

## Mentoring the Next Generation

I don't know if anyone else has noticed, but when we get together it looks a lot like AARP meets Duck Dynasty. Yes, campers, we need to begin mentoring in the next generation, and in the process help them to become better riders than we are. I'm not throwing rocks here, but we "may" have developed some less than admirable riding habits and practices as to how we approach motorcycling. Trust me, as anyone who has known me over the long term, I am coming from a position of experienced authority. 😊

As we bring new riders into the fold, whether they be our children or our grandkids, lets try to help them understand some of the things that our generation took as the "way things are" might not be the best practice to pass along. Motorcycles have changed, and the stakes have been raised significantly. When I started riding the idea of a 700 cc motorcycle that would do 100 mph in 4<sup>th</sup> gear stock off the showroom floor was the stuff of science fiction. Now it is considered mundane and normal. The culture has shifted, but in a way it has remained the same; adventurous daredevils grabbing more gusto from life than the perceived civilians, and wearing that as a badge of honor. It is the job of the elder statespersons (that's us) to help this new generation understand the mistakes that we made and how to avoid them, all while still having fun.

This is how we protect the future of motorcycling.