

The Bailing Wire

ABATE of CA. Newsletter for Motorcyclists Volume XXXIV ISSUE IV

A Union of Motorcyclists

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

ABATE meets with Ling Ling Chang

by Spike

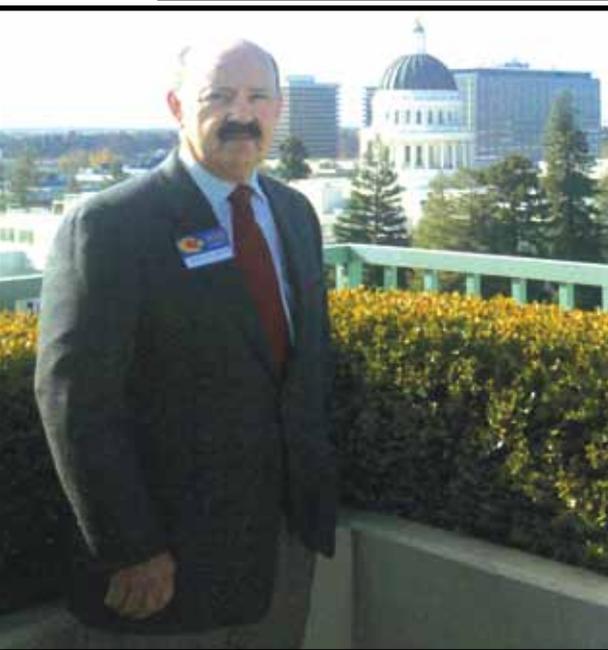
Recently Spike and Gill Mellen, of ABATE Board of Directors and Local 20 met with newly appointed Ling Ling Chang, Assemblywomen for the 55th District, and her Chief of Staff, Chris Wangsaporn. The meeting was a great opportunity to discuss ABATE, its role, some of our major issues and to discover more about her and her standpoint.

We were happy to find a friendly, professional, politician who is active in many political areas, committees and is willing to work with us on issues we may have in the biker community. We hope to continue to build a partnership with Assemblywomen Chang and work with her in the future.

“Ling-Ling has a history of creativity and building partnerships to solve problems. We need people like her to continue fighting against taxes, cut government waste and to fix the mess in Sacramento. With leaders like her, we can count on real solutions and common sense approaches to fixing California.” ~ Senate Republican Leader Bob Huff



Lobbyist's Report



by James Lombardo, Lobbyist

The Legislature is starting to get busy with hearings! Between now and July bills must move out of the policy committees to which they were assigned, and their house of origin, or become two year bills. So far, AB 334, introduced by Assemblyman Ken Cooley (D–Rancho Cordova), the motorcyclist anti-profiling bill, will be heard in the Assembly Public Safety Committee, which is chaired by Assemblyman Bill Quirk, who is also the author of the motorcycle lane sharing bill, AB 51. The date for hearing AB 334 is March 24th, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 126. Please send letters to your Assembly Member

in **Support of AB 334**, and copy the Chair of the Committee, Assemblyman Bill Quirk.

Assemblyman Quirk's lane splitting bill, AB 51, has not been set for a policy committee hearing in March, and will most likely be heard in April. I have met with Assemblyman Quirk's staff and presented our proposed amendment to remove any speed restrictions when motorcyclists "share lanes". The staff will be presenting our proposed amendment to the author and will get back to me with his decision.

So far the rumors of an anti-motorcycle roadside noise test bill are just rumors so far, but I am watching the numerous "**SPOT BILLS**" to see if this language is put into one of them.

SB 192, authored by Senator Carol Liu (D–Glendale), will require **ALL** bicyclists, **including adults**, to wear helmets! We could oppose on principle. That is up to the ABATE PAC Committee to decide.

There are many Special Elections underway, as members are running for safe, non-term-limited seats in Congress which create various Senate and Assembly district vacancies, to be filled by special elections as members change houses and jurisdictions.

Stay tuned to the big changes that are happening in Sacramento this Session/Year. **THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THE SPECIAL DEDICATED LOBBYIST FUND** that keeps me fighting for motorcyclists' rights in Sacramento!

April 2015

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What is ABATE?

ABATE is a motorcyclists' rights organization (not a club) dedicated to preserving freedom of choice and freedom of the road, with emphasis on education and safety. Our members are active in programs for public awareness and motorcycle safety, and in supporting many types of charity events.

Included with an ABATE membership are a sew-on patch, membership card, and our monthly newsletter THE BAILING WIRE. There are no special requirements for joining aside from an interest in promoting motorcyclists' rights and safety with payment of the appropriate fees.

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"Spike" 714/234-0730

Executive Director's Report

by Dave Hastings, Executive Director

This will be our last printed Bailing Wire article before the ABATE Southern Regional Rally so I would like to open my article by encouraging you to attend this event if possible, and if not, asking you to make a contribution for your motorcycle rights by purchasing an entry to our event. The Southern Regional Rally has been going on for 21 years now and has always been a significant fundraiser for ABATE of California. Help us make this event one of the largest ABATE fund raisers of the year by attending and/or registering for this Mother's Day weekend. With that said, look for the Rally information in this issue and I will look forward to seeing you there!

Now on to our regular broadcast! Start planning now to attend the next ABATE Board of Directors meeting hosted by Local 24 in Fresno on May 30th. We are committed to holding two meetings in the north and two in the south this year so don't miss out on this opportunity to participate in the operation of your organization. I would like to see every Local north of Bakersfield represented at this meeting by at least one member who can then relay information directly back to their Local. Remember, sometimes we discuss and vote on items that need an immediate action at these meetings, and if you want to participate in the outcome of the issue you must be present at the meeting for your voice to be heard. This is your opportunity to help guide your ABATE in the direction you feel is needed. Don't miss the chance to address an item and give us your input. We do our best to work for you, but we need guidance, not silence, to make an accurate assessment of your needs. Show up and fulfill your obligation to yourself and your fellow members. If ABATE is to be member run, the members must be present. Be there!

ABATE is an all volunteer organization and I have been asking for people to step up to fill some of our vacant positions and offer to relieve some of our long time position holders. This will allow them to take a well deserved and hard earned rest from the day to day operation of ABATE of California. Well I'm happy to say that some have already stepped up and hopefully more of you will consider getting more involved and accept a new position in our ABATE.

SIMI VALLEY HARLEY-DAVIDSON / BUELL



Paul Pecoraro
General Manager

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The HORSEMEN

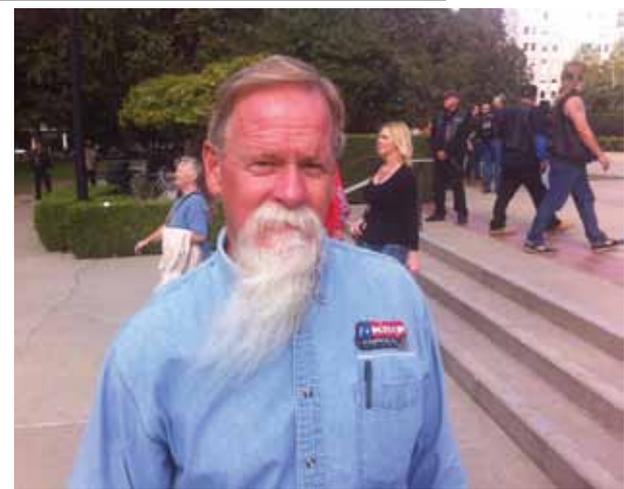
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and LOVE TO RIDE....
Yes - It is just that simple.

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Mark "Dogman" Castellero has taken over "Lil" David Morena's position as State Treasurer and is already hard at work performing those duties for ABATE.

Craig Griswold, President of Local 52 in Grass Valley, has volunteered to assume the Regional Representative position for Region #2 also, (giving "Lil" David additional "rest") and will now be helping our Locals' Presidents in that area of the state.

And lastly, Ed Rodgers, one of my fellow Board of Directors members, has agreed to become my Assistant Executive Director. This will provide ABATE a person in the North to represent us when needed and save me a lot of travel time and work here in one of the largest states of the country. Additionally, his acceptance of this position ensures a smooth transition for our leadership when it's time for me to step down from the day to day operation of our ABATE.

So, with a few new additions, we have set up a process for ABATE to continue to be one of the premier MROs in the country well into the foreseeable future.

Now it's time for you to consider what you can offer to this organization and step up to the plate, too! We have a huge, untapped talent pool available to us, but many of you have kept your talents quiet. Offer to help and I'm sure someone will accept that offer, be it at the State or your Local level. Volunteers are a precious commodity and too many get burned out because of overwork. Step up and lighten the load for someone and do your part in ensuring your "right to ride" in California. We will give you all of the training and help you may need to smoothly transition into your new duties and I look forward to seeing more of you relieve us "old timers" from our duties.

Remember, ABATE is a member run organization and you are an important part of that membership. Offer to help fill one of our vacant positions or relieve an existing volunteer and ensure tomorrow holds a bright future for our organization.

So hopefully I will see you at our Regional Rally on May 8th - 10th and also at our upcoming Board of Directors meeting in Fresno on May 30th.

Until then, ride safe and ride often, and I'll be looking for you out on the road. Dave H.



Mission Statement

ABATE of California is committed to protect and promote the interests of the motorcycle community. ABATE exists to preserve and safeguard the individual rights and liberties of all riders thru political and legislative action. ABATE promotes motorcycle safety through education, training and public awareness.

ABATE of California now has their off road division up and running!

Join on Page 19

ABATE OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

American Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education

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Bill Bish, Sporty Milligan, Jim Lombardo, Dave Hastings, Norm E. Newiger & Craig Griswold.

DEADLINES

All run flyers and ad copy will be camera ready. Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication for ALL material for publication.

Business Card size	\$15.00/Mo	\$150.00/YR
Business Card with color	\$20.00/Mo	\$200.00/YR
Super-Size Business Card with color	\$250.00 Yearly only	

A Super-Size Business Membership includes Business card on our website with a web link to your business. ALL Yearly rates Includes a Business membership to ABATE Of California.

Business Memberships include two persons at the same mailing address, and a display plaque for the first year. Business cards need to be mailed to the ABATE State Office with membership application and appropriate fee.

Other Business Ads or NON-ABATE Event Flyers		
Rate:		
¼ Page (5" w x 7.8" h)	\$150.00/Mo	\$1,500.00/Yr.
½ Page (10" w x 7.8" h)	\$175.00/Mo	\$1,750.00/Yr.
Full Page (10" w x 15.5" h)	\$350.00/Mo	\$3,500.00/Yr.

Color ads are 25% extra.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

\$125 - One Year Business Member Listing, Couple Membership and Display Plaque. Add \$75 per year for color business card.

Color for an ad or flyer is extra and (ad copy, print ready) must be submitted showing color. All ads MUST be pre-paid for whatever duration you will be running the ad. Prices do not include any changes that you may want to make to existing ads placed with us.

Ads should be submitted electronically – in a jpg or tiff file – email to bailing.wire@abate.org and either mail payment to the address below or call with credit card number and billing information.

CLASSIFIED Members may advertise in the Classified Section at no charge.

PHOTOS

If you have any photos of ABATE motorcycle events please send them to us. They will be returned if you ask. Please include name of event, date, sponsor, etc. Must be received by the 10th of the month. You can email pictures in .jpg file to: bailing.wire@abate.org

Donations to ABATE Of California are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes. However, dues and fees may qualify as business expenses and may be deductible in limited circumstances subject to various restrictions imposed by the Internal Revenue Code.



by Dave Hastings, Treasurer

Chuck Pedersen, our Legislative Director, Jim Lombardo, our ABATE Lobbyist and our ABATE PAC members have been very busy with the three Assembly bills that have been introduced so far this year that will directly impact motorcycle riders in our state. Briefly they are Assemblyman Mike Gatto's AB 8 which concerns "hit and run accident" legislation, Assemblyman Bill Quirk's AB 51 which concerns "lane sharing" by motorcycles, and Assemblyman Ken Cooley's AB 334 which prohibits "profiling" of motorcycle riders in California.

Classified

FOR SALE: Complete 5 speed gear set, shift forks, Compensating Sprocket, Primary chain and bearing door from 1997 Road King. Like new, 2K miles. \$650. Contact Glen (818) 344-4656.

FOR SALE: I have an "almost" new aftermarket speedometer, 8-1/2" face, 306 miles. It fits an early model Harley-Davidson XL Sportster or a FXR Low Rider model. Handlebar mount with rear reset knob and mechanical front wheel drive. Bought from JP Cycles in January 2014. Paid \$109.00. Want \$75.00 cash. Leave a message for Steve B. from Local #01 with Sporty, 818.361.8800.

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Pac/Treasurer's Report

ABATE PAC has already promised full support and endorsed AB 8 and AB 334 and we are in meetings now concerning possible amendments to AB 51 to make it a better deal for the riders of California. Jim and Chuck will keep everyone posted as to any amendments to AB 51 and our "official" ABATE position on this bill as it moves through the legislative process.

As you can see, we are only four months into the new year and it's already shaping up to be a very busy one for your ABATE PAC. Please stay involved in the legislative process with us and help preserve and protect your motorcycle rights. As usual, as these bills move on through the legislative process, we will need letters of support and your attendance at the committee hearings.

With your help, ABATE PAC can positively influence the end result of these bills and any other motorcycle legislation introduced. So, stay active and stay tuned for updated ABATE PAC information as we throttle up for the 2015 legislative season!

"THANKS TO ALL THAT DO, AND TO THOSE THAT DON'T, PLEASE TRY TO!"

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ABATE "Brothers & Sisters" Lost in 2015

Ernie "Godfather" Dorsey, Local 40 President, (passed in December 2014);

Frank Conard, Past President of Local 22, and a current ABATE Member; Rest In Peace, May they ride Forever Free.

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ABATE of California Inc. neither endorses nor promotes the services of any particular Law Firm. We are committed to working with all MROs including NCOM, MRF, AMA, MMA, BOLT and any other motorcycle rights organization that strengthens our lobby on legislative issues and on motorcycle safety.

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LOCAL NEWS

Local #01 Los Angeles



Hi all! We had our ABATE Local 1 meeting this am. Small turn-out. That's a shame. We did however get a lot accomplished. I explained that we needed to send letters to all the public safety committee members asking them to support AB 334, which we did and the letters are now on their way to the appropriate offices at the State capital. We briefly talked about the Polar Bear run. Expressed the need to get more money for the Local so we can make a contribution to the various funds. It looks like right now we're just doing the lobbyists fund contribution.

I informed the group about what was happening with AB 51, the lane sharing bill. We will not have a definitive answer on that until the meeting with the CHP. That will happen shortly. I also informed the group that we would support AB 8, Assemblyman Mike Gatto's (D-Glendale) hit and run bill, because he has supported us in the past on our issues.

Talked about several runs coming up in April that we would attend. Local 27's Bare Necessities run, the pre-Laughlin run sponsored by MMA District 5 and ABATE Local 3/13's Motorcycle Awareness run. Now it's just a matter of getting the group to do that.

VP Jim Nickla gave us more details on the t-shirts and I got the one he had made for me. Before the meeting closed, I sold 22 - \$1 membership tickets; 3- \$5 tickets for Local 38's ice chest. I then closed the meeting.

Those that cared to had breakfast. Gee I hope more folks show up next month. Regards, Sporty

Local #02 Simi Valley



Wow! This year is zooming by fast; it's already been our third meeting of the year and we are still rocking! We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at VFW Post 10049, 4242 East Los Angeles Street. We start serving our great \$5.00 BBQ meal and all the fixin's you could want at 6:45 and our meeting starts promptly at 7:30. Our meetings are over around 8:30 - ish o'clock. We miss all those who couldn't make it and hopes to see you at the next meeting!

Our volunteer cooks were Jim and Steve and they rocked it! A great big thanks to VFW Post 10049 again, remember we have a really good bar for all your beverage delights as well as a great place to hang out.

Pres. Guy got us going with the Pledge of Allegiance and he talked about our upcoming Sweaty Buns Run and ABATE's Membership Drive. Our VP, Jim, talked about helmets and lane splitting, Jane, our secretary, read the minutes and Pat, our treasurer, talked about our funds and what goes where. We are doing good!

PR man, Norm, talked about reading the Bailing Wire on line, Frank, our membership guy, talked

about our membership and gave us his account on our members' status. Run coordinator, Bob, talked about the rides and new rides as well and Scott, our merchandise man, brought the goods and talked about our stock.

President Guy talked more in depth about the membership drawing as we purchased the tickets. We also had a couple of good discussions in particular about lane splitting - the dos and don'ts.

We are getting our Sweaty Buns Run going and we need to get our committee going, too. Your input and help is really appreciated and the camaraderie amongst us is great!

Scott our merchandise guy sets up our merchandise (big job!) because we are having a great sale on ALL our stuff! You gotta get here for some really good stuff! If you snooze, you'll lose!

We had a good amount of stuff for our drawings and it was a fun filled night. Again, Pattibock was the membership winner this month.

It's that time of the year to get your bikes, as well as yourself, in order. We are having great weather and it's time to enjoy it! Ride safer than last time, ride with your Local members and let's expand ABATE and our Freedom! PTL norm e.

Local #08 Orange County



We here at Local 8 have the prospect of busy summer months. Several of Local 8's group will be at the Southern Regional Rally in Victorville. Will you be there?

Southern California Motorcycles invites riders and enthusiasts of all ages, as well as their family and friends, to join us for our annual Spring Open House. This year the event is extra special as we are celebrating our 15th anniversary. The event will take place on Saturday, April 11th, from 10 am to 5 pm at our dealership, Southern California Motorcycles of Brea (515 W. Lambert Rd. in Brea, CA - just a mile from the 57 freeway). Local 8 will be hosting a booth at this function - what a great honor to be there to spread the word of ABATE.

We are planning a few Local 8 rides and a booth at the Motorcycle Swap Meet in Long Beach. Come out in August and support ABATE.

As we begin the warmer days, and with summer on the rise, be vigilant and watch the traffic to avoid accidents. This time of year people are busy and not paying close attention on the roads. Better weather, means more riders on the road. Keep the rubber side down and the shiny side up. Local 8's very own Hawgette.

Local # 17 Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano & Napa Counties



Local 17 is thriving! Don't miss our annual Spring Fun Run! Saturday, April 25th, starts at Str8 Shooters, 1072 Monte Vista Ave, Vacaville. Sign up starts at 9:00 am, first game at 10:00. \$5 donation per card. 5 stops, 5 games. Join ABATE the day of the event and get 1 bingo card at each stop. For more information call (707) 624-6310, email glenphillips01@comcast.net or visit www.abate17.org

We had a very visible presence at the Capay Valley Almond Festival manning a booth and offering information. Then our FYAO Run, dedicated to long-time member Tom Watson, brought out over 180 riders, and 5 new members! With membership renewals coming in on a regular basis, our membership continues to increase.

We have postponed our Poker Tournament, it is now re-scheduled for October 24. The Hot Rods and Harleys 18th Annual American Hot Rod and 21st Annual Ride-In Motorcycle Show will take place on Sunday, June 7, with 13 bike categories and 7 car categories. This event brings out hundreds of visitors, and gives us a great opportunity to gain additional members - and support for our cause.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Local 22 member, Frank Conard; and to also find out that past member, Roy Carpenter, is now paralyzed from waist down; and that long-time member, Marshall Johnson, is in the hospital with serious medical issues. We passed the hat to help Roy Carpenter, and a page has been set up on GoFundMe to help with medical costs and also the necessary renovations needed for his home when he is released from the hospital. We are extended family, and part of what we do is support each other!

We are closely watching several pieces of legislation regarding motorcyclists' rights - specifically AB 334, which deals with profiling of motorcycle riders; and the lane sharing legislation, which seems to have become quite controversial. We have also made note of AB 8, where law enforcement can issue a Yellow Alert, similar to the Amber Alert, when a person has been killed or seriously injured due to a hit-and-run incident. Lobbyist Jim Lombardo visited our Local at our March meeting and brought us up to date on these, and several other subjects.

Spring is in full bloom, and the days and nights are perfect for riding. Be safe, be aware of road conditions and traffic around you. Also, please take the time to be aware of what is happening in local, state and federal government that will affect your rights to ride in the future - speak up, get involved, and make a difference! Ride Safe, Ride FREE! Shauna

Local #20 Orange County



We had 43 people at our meeting which included seven guests. The lane sharing bill is still working its way through the Assembly and they seem to be accepting our input. The California Highway Patrol will have the final decision however.

Tom Daley is still on board with the Anti-profiling bill. The state of Maryland has been working on one of their own that is similar to the one that they have in Washington State but here in California we are having problems. We are hopeful however and we will not give up. We are still working on several legislators to get them on board. If anyone is pulled over for no other reason than the fact they are riding two wheels or wearing a patch, these incidences need to be writ-

LOCAL NEWS

ten immediately after the stop and a copy needs to go to Gill. The more proof of profiling the better to help stop it. Spike said that ALL of us need to work together to stop the harassment.

David Gerard's name was pulled for the dollar draw, but he wasn't at the meeting so we have \$59.00 for next month's draw. The politically incorrect Gill.

Local #23 San Bernardino



Abate Local 23 San Bernardino

We have changed the location of our Monthly Bike Nights. Our new location is Tam's Restaurant at 180 E. Baseline Ave, just East of Riverside Ave, in Rialto, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This new location has more traffic and is very visible from the street.

We will be having our traditional Chili Cook-off on May 16th. This has always been a fun event. Ribbons are given for 1st and 2nd place. We also have a Salsa contest and a Dessert contest. So come on out and put your chili where your mouth is!! Winners will be posted on our Facebook page.

We have created a Facebook page where we are posting events, rides and new Assembly Bills that are currently being reviewed and discussed.

ABATE Local 23 is supporting Local 27 with their Bare Necessities Run with creating a GOFUNDME page. This link can be found on our Facebook page.

Ride safe everyone, and hope you can come out and support our events. Tammy Odell

Local #25 Sacramento

Ruby called the meeting to order at 7:04 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A returning visitor, JR Voss, attended along with 11 members including David and Kathy Battles who we haven't seen in a while.

Joe reported on our treasury. He will be paying our in-



urance. Since our President was absent (family emergency), we had an informal meeting with general discussion of legislation. We each wrote a letter to the Legislature in support of AB 334 the anti-profiling bill. And the meeting was adjourned. David Smart

Local #27 Riverside



Just wanted to drop you all a line and say "Hi!", and tell you that ABATE Local 27 is still alive and kicking. We have been a little in the slow lane lately, but are still active and ready to support ABATE of California.

I personally would like to invite each of you to our 13th annual BARE Necessities Run on Sunday, April 12, at 10:00 am at The American Legion Post 79 located in Fairmount Park (2979 Dexter Drive) in Riverside. See flyer elsewhere in The Bailing Wire for more details.

This event provides under garments for The Salvation Army to pass out to the less fortunate. For those that can't make it, we are accepting donations that will be used to purchase them. Last year the Geezers M/C spear headed a drive, had a fun run to the garment district and purchased OVER \$1,300.00 in items!!!!!! This was in addition to the hundreds of items donated at the gate. 10,000 thanks to the Geezers for their ongoing support of Local 27!

To make a donation we have set up a "GoFundMe" account that you can access via our Facebook page @ ABATE of California Local 27 and look for the flyer with the "click here" link, or e-mail me at kennuttall@aol.com and I will gladly get it to you. **We really would rather see you in person at the event!**

Additionally I am looking forward to the Southern Regional Rally coming up in May. It is always such a grand

time. Hope to see many of you there, as well. Kenny Nuttall, President ABATE Local 27

Local #52 Grass Valley



Hi folks! With no winter to speak of (apologies to friends and family back east) the riding season is going full tilt. I am not one to attend bike runs, at least not very often as we are generally pretty busy in the shop. Mary and I decided it was time to check one out and we took a ride to Vacaville to join Glenn Phillips and Local 17 in the annual Freeze Your Ass Off run. There was no freezing of anything owing to mild temps, which made the ride even more enjoyable for the very thin blooded me! This was also named the first annual Tom Watson run in memory of one of their longtime members whom they lost. It was a great run and an impressive operation considering all the resources Glenn and the crew put together to execute seamlessly. Another reason to attend was to start checking out how others are raising revenue for their Locals. I believe we could start getting back into doing runs as our membership has been growing. With our main fundraiser, Steve Shoemaker's, departure on the horizon we need to look at new ways to generate funds.

Speaking of runs, we're thinking of checking out Local 17's Bingo Run on April 25th. Glenn says this one is a bit easier to pull off and takes fewer resources. We'll take notes and report back to the membership. Give me a yell if you think you might be interested in going. We can meet and ride as a group.

Legislation in the sights include AB 51 by Bill Quirk (D-Hayward) which would establish legal requirements for lane sharing, a bill introduced by Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova) requiring law enforcement training for motorcycle anti-profiling, and at the national level HR 21 which would require a comprehensive study on the negative effects of ethanol in vehicles. Will discuss more in-depth at the meeting and publish details in future columns. Cheers! Craig.



Local 23

American Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education

2nd Friday of the Month - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
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GPS Coordinates: 34.550610, - 117.290500

May 8-10, 2015

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GPS Coordinates: 34.550610, - 117.290500

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- Going North on 15 fwy, take Stoddard Wells exit (first exit past Mojave River bridge).
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RV INFO. - JEFF OZANNE (760) 948.2186 - E-mail: Jozz477@hotmail.com

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*RV's Must Pre-Register
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PRE REG. EVENT ENTRY

- Single - \$30.00
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April 18, 2015



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of California

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\$10/ person

Food and Drink available

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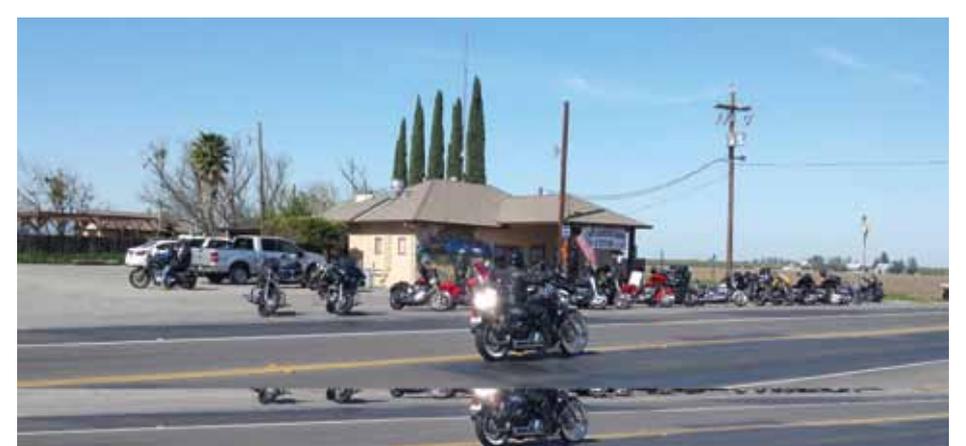
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FYAO L#17 Pics

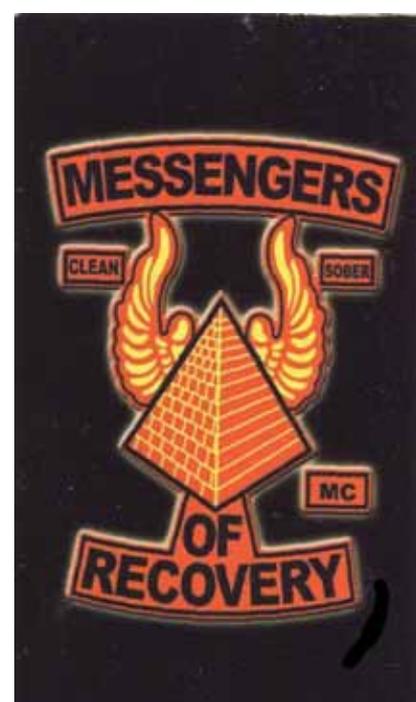


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Rick Rademacher

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Motorcycle Safety Report

by Norm e. Newiger,
State safety Officer

Foolish Behavior is Stupid

There's always been one in the crowd, a fool that is. Being a fool has been around since the caveman days (I just watched Caveman ala, Ringo Starr) and today it's far worse than we really think. Being foolish was in skits and shows then elevated to the silver screen. The public of the world desired to see foolish behavior and its consequences for their amusement. It was casual entertainment and it was physical as well as behavioral, sometimes very extreme.

The definition of a FOOL is: "A person lacking in judgment or prudence, a harmlessly deranged person or one lacking in common powers of understanding." The word fool has many, many descriptions, too many to list.

The next word is STUPID! First definition is: "Not intelligent, having or showing a lack of ability to learn and understand things." Second is: "Not able to think normally because you are drunk, tired, lacking intelligence or reason and slow of mind." So you say, "Norm why are you telling us this?" First of all, I'm defining the difference between the two and from what I know is this: Being foolish is a whim. You could be smart and educated then you do something out of control because you put yourself in that position. Being stupid - well maybe you get into trouble not knowing what you're doing or lack of experience that you thought you had.

The meat and potatoes of this is we see these behavioral patterns every day and we could be the ones who are called these names and or be the ones that say them as well. YouTube and Facebook are the catalyst now and you can find all the videos of said such person or persons about anything! But I will keep this to just motorcycles. If you miss it live you can find it on youtube, you won't be disappointed and you might be entertained even though it could be devastating to the said such rider(s).

So recently I was going through an intersection and noticed a car waiting to turn left (they saw me entering) and all of a sudden a biker who was behind them swerved around them to turn left as I was going through the intersection. Lucky for him to dodge out of my way (I was doing 45 mph) just in the nick of time. I was instantly honking my horn because I didn't have time to flip him off. True story! I thought what a fool he was; was he so impatient to put his life in danger?

Another time I saw a man, with a woman passenger, at an intersection. The guy opens up full throttle to pop a wheelie and the lady gets tossed and then him as well and his bike does the one legged hoppity floppity dance. True story! Another fool! Where the heck are they coming from?

I saw this as well; one of my friends that was riding with us kind of drifted away momentarily as we all banked right during a turn and he went straight. I kinda saw him lock his brakes as he went off the



road. Stupid! Another friend of mine wasn't as experienced a rider as we were and he didn't negotiate a left banking turn and wiped out as he went off the road onto a dirt shoulder. Another example of being stupid, I'm not saying it was me, but like people tell a doctor, I have a friend that has this rash.....

Okay it wasn't me, but I've done that before during my youthful days as a biker and it was more embarrassing than anything else. Out of anger we call ourselves stupid or we are yelled at for being stupid. Whether you're successful or fail at something on your motorcycle ALL people take notice. Some people may ooh & aah you and some might say, "Look at that dumb ass." Then again, you might get a ticket from someone that can.

I look at our democratic system of fairness (I'm tripping) and wonder why my insurance is so expensive or why do we have laws that infringe on our freedom, them stupid fools!!! It makes you think. Mass punishment comes to mind. Just Saying! So this is what they say and I know it to be true: The actions of a few penalizes the majority.

Through my experience I know where I stand and how good of a rider I am, even though I had many accidents when I was young. I started riding when I was around 13. It was a learning process and lucky for me nothing serious. But I had a few friends that weren't as lucky as I was - they are fully decomposed by now - serious stuff for being either stupid or foolish! Why do we feel like we have to show off? It's got its place and moment, but for the most part it's very abused because a lot of riders lack experience and practice. Think about it. It takes repetitive practice to master some of the stuff out there. There's always the one who thinks he can do it on a whim and you know what happens - they get famous on YouTube! I sure hope not. When you have discernment you'll know your limitations - it's a fact.

Every year is critical nowadays for motorcyclists. We're under the microscope of life and it is being

defined by the few and not the majority. When I think about motorcycle safety it's about knowing where you stand as far as experience goes. Even though we can be the safest rider out there, there will be times when someone else will prove us wrong by accident, no fault of yours. It's just a way of life in today's modern world - the numbers are Huge! It's just about the millions and millions of drivers and riders out there on all the roads today, so something's gotta give.

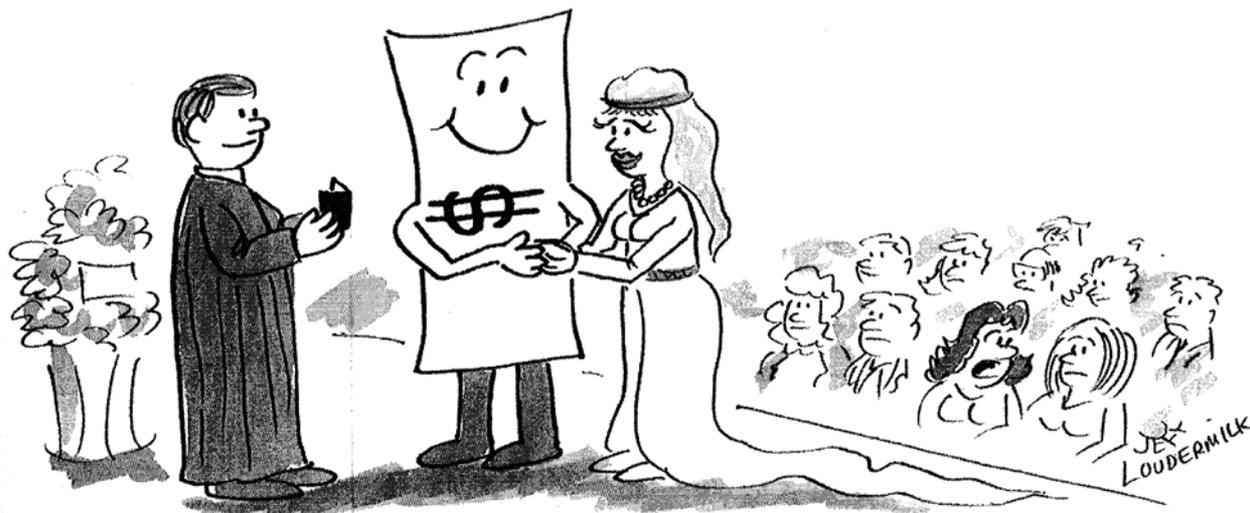
We also say things like "clowning around" or "showing off." The word descriptions of foolish behavior and stupid behavior are plentiful. I have been guilty of both and sometimes you get away with it and sometimes you get bit really good!

This time of year is a great gateway to our riding season. For some, it's been a while since they've ridden and for others it has never ended, nevertheless it's a great time to check all aspects of your bike and rework your skill level - kind of like pre-game warm-ups. I've said in the past articles and I'll say it again, know how your brakes work and practice locking your rear tire at slower speeds then graduating up to speeds in the double digits. This will help you understand how your bike reacts as well as you.

Practicing slow speed turns is not easier than it looks. Knowing how much speed and torque you need for higher speed turns is important as well, you know, being in the right gear, and having the proper RPM's to propel you through the turns. Sometimes if you go too slow through a turn or you are in the improper gear then your bike gets heavy and you can't shoot the hole and you will drift off the road or you'll have to brake really hard to stay on the asphalt! I've done that before and have seen it a lot. If you are riding through unfamiliar roads then you have to pay attention to all the road signs, especially the ones that designate the speed which was established to be safest to negotiate the turn. And yes I do have friends that take a new road as a challenge and pass me so fast, then you see them leaning far more than you'd dream of doing and gunning it out and disappear slowly from your sight. You'll hookup with them at the bottom or the top of the hill five minutes later. Don't worry, your skill level is not the same as theirs and don't try and do their level - it's good to meet them after the fact. It's a big pill that I had to swallow, but I know my limitations. Remember I said earlier that I have friends that have decomposed, true story!

Going to a riding school is a great way to advance your skills. Talking to other riders and understanding what they say is great as well. Hearing and advancing your skills from multiple people is great. It's a great thing you can do for yourself and share with others, it's a brotherhood out there, you know just like ABATE!

This is not about the un-official holiday, April Fools' Day, it's about the price that foolish behavior costs us all, and you don't have to be stupid to not understand this. Please start the season emphasizing safe riding. It's a great lifestyle and a great freedom we have, talk to others, share your knowledge, and have a great safe month!



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Donations!! – General, Lobbyist & PAC Funds – THANK YOU!!!!

Thank you to each and every one of you who have contributed to these various funds, either by sending separate donations or by adding extra dollars when you renew!! Large, small and in-between donations all add up when combined, so, THANK YOU!

We will do our best to recognize your generosity by listing and thanking you here; IF we leave your name off, please contact Carol@abate.org or Dave Hastings 760/947-4700 and we’ll list you next month. (Most times it’s just a matter of when the mail arrives and the Bailing Wire deadline.) But it never hurts to follow-up.

Our THANK YOU THIS MONTH... (Received up to March 15th) GOES TO the following:

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Bryan Powell, L#8;
Yermo Ed, L#47;
And from **ABATE Locals:** 1, 2, 17, 19, 21, 23,

Donations to the Lobbyist Fund from:

James Howard, L#17;
Rick Mullaly, L#52;
And **ABATE Locals:** 1, 19, 21, 23, 25, & 40.

Donations to the PAC Fund from ABATE Locals: 2, 17, 21, 23, 25,

And thank you to the following Local’s that have mailed in the requested reimbursement for the Directors & Officers Insurance (aka D & O): Locals: 1, 2, 6, 8, 17, 19, 20, 24, 25, 27, 38 & 52...

Thank you ALL for your donations!! Donations are welcomed at any time for any fund... you can snail mail checks payable to ABATE of CA; 10240 7th Ave; Hesperia, CA 92345-2631. In the memo please indicate which fund(s) you want your donation applied to.

To borrow a mantra – TO THOSE THAT DO, THANK YOU! TO THOSE THAT DON’T DO – PLEASE TRY TO.

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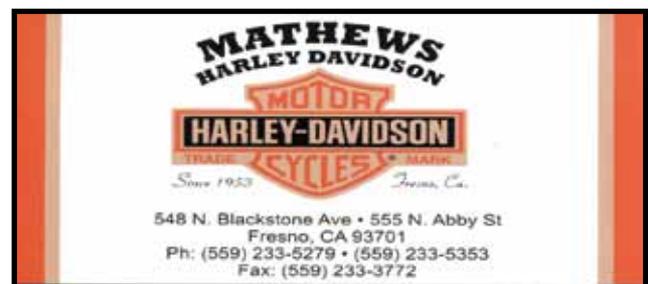
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NCOM Biker Newsbytes

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NCOM BIKER NEWSBYTES Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish, National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM)

ANTI-PROFILING MEASURES SPREAD NATIONWIDE - NCOM-LTF UPDATE: This is one of the most exciting and productive Legislative seasons we have had in a very long time, as a unified community and as a freedom seeking culture. We are moving towards our goal of Critical Mass in establishing a National Movement to end Motorcycle Profiling with eight States in the process of Bill sponsorship, committee hearings or have already passed anti-profiling protection. Once we reach that tipping point, look out Washington D.C.! I met with the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus Co-Chair and discussed a National Anti-Profiling Bill, and he's willing to listen.

Currently from Washington State across the country to New York State and including; California, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Maryland, North Carolina, Missouri, all have motorcycle anti-profiling bills. The NCOM Legislative Task Force is accessible when called upon by any, and willing to assist providing a cohesive plan to help insure success with; "Lessons Learned from Washington State", Fiscal analysis, Collecting a Pattern of Evidence, Controlling the Message when giving Testimony, all are substantiated documents authored by our own US Defender Commander from Washington and NCOM LTF Vice Chair, Double D, who is willing to travel and provide excellent testimony to accompany the effort from any State.

We have launched a campaign Nationwide to "Save the Patch"; the many facets of our network continue to raise funds contributing to the Trademark Defense Fund regarding the Mongols MC patch. It is a Unifying Event for everyone across the country, and it is going to take all of us participating to defeat this discriminatory attack on our patches! As we speak, another case involving the Devils Disciples MC copyrighted patch is under attack as well. LTF members are in strategic meetings to develop a plan to fight this case.

A new attitude, a new Mission Statement defining who we are, and a revival of fundamentals that work. Look at our roster, the best of the best. Historic! Our NCOM BOD and the LTF reflects an accurate snapshot of our motorcycling community at large. We are members of every organization in the motorcycle rights work arena. So the time is now to reach across any divide, put aside old petty grievances that only a handful even remember anyway, and embrace the National MROs and SMROs all working in sync that can achieve great things collectively.

See you at the NCOM Convention in Denver; it's going to be a good one!

Paul Landers, Chairman, NCOM Legislative Task Force

30th Annual NCOM CONVENTION ROLLS INTO DENVER: The 30th annual NCOM Convention will be held Mother's Day weekend, May 7-10, 2015 at the Denver Marriott Tech Center, located at 4900 S. Syracuse St. in Denver, Colorado, so reserve your room now for the special NCOM rate of \$99 by calling (303) 779-1100.

Billed as the largest gathering of motorcycle rights activists in the world, this year's annual NCOM Convention will draw over a thousand concerned bikers from across the country to "The Mile High City" to discuss topics of concern to all riders.

The NCOM Convention will be hosted by the Confederation of Clubs of Colorado, and all motorcyclists are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the many meetings, seminars and group discussions that focus on legislative efforts and litigation techniques to protect our riders' rights and preserve Freedom of the Road.

Topics will include Anti-Profiling Laws; "Save the Patch" Legal Defense Fund; The R.I.C.O. Law and How It Affects You and Your Group; Public Relations & Social Media; and Special Meetings for Veterans Affairs, Women in Motorcycling, Clean & Sober Roundtable and World of Sport Bikes, as well as the Christian Unity Conference and Confederation of Clubs Patch Holders Meeting.

The National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) is solely sponsored by the Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) nationwide legal services program and serves as an umbrella organization for more than 2,000 NCOM Member clubs, organizations and associations worldwide, representing well over a quarter of a million politically active motorcyclists. NCOM has successfully outreached to numerous segments of the motorcycling community in an effort to unite for our rights, both legal and legisla-



tively, and has become a unifying voice amongst North America's motorcycle rights organizations (MROs), motorcycle clubs, women riders, religious riding organizations, touring groups, trikers, sportbikers, and minority motorcyclists.

To pre-register for the 2015 NCOM Convention, contact the National Coalition of Motorcyclists at (800) 525-5355 or visit www.ON-A-BIKE.com.

LANE SPLITTING COULD MOVE BEYOND CALIFORNIA: California is the only state in the U.S. where motorcyclists are allowed to cruise between lanes of cars, a practice called lane-splitting that is normally used to cut through stalled or slow-moving traffic. But now, an effort to legalize lane-splitting in other states, such as Washington, Oregon, Texas and Tennessee, is gathering momentum amid a push by motorcyclists and by some lawmakers looking to relieve highway congestion.

Bills to extend the practice to other states has sparked a safety debate, and although no one has tracked exactly how many highway accidents are caused by lane-splitting, a study from the California Office of Traffic Safety last year found that motorcyclists' injuries were kept down as long as they split lanes in slowly moving traffic and exceeded the speed of other traffic by less than 10 miles an hour. Further, the study found that motorcyclists were less likely to die or be injured in lane-splitting crashes when compared with other kinds of collisions.

The lane-splitting measures in Washington (SB 5623 & HB 1515), Oregon (SB 172 & SB 420), Texas (SB 442 & HB 813) and Tennessee (HB 1102) all set varying limits to motorcyclists' speed and speed differential. Most of those bills are in committee, although Washington state's measure has passed the state Senate 35-14.

HANDLEBAR HEIGHT LAW REPEALED IN SOUTH DAKOTA: Good news for those riding to the 75th Anniversary Sturgis Rally this year, as South Dakota has abolished their handlebar height law, so as of July 1st ape hangers will now be legal and no more 20-dollar-tickets for bars taller than shoulder-high.

On Tuesday, February 24, 2015 Governor Dennis Dugaard signed Senate Bill 85, joining 13 other states with no handlebar restrictions (Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Montana, Oregon, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee).

Pointing out that there are no national laws that regulate handlebar height, nor commonly agreed upon standards between states, ABATE of South Dakota emphasized personal comfort and style over safety concerns, given that no scientific studies identify any negative impact.

"A great team effort," cites ABATE state coordinator Jiggs Creasy. "Not a single opponent testified and not a single vote against it (SB 85 passed unanimously in the Senate 34-0 on 02/05/15 and passed the House of Representatives 69-0 on 02/17/15)."

UNITED FRONT HELPS TO DEFEAT HELMET LAW PROPOSALS IN NEW MEXICO: In a unique "Pay-to-Play" scheme to punish motorcyclists for exercising their right to ride without a helmet, a Senate bill proposed in New Mexico would have created a system of taxation for riders who opt not to wear a helmet.

Specifically, SB 308 would have created an annual motorcycle \$697 license plate sticker that allowed the operator and passenger to refrain from wearing a helmet, for a fee. It and a full blown helmet law (SB 327) were both heard in committee on the same day, and each bill died.

"February 24, 2015 is a day that will live in New Mexico Motorcycle History as two helmet bills died in the Senate Public Affairs Committee," said Annette Torrez, Chair of the New Mexico Motorcycle Rights Organization and a member of the NCOM Board of Directors. Torrez had issued a call to action, requesting assistance

from the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM), the NCOM Legislative Task Force (NCOM-LTF), US Defenders, Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) and the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), all of which came to the aid of NM riders to help defeat the onerous proposals.

"Together we can accomplish the possible and the impossible," said Torrez. "Now we can put our efforts into SB 651, the Careless Driving Bill to increase penalties for a person who commits careless driving that result in death or great bodily harm."

RED LIGHT BILLS ADVANCE IN GEORGIA & OREGON: "Today marks the first time either Georgia General Assembly body has voted YES on Red light relief for Georgia Riders," said ABATE of Georgia state director Ned Williams, referring to Senate Bill 76 "Motorcycle Mobility Act" which passed the state Senate 51-4 on March 11. "So now we are ramping up for a fight in the house ..." and ABATE is calling for motorcyclists to contact members of the Georgia House of Representatives "and ask them to VOTE YES on AB76."

Likewise, a bill to allow motorcyclists to proceed through an inoperative or malfunctioning traffic-control signal has cleared the Oregon state Senate unanimously which will permit "a bicyclist or motorcyclist to proceed at a stop light under certain conditions." Senate Bill 533 is now headed to the House floor with bipartisan support, and is designed to bring relief to bikers who find themselves at stop lights that won't change by allowing them to safely proceed through a red light that "fails" to trip after "one full cycle."

MASSACHUSETTS RIDERS OPPOSE PROPOSED BAN ON BIKE RIDES IN YARMOUTH: Massachusetts Motorcycle Association (MMA) members are organizing opposition to citizens' petition articles that will be before voters at the upcoming Yarmouth Annual Town Meeting. One article would ban motorcycle rides through town and the other involves a noise bylaw.

Rick Gleason, Massachusetts Motorcycle Association legislative director, said, if enacted, one of the articles would ban charity rides in town. That would include, he said, one of the town's biggest rides, Big Nick's Ride for the Fallen. "If this ban is put in place and enacted and if the attorney general stands by it and says that it is just, it's going to force the organizers to reroute the ride," Gleason said, adding that people who come to town for the charity rides spend money locally on hotel rooms and meals. "We do not support this ban. There are a couple of big rides that begin or end or pass through Yarmouth. We would hate to see the town miss out on the opportunities and the monies that are generated during these charity rides," he said.

SCHOOLS IN CHAD CLOSED OVER VIOLENT HELMET LAW PROTESTS: Schools and universities in the Chadian capital of N'Djamena were closed on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 and remained shut "until further notice" after student rallies against motorcycle helmet laws left at least one person dead.

The closure announced by the government of Chad in central Africa comes a day after students took to the streets to protest against a rise in helmet prices ever since their use became obligatory in N'Djamena effective March 1 and motorcyclists are now required by law to wear a helmet.

The protesters set fire to several vehicles and blocked access to schools and universities, an Agence France-Presse (AFP) journalist reported. Clashes broke out after security forces used tear gas to disperse the protesters. Hospital officials contacted by AFP said "three people were killed, and several others were injured."

DRUG DRIVING LIMITS SET FOR FIRST TIME: Limits on the consumption of illegal drugs before driving have been set for the first time under new legislation introduced in the United Kingdom, and drivers and motorcyclists face up to six months in prison for exceeding very low limits set on eight illegal drugs including cannabis and cocaine. The limits set for medicinal drugs exceed normal prescribed doses.

The legislation, which covers England and Wales, also sets limits for eight prescription drugs including morphine. Police will use new roadside drugs testing kits to measure cannabis and cocaine in saliva. Tests for other drugs including ecstasy, LSD, ketamine and heroin can be done at police stations.

A conviction will lead to a minimum one-year's driving ban and a fine of up to £5,000. Police will delay enforcing the new law until satisfied the procedures "withstand legal scrutiny."

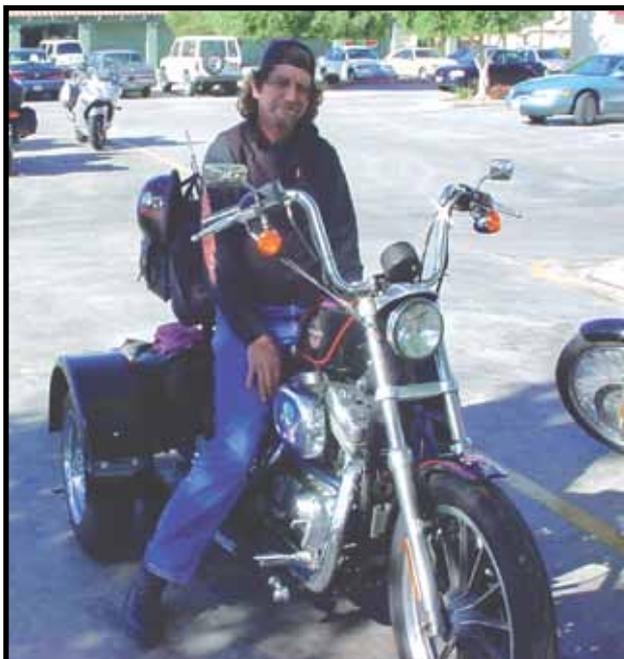
QUOTABLE QUOTE: "I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of the rights of the people by the gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations." ~ James Madison (1751-1836) fourth U.S. President

Sporty's Rides

by Lee "Sporty" Milligan

In my medical report last month I stated that I would not be going back to work until probably April. This was due to complications of over working my stamina at sessions at Veterans Park. It seems that my left foot lower tendons got stretched, causing pain. I have regained the strength in my left leg and it does not hurt that much. I now need another check socket. The current one has gotten too loose. I also need perhaps another neoprene leg cover. This is the device that holds the prosthesis in place. When they get worn out they cause the leg to not be stable, so it acts like it's loose. That is not good. It is a process to get another check socket. It has to be approved by the Kaiser doctors that I need another one, then the place in Palmdale has to tell Kaiser I need one. So again it's a bariatric nightmare. This week, March 16, I am going again to get my newer check socket. Hopefully this will make it easier to walk better on the various types of grounds that my job requires. So I should have a new check socket and perhaps be back to work by the next time I write my column. What a surprise!

Ok so the rest of column: Local 1 has been preparing for the 28th annual Polar Bear run. I was getting the raffle prizes from various shops and my members were as well. The weather was nice until the morning of the Polar Bear run on February 22. I almost thought that we were going to have to cancel the run because of pending rain. Never-the-less we pushed on. I had Buffy and her sister show up and Sharon Anderson and Gloria also showed up to work the sign-in tables. Sarge was there and he is our Master of Ceremonies. What a surprise when Glen showed up with Vince Alvarez and Jeri Alexander and they were on their bikes. Also showing up in cars was Sheila Lindsey and Kathi Edwards. The Kerr's showed up on their three wheeler. Jim Nickla showed up in his car and Dale Ferrans showed up on his bike to work the first



check point. I got a call from Iceman saying that he would be at his check point at the Rio grocery.

During the sign-in it sprinkled a bit so that kept the crowd down. Bob Warren brought three folks from the Glendale HOG Chapter. The Partners MC showed up along with the Midnite Riders MC. ABATE Local 8 members showed up as well. To all who braved the run, my heart felt gratitude.

At the final destination, the Big Oaks Lodge, they had moved the DJ and the silver jewelry guy into the dining area. They made a special Polar Bear menu, which those that braved the weather to the end enjoyed, including yours truly.

We had some nice raffle prizes and also gave out awards. We also gave out a Special Prize - a HELMET CAM. This prize was started at this past year's Love Ride by Glen Cheslock. The deal was if you signed up as a new member you were automatically signed up to be in the drawing for the helmet cam.

Events for 2015

www.abate.org and events Calendar to download available flyers

April 10 – ABATE Local 23 – Monthly Bike Nights start (see flyer for details, this issue.)

April 12 – ABATE Local 27 – 13th Annual Bare Necessities Run (see flyer for details, this issue.)

April 25 – ABATE Local 17 – Annual Spring Run

April 26 – ABATE Local 3/13 – Motorcycle Awareness Run (See flyer for details this issue.)

May 8 – 10 – 21ST Annual SOUTHERN REGIONAL RALLY – Victorville, Sponsored by Victorville Harley-Davidson, and hosted by ABATE Local 44. (See flyer for details, this issue.)

You can also go directly to their website www.abatesrr.com to Pre-Register, pay for sponsorships and get information to be a Vendor. **If you are mailing - Pre-Registrations must be postmarked by April 30, 2015**

May 16th – ABATE Local 23 – Annual Chili cook –off (read their Local 23 report for details.)

May 30th – 2nd Quarterly ABATE State Meetings – Piccadilly Inn Airport; 5115 McKinley Ave; Fresno 93727; For Room reservations call

So it was displayed at the Fred Jordan toy run in December. The final drawing was at the Polar Bear run. We had two sign-ins at the run and they were Butch Schmid and Robert Sigman. So there was a total of 4 guys going for the helmet cam drawing. Sarge's niece Katlin was the kid who drew the winning ticket. Good job.

So now we had a boat load of raffle prizes, so we just had those who bought raffle tickets come up and pick a prize. The rest we gave away to those who braved the weather to be there. All and all those who braved the weather enjoyed a good day. Thank you all that attended!

Thanks to the Ladies at Big Oaks Lodge for making this a special day and supporting the 28th annual Polar Bear run. And thanks also goes to the Big Jim's Family restaurant, Queen's Burger and the Rio grocery for being part of the 28th annual Polar Bear run.

As you know I am riding again and I rode to our monthly meeting at the Elks Lodge on March 15. We had a lot of stuff to do and when I started home I realized that I did not have my lumpy set of keys in my pocket. I assumed that I had left them at my house (another brain-fart). I went to my AA meeting at the hall in Sylmar and finally arrived home at 12:45 pm. Then spent the next hour scrambling for the keys. I finally figured that I might have left them back at the Elks Lodge, so Renee called them and, yes, they were there. Rode there, got the keys and since I was out and about I decided to gas up the bike and go for a ride. Proceeded to do Big Tujunga to the Angeles Crest hwy, then took that route to the 210 freeway. I am slowly getting better on two wheels again.

Ok that's all for now. Who knows what will happen in the next exciting chapter of Sporty's Rides? Until then get more new ABATE members and stay politically active on our ABATE issues. Regards, Sporty.

Membership Report

by Lee "Sporty" Milligan, Membership Chairman

This edition of the Membership Report will include a request for the Locals to sell their annual membership funding special raffle tickets. This is your chance to win \$250.00. I will do the drawing at the July Board of Directors meeting. As you know the proceeds of these raffle tickets help fund the Membership Drive in its entirety. So please do sell your allotment of tickets like Local 17 has done! It's ok to ask for more tickets to sell, if you need them, we have them at the state office. Local 17 requested more to sell - Good Job Local 17!

Flash! A quick reminder: We have been getting some members off the website and PayPal. So if they are assigned to your Local, please make sure you welcome them! Perhaps a trinket might be in order.

Now continue to get new members and encourage your renewals to renew. My goal once again is to increase new membership by at least 150 members. So do your best to help old Sporty out in that regard.

The weather is getting warmer so the bike nights are coming into play again as a way of getting the word out about ABATE. We have biker issues that you can talk about, AB 51 and AB 344 come to mind, as a way of getting the biker guys and gals involved and signed up as ABATE members.

Questions regarding memberships? Email me at Williammilligan285@yahoo.com. I am, riding again so I might see you at one of ABATE's events.

Sporty Milligan, Membership Chairman

5559/375-7760, tell them you are with ABATE to get the special room rate. ABATE Members, please attend, these meetings are not just for Officers and Presidents. Meet some of the New Board Members, and welcome back returning Board Members.

June 7 – ABATE Local 17 – Annual HOT RODS & HARLEY'S (Details TBA)

September – 11-13 – ABATE State Run, Kernville, Frandy Campground (Details TBA).

October 4 - - ABATE Local 17 – Memorial Ride (Details TBA.)

October 10 – ABATE Local 17 – Annual Fall Run (Details TBA.)

October 24 – ABATE Local 17 - Poker Tournament (Details TBA.)

December 6 – ABATE Local 17 – Toy Run (Details TBA.)

If you have a date for your event, and no details you may still submit your dates so others can pencil it in on their social calendar. Then submit your flyer in time for the Bailing Wire and to be posted on ABATE's website.

ALL ABATE Events must have event insurance – contact the ABATE State Office for information.



by Craig Griswold

The Sporty

A friend of ours mentioned that I don't write too much about Sportsters. Good point! No excuse, this is one of my favorite models. Although most of my tech tips are applicable to all models, we haven't spotlighted Harley-Davidson's venerable factory hot rod. A worthy subject by all rights, this is the Motor Company's longest running model (1957). So let's get a glimpse of the history and talk about some things that make it different (many would argue better) than it's big twin counterparts.

The predecessor to the Sportster was the K model, which was produced from 1952-1956.



Lots of similarities, but the K ran a flat head engine. In 1957 H-D introduced the overhead valve Sportster, pretty much the one we know and love today. These were known as the "iron heads."



This version stuck around until 1986 when Harley revamped the model line with the all new Evolution motor.



Still running this line to present day, there have been some significant technical changes. Besides the normal improvements that were also implemented to the big twins like better brakes, fuel delivery, and electronics, later models eventually went to a rubber mounted drive train (2004) and fuel injection (2006). Compression was also bumped to a respectable 9.7:1. One change most of us may never understand was the deletion of the transmission trap door (bearing housing). Removing the transmission gear set on models prior to 2004 was relatively simple. Opening the primary and removing the clutch assembly provided access to the trap door.



Once the pulley was removed from the other side, the entire gear set could be removed through the left side. In the absence of this set up, the gear set now resides inside the engine cases. The entire engine must be stripped, including splitting the cases, to access the transmission. To H-D's credit, the XL transmission is very reliable and virtually bullet proof. That said, there are the occasional failures and the labor for the repair is much more expensive.

Some of the best improvements to the big twin models have come from the Sportster line. Most of these were implemented in the 1999 Twin Cam drive train. The gerotor style oil pump added improved oil delivery and return scavenging. The XL unit construction of the engine and transmission assembly is a superior set up and the Motor Company finally figured out a way to bolt the two together on the big twins. Prior to the Twin Cam, these models relied on the inner primary as a stressed member to connect the two. Higher horsepower applications resulted in cracked primaries and broken motor mount bolts, especially with the rubber mounted models. The Carlini Torque Arm was the only answer for that design flaw. Another up-check for the Twin Cam passed on by the Sporty is the reason for the former's namesake. Mother Harley was fighting the angular displacement issue of the big twin pushrod valve train since the beginning. This was especially problematic with the front cylinder exhaust tappet as it endures the greatest side forces due to the angle of its pushrod, more so than the other three. It's a common practice to just replace the lifters every 20,000 miles on Evolution and older models. H-D reduced the pushrod angle by utilizing two cams (not their first try at this by the way). By contrast, if you look close at the XL's right side you'll notice the pushrods are oriented almost parallel to their respective cylinders. No angle to stress those lifters thanks to each valve having its own cam.



I hope this gives you some good insight on Harley-Davidson's popular and longest running model. With the success of the Sportster there's no doubt it will be around for many more years.

Ride safe!

(Craig Griswold and Mary Kirby are the owners of Two Gunners Custom Iron in Penn Valley, CA. Questions and comments can be sent to e-mail: craig@twogunnerscustomiron.com, or call 530-263-8071. Additional information can be found on the web at: twogunnerscustomiron.com and Facebook).

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

A Union of Motorcyclists

ABATE of California, a leading organization in protecting motorcycle rights in California, is excited to announce the opening of our "Off-Road" Division to fulfill our desire to protect the riding rights of ALL riders in California, both on and off-road.

Recently the off-road community was caught totally off guard by the passage of Assembly Bill 1595 that severely impacts the ability to modify and use "upgraded" off-highway side-by-side vehicles.

AB 1595 prohibits the use of (approved/sanctioned racing style) seat belt harnesses, prohibits the addition of full roll cages, and requires mandatory helmet use in these and ONLY these vehicles.

Portions of this law go into effect on January 1, 2013 and all parts of the law will be enforced on July 1, 2013. AB 1595 will have an immediate and very negative impact on side-by-side safety and prevent the use of many of these family recreational vehicles that have been upgraded with additional safety equipment.

Please join ABATE of California in our quest to repeal this poorly written legislation and help us restore the rights of side-by-side owners statewide who use these vehicles for safe and responsible family off-road recreation.

Your annual membership will help us retain a full time lobbyist to watch out for future negative off-road legislation. With everyone's help, we can beat these laws, without your help, we could lose all of our off-road freedoms. Join us now!

Off-Roaders - Protect Your Rights - Join Us NOW

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