

Press Release 14/09/2016

Spencer Conway South America Adventure

Spencer has now covered nearly 8000 km on his South America Circumnavigation having traversed Colombia and Ecuador and is now in the south of Peru about to enter Bolivia. Spencer was welcomed by the friendly Colombians and enjoyed the cosmopolitan society in Bogota. He found it vibrant and exciting.

Leaving Bogota he had to negotiate the Trampoline del Diablo road which snakes up into the Andes along a cliff side where there are frequent landslides and fatal accidents. Along the road there are many shrines for the dead and people offer up prayers before taking to the buses that venture along this road.

On day ten of his ride he crossed into Ecuador and headed to Muise where on 16th April 2016 there was a 7.8 severity earthquake. Nearly seven hundred people were killed and twenty seven thousand injured. The Chinese have set up an emergency camp to care for the homeless and the injured. After staying in Quito, the capital, he travelled to the Cotopaxi volcano which erupted as recently as 2015, and then climbed to 4,700 ft on the Tuguraku volcano, which is 5,300 ft high. Suffering from altitude sickness he had to abort his mission to climb to the top.

Spencer took the lesser used route via Zumba to enter Peru along stony and landslide covered tracks. He had to lean over the bike handle bars to keep balance and to coax the bike up steep inclines. Whilst camping he was bitten by a hairy spider that was big enough to carry him away!!! Travelling through the Andes he managed to get to Chachapoyas along the windiest road in the world and where a lighter skinned Andean tribe, known as the 'Warriors of the Clouds', created a settlement. They carved habitations into the rock faces and lived almost permanently at altitude of over 2.000 mts. They also made carvings of strange, human-like, figures out of the local stone and which stand on the side of the mountains.

Save the Children have projects in both Ecuador and Peru that care for the young children suffering hardship and lack of care in the rural communities. Basic education is provided. These projects are staffed by locals and are ongoing. Spencer believes that without such projects many children would not have hope for a future life.

Having to repair his bike in Chimbote he was helped by a friendly mechanic on the side of the road. The mechanic's mother supplied frequent mugs of tea and a Peruvian who asked to take a photograph presented Spencer with a chocolate cake the size of a suitcase. Five more mechanics appeared with bowls of cane spirit and insisted Spencer had one to himself. A party began with music on a boom box and a crowd gathered. Traffic was halted and a merry time was had by all.

Spencer's adventure is now in week ten and he is near to Nazca, famous for the earth drawn lines covering many hectares, which can only be seen from the air. He is now faced with a desert journey to Arequipa and thence into Bolivia.

For more information Google Spencer Conway Adventure Motor Cyclist Extraordinaire.