

In memory of Sid Schwartz

Sept. 13, 1925 - Feb. 25, 2015

Arizona, 2003

This article was written by Maila Hedin for Fun N Sun Then N Now (published in 2008).

Biking With Sid and Elenore Schwartz

by Maila Hedin



Sid and Elenore Schwartz came to Fun N Sun in 1989 with a Suzuki road bike strapped on the back of their motorhome. This would be their only form of transportation during their stay. They used the motorcycle for shopping and tours of the area. They went by themselves to Big Bend National Park, a round trip of over 1,600 miles. At the time, they had the only bike in the park. Over the next couple of years there would be a few others, mostly scooters. Eventually, the Schwartz's put over 100,000 miles on their Suzuki.

The Schwartz's purchased their first motorcycle, a 250cc Ducati scooter, during the time that they were sail-boating. They boated much of New England including a trip across New York State on the Erie Canal. On their boat trips, it was a challenge to purchase groceries and other sundries when they were far from town. The scooter solved the problem of access. Eventually, they found that they enjoyed the scooter more than the boat. They sold the boat and got more involved in motorcycling.

In the 1960s they heard about a promotion from BMW that would allow one to purchase a motorcycle in Munich, Germany, ride it in Europe, and have it shipped home for little more than the round-trip fare to Europe. They decided to do just that. At the airport they saw a young man in a t-shirt swinging a motorcycle helmet. Elenore said, "I bet you are going to Munich to pick up a BMW." He said he was. Elenore told him they were, too.

The young man looked at them in their conservative clothes and sputtered, "But you can't do that, you're older than my parents." Later on,

when they were picking up their motorcycles, Sid offered to have the young man travel with him for the few hours it would take him to get used to the bike before Elenore hopped on. He declined saying, "I'm having it shipped home. I'm afraid to ride here." Sid took off on the bike alone, telling Elenore he'd be back for her in two hours. The afternoon passed, the sales office closed, and Elenore was standing alone outside when Sid finally returned. He'd been having such a wonderful ride, he'd forgotten all about her.

They proceeded to ride through Europe and North Africa putting about 5,000 miles on the bike. Amazingly, they never encountered rain. When they got back to Munich, the battery was disconnected and the gas drained for the trip back to the United States. It was shipped by plane as cargo and arrived at JFK International in New York. The customs agent waived the duty on the bike because it had over 5,000 miles on it and was considered a used bike. He told the Schwartz's that he also owned a BMW.

Later motorcycling adventures included travels in Ireland and Turkey. At a Harley motorcycle rally in Saratoga, New York, they met Malcolm Forbes who had Elizabeth Taylor riding behind him. Malcolm was sponsoring a group ride to the Congo and invited everyone at the rally to join the tour. Sid said the costs would have been reasonable, as Malcolm had set it up for group rates. At one time the New Jersey Garden State Parkway was closed to motorcycles and commercial vehicles, but Malcolm Forbes sued the state and it was opened to motorcycles.

The Schwartz's gave up motorcycling in 2003 but **not** travel and adventure. Each summer they travel to a different country where they rent an apartment and take self-directed tours that teach them about an area. Their favorite places are Perth, Australia, and Ireland, both because of the friendly people. The rest of the year the Schwartz's are full-time residents at Fun N Sun where they enjoy numerous activities available at the park.

In memory of Sid Schwartz
Sept. 13, 1925 - Feb. 25, 2015

China, 2000

This article was written by Eunice Greenhaus for Fun N Sun Then N Now, published in 2008.

Sidney Schwartz is a man of many hats: adventurer, inventor, world traveler, teacher, judge.

While he was working on his PhD in physiology in the 1950s, Sid went to work as a civilian for the U.S. Navy. One of the first Americans to work in Antarctica, he participated in *Operation Deep Freeze*. "I was on an icebreaker," Sid said, "and we did research in sea immersion and cold weather protection. Then we started to work on high altitude protective suits."

They developed a suit used to break the world's altitude record in a free balloon. During part of this time in Antarctica, Sid roomed with Sir Edmund Hillary, the first climber of Mt. Everest. He remembers Hillary as a very large man who slept in the sagging bunk above him, leading Sid to worry about the bed crashing down on him while he slept.

The space program was just beginning around 1960 when he left the Navy to work for Grumman Aviation. He was recruited by them to work on the physiological problems that occur during space flight. He became the chief physiologist for the lunar project. He worked with the first astronauts and did all the measurements for the early space suits. During this time he invented the zero-gravity toilet.

After the moon landing, interest in space fizzled, and Sid looked for another job. He worked for a few years as New York State's



research director. After research funds dried up, he became an administrative law judge.

In 1992-93 he and his wife Elenore, a retired teacher, taught English to scientists in China. Sid became the only Westerner allowed to learn how to make the official Chinese seal. While they were there, they toured Tibet and Mongolia.

Over the years, Sid and Elenore visited more than a hundred countries. In many of them they stayed with friends—made as a result of their travels or Sid's interests in ham radio and the Internet, which allow him to maintain continuing communication with friends worldwide. They have backpacked through South America and driven a motorcycle across North Africa. In the 1990s they twice led a group of Fun N Suners on an unforgettable tour of Turkey. In their Texas room at Fun N Sun, where they maintain their permanent home, they have a series of clocks lining the wall displaying the time in each of the zones around the world.

Singapore, 2000

