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(March thru October)

Hump Day Breakfast Riders - every Wednesday

Eggs Up Grill

637 Spartanburg Hwy, Hendersonville, NC

Breakfast 9:00am Ride approx. 10:00am

Open to all members. Destinations and length TBD each week. Suggestions welcome.

Cooks Night Out - first Thursday of each month

December 7th - Mike's Pizza & Pasta, 803 Spartanburg Hwy, Hendersonville, NC

Please be sure to RSVP.

Please Support our Sponsors:

828-693-4101

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