

## A Union of Motorcyclists Dedicated to Freedom of the Road



### In Memory of John 'Milky' Loudermilk

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of our beloved brother, uncle, cousin and friend, **John Loudermilk**. John (or "Milky" as most called him), passed away on Dec. 1st, 2020. John was born to Marie and Harry Loudermilk on July 10th, 1940 in Columbus Ohio. He was the eldest of three boys. He graduated from Bridgeport High School in Bridgeport, Ohio then enlisted in the Navy as a Seabee, based out of Port Hueneme. He performed construction in Guam and Okinawa as a Heavy Equipment Operator.

After the Navy, he stayed in California, living in Oxnard, Ojai and Ventura. He continued working as a Heavy Equipment Operator, working for Raycon and Granite Construction. In 1965 he did the groundbreaking work for Ventura's downtown post office as well as preparing the ground for the building of Ventura's Marina Park.

After retiring at age 50, he remained in CA until the calling came for him to relocate to the warm, dry climate of Arizona, which he always loved since he was a young boy.

Aside from being with his family, there was nothing John loved more than getting on his Harley and going for a ride. He traveled tens of thousands of miles in the Western States; from The Great Western Divide to the shores of the Pacific. He was an avid motorcycle rider since the age of 15 when he got his first bike.

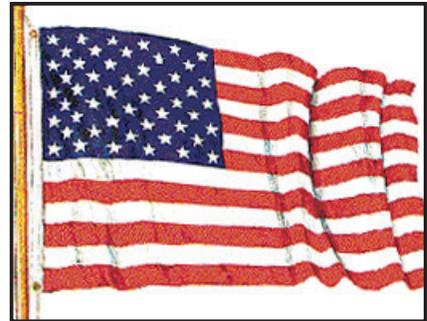
John was always an active member of his local ABATE. He was passionate about the safety of motorcycle riders and the editor of the California ABATE newsletter until his passing. John loved to play cards, especially pinochle, euchre and pai gow. He was known to hop on his motorcycle and scooter to Laughlin for a rousing game of cards with friends.

John was a lover of football and baseball, always rooting for his Pittsburgh Steelers (NFL) and Arizona Diamondbacks (MLB) no matter how their seasons were going. John was a rebel with a passionate heart. He was a lovable teddy bear who gave great hugs and was generous to a fault. If you needed anything, you could depend on him to help. He was an inspiration to all who knew and loved him.

John is survived by his brother Jerry, wife Maia and nephew Daniel; brother Jeffrey, wife Jennifer and nephew Jacob, wife Georgianna (children Isaac, Abigail and Zoe), niece Jeannine, husband David (children Kaleb and Kinley) as well as many loving cousins.

Donations in John's memory can be made to your local ABATE or to any Veterans home of your choosing.

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Brotherhood  
Aimed  
Towards  
Education



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# What is ABATE?

ABATE is a Motorcyclists' Rights Organization dedicated to preserving freedom of choice, freedom of the road on or off with emphasis on education and safety. Although not a club, our members are active in programs for public awareness, motorcycle safety and supporting charity events throughout the state. There are no special requirements for joining aside from an interest in promoting motorcyclist's rights and safety through Membership.

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OPEN 4 seats for 2021-2022



### In Memory of Russ Brown

It is with profound sadness and immense respect that we announce the passing of our beloved founder **Russ Brown**, the original attorney who rides. Everyone here at Russ Brown Motorcycle Attorneys is grateful for his passionate contribution to the motorcycle community and so proud to continue his legacy.

Thank you, Russ, for your vision. By uniting us all through BAM (free Breakdown Assistance for Motorcyclists) and creating a powerhouse law firm dedicated entirely to riders, all bikers are forever safer and protected. RIP Russ Brown, we will miss you!

As someone who has worked closely with him on a daily basis, traveled with him and admired him greatly, I can tell you that all the Legends about the man are true. Russ is an accomplished rider with tons of miles on two wheels, a loyal friend, husband, and father, not to mention a brilliant businessman, and an absolutely fearless advocate for motorcyclists!

He was inducted into the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum Hall of Fame in 2013 because of his lifelong dedication and contribution to the biker community.



By **Wendy Koro** - The family and our office would like to invite anyone to create a video message in Russ's Honor. We will use some of the footage to share with others in our community.

By **Shawn Mahoney** - Here are the basic directions. Create a compilation video of the impact Russ Brown had on the motorcycle community. Film in the same location, preferably in front of RBMA signage. Rotate the phone to hold it horizontally and as steady as possible. Please wipe the camera screen of any smudges before filming. We want to get the best take possible with just using our smart phones. Be aware of background noise and ensure we can clearly hear the person speaking.

Message to Patron:

"Please share a brief memory you have of Russ Brown". Then let them speak freely on their own (no interruptions for audio purposes). If they go over 30secs, don't worry. We will edit on our end.

Please send all footage to this Dropbox link:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8h100jgjeslmyqf/AAA\\_Leu6lEN3fbUhw6VzY145a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8h100jgjeslmyqf/AAA_Leu6lEN3fbUhw6VzY145a?dl=0)

## 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 through political and legislative action. ABATE promotes motorcycle safety through education, training and public awareness.



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.

**ABATE OF CALIFORNIA INC**  
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Written articles are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily the opinion of ABATE of CA. Editor reserves the right to edit any copy.

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Caroline Griffith & Janet Wilhelm

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Members, please Email In Photos!

**COLUMNISTS**

Bill Bish, Sporty Milligan, Jim Lombardo Sr, James Lombardo Jr, Rick Robison & Norm E Newiger

**DEADLINES**

The deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication for ALL materials. All run flyers, photos and ad copy must be camera ready.

**BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS**

- (1) \$125 Gold Business w/ Blk/Wht Ad
- (2) \$200 Gold Business w/ Color Ad
- (3) \$250 Gold Business w/2X Color Ad

All Levels include (2) memberships with (1) address. Levels (1 & 2) ad size is (2 x 3.5) and Level (3's) ad size is (3.5 x 4) which is also published on our website [www.abate.org](http://www.abate.org) along with a link to your company's website. New Business Members received a Display Plaque. Following years are supplied with a year plate. New Business Members or Business Members with new Business Cards must mail them into the ABATE State Office.

**AD RATES FOR NON-BUSINESS MEMBERS**

(2 x 3.5) size Blk/Wht	\$15.00/Mo	\$150.00/Yr
(2 x 3.5) size Color	\$20.00/Mo	\$200.00/Yr
(3.5 x 4) size Color only	\$25.00/Mo	\$250.00/Yr

**NON-MEMBER ADS OR EVENT FLYERS**

(Ads & Flyers subject to approval by Editor)

¼ Page (5w x 7.8h)	\$150.00/Mo	\$1500/Yr
½ Page (10w x 7.8h)	\$175.00/Mo	\$1750/Yr
Full Page (10w x 15.5h)	\$350.00/Mo	\$3500/Yr

Color Ads add 25%

Color for an ad or flyer is extra and must be submitted showing color. All ads MUST be pre-paid for entire duration of ad run. 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) format and emailed to [bailing.wire@abate.org](mailto:bailing.wire@abate.org) with payment either mailed to the address above or called in with a credit card number and billing information.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

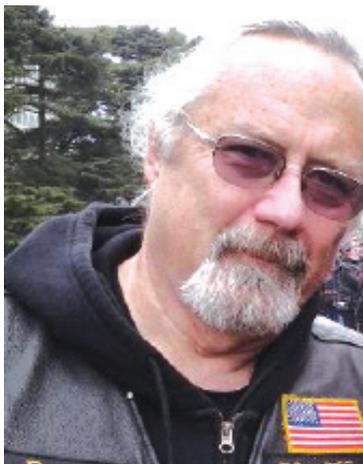
Members may advertise in the Bailing Wire at no charge and their ad will be run up to (3) issues.

**PHOTOS**

If you have any photos of ABATE events, please send them to us. They will be returned if requested. Please include name of event, date, captions, etc. They must be received by the deadline in order to be published in the next issue. You can email pictures in (.jpg) or (.tiff) to [bailing.wire@abate.org](mailto:bailing.wire@abate.org). All content is subject to approval by the Editor.

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.

# Executive Director Report



I want to start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and welcome 2021! Last year was one like no other and we lost several friends in ABATE. They will all be missed as friends and relatives and their contributions to ABATE. We had our first quarterly Board meeting where we welcomed new officers at the Local and State level and said goodbye to others. To all of you thank you for taking on a position and offering your time, experience, and knowledge to ABATE. And to those stepping down thank you for your dedication to keeping us chugging along. As I have often said, it is the people, the members, that make us succeed or fail.

I too am moving on. I am starting a new adventure by moving out of the country. I want to take this time to thank everyone who has provided me with support, ideas, and hard work to help me be I hope a success at this job. We have an incredible core group of folks at the Local and State levels. I will be back on occasion and hope to run into you then. Now we look to the future

and how ABATE will navigate it. I have full confidence in those leading and you should too. Already new ways are being found to finance our operation while we are prevented from attending our traditional methods of generating income, the bike nights and fundraiser events. And as I look around, I see Locals finding new ways to have their meetings, going online with Zoom meetings, moving to outside venues like parks. Motorcyclists are by nature a creative and problem solving group. Today's issues will not stop us.

So, keep up the good fight. There are many issues that require our attention. Get involved, make your voice heard. Remind the politicians they work for and represent us not lead us, and when they fail to remember and do that it is time to replace them. Volunteer for them and when we want their support on an issue, they hopefully remember who was there for them. Much can be accomplished by many individual voices working as one. Change is made by those who show up and participate. Be that person and effect change. Thank you again for this opportunity you gave me. Adios y vaya con dios, Mark

# Membership Report

Hi All! Welcome to ABATE 2021. I hope everyone will have a good year - better than last year! How will 2021 fair for ABATE and the Locals? At this point we're still in a restricted state and that restricts our ability to hold events. What I'm suggesting is to do your best to keep your renewals. How do you accomplish this task? There are a couple of ways you can accomplish this: 1. Keep your members informed. I have suggested that you put your members in a group. email. Use the 'bcc' format. That way it gets sent to every member on the list as an 'Undisclosed Recipient'. You don't get a full page of email addresses, which makes it easier to be hacked. 2. You can also do Zoom meetings in-lieu of face-to-face meetings. You can also do meetings in outdoor areas - like parks, etc. When you do a meeting of any kind, take notes so you can email the members who didn't attend the meetings and keep them informed.

Hopefully the result will be members renewing their memberships. Please do what you can to keep the membership of your Local intact.

I'll close with a review of the 2020 Membership drive: In 3rd place with 3 members is Sporty Milligan - Local 1. In 2nd place with 4 members each are Sal De Renzi and Glenn Phillips - both Local 17. In 1st place with 7 members is Rick Robison - Local 20.

The 2021 Membership drive is already underway! It goes from January 1st to December 31st. To fund the drive, we will be selling raffle tickets. More about this next month.

This completes this month's Membership report. Get out, ride, and sign-up some new members!

Regards, Sporty Milligan, ABATE Membership Chairman

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2. Couple .....	\$60
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## Latest Legislative Information From ABATE



California has always allowed valid "out of state" DHV registered vehicles to use our public lands. It has come to our attention that some of our neighboring states have recently implemented a "non-resident" fee for DHV's being operated in their state. By no longer honoring our California registration these states are reneging on a long standing tradition in the DHV community. These new regulations will be expensive and prove onerous to every legally licensed DHV owner that travels and recreates in other states. Our ABATE OHV Division is asking for your help and financial support in fighting this type of legislation. Assembly Bill 2761 sponsored by Assemblyman Gallagher (Republican—Yuba City) seeks to remedy this issue of reciprocity and ABATE of California is asking you to help the OHV communities of our states restore equal access to OHV areas for all legally licensed users.

In addition to AB 2761, Abate of California is proposing two other bills for our elected official's to consider this year. Our first bill would require DMV to allow rider's to take both the M/C skill's test and their DMV written exam during their CHP certified M/C training classes. After a rider successfully completes and passes both tests the school would submit the information to DMV and they would issue a valid M/C endorsement card by mail to the rider that is valid for the duration of their current California drivers license. Upon license renewal the M/C endorsement would then be added to their new license thereby saving the student the time and expense associated with visiting and testing at their local DMV office.

Our second bill would seek to exempt all M/C riders and especially our Military Veteran riders from being accessed a toll fee when traveling on a toll road within the state of California.

Please help us help you by either joining or making a contribution to ABATE today to help protect your right to ride!

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## 2020 FREEDOM FIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

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*In Esteemed Memory Of Hans Proskauer,  
"Wheelchair" Mike Moody, Harry Roach, Nick Young,  
Micki Moore, John Del Santo and David "Deacon" Phillips  
Who Were Instrumental In The Founding  
And Sustaining Of Our Organization.*



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**Lobbyist's Report**  
 by James Lombardo, Sr, Lobbyist  
**The Lombardo Group - Government Relations**  
 916.573.3849

The Legislature has returned! Governor Newsom has submitted his \$227 Billion dollar budget and the 2021-22 Legislative session is off...and walking, not running due to the COVID-19 social distancing guideline in place! It appears for the time being the Legislature will be holding their Committee hearings on the Assembly Floor and in the Jess Unruh hearing room in 4202, which is large enough to hold the bigger Committees while Socially Distancing. Testimony from groups and citizens will be done by telephone or from a microphone set up just outside the Capital building, as we testified last year James Jr. went into Building to Lobby and testify often.



The deadline for introducing new Two-year bills was January 22nd, we had to have our bill language submitted by a member to Legislative Council by that date. The next deadline for introducing a bill through the desk on the Chamber Floors is February 19th. We will be reviewing the 3,000 New bills and give you an update in the April Bailing Wire. Stay Tuned for bills at a Glance!

We will be resubmitting SB 1024 by Senator Jones (R - San Diego). This bill allows those riders who do competition racing or training to be a racer to continue to purchase two stroke models and use Department of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management and the State OHV parks to practice and train for racing events! The Bill was stalled on the last day of 2020 Session, we worked diligently and got it out of the Assembly but due to the clock running out at midnight the Senate was unable to concur in the Assembly changes on the Bill. We will need phone calls - emails to members to help get this passed as we had last minute opposition from the environmentalist community and barley were able to pass the Assembly on the final night, so they'll be back in full force opposing. Not to mention we now will be facing the Governor's proposal to eliminate the sale of gasoline powered vehicles in California by 2035!!!

We are currently working to sponsor legislation to allow a pilot program for motorcycle skills test waiver at the 100 plus CMSP training sites. If you pass the "lollipop" test at one of these sites you may only have to go to DMV to get a new picture on your driver license, or even be able to use your current picture and they would just mail your new license with the motorcycle endorsement on it.

As your Lobbyist we will be reviewing the 3,000 Bills that will be introduced by the February 19th deadline and update you in the April issue of the Bailing Wire.

Thanks to all the locals and individuals who contribute the Dedicated Lobbyist fund! Times are difficult and we know your contributing what you can. Stay safe and ride safe as well!



**Scott Loeffler**  
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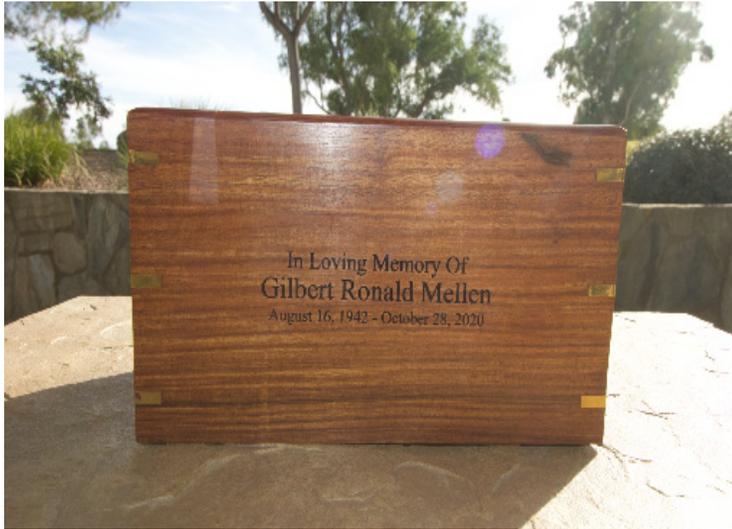
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# Honoring Gill Mellen January 7th, 2021

It was an overcast day but that didn't stop 16 bikes and 8 cars from honoring Gill on his final journey to Riverside National Cemetery. The PGR, as well as friends and family completed the mission from Buena Park to Riverside where Military Honors were rendered.

Thank You for your Service Gill.



### Donations: General, Lobbyist & PAC Funds –

Thank you for your sacrifice, generosity, and above all, your faith in ABATE of California. We are proud of our long relationship with our California riders and we strive to serve your motorcycle needs to the best of our ability. Your donation will be used as you intended it to be, and we would like to say, “Thank You” and wish you a safe ride on every road you travel.

Sincerely,  
ABATE of California, Inc.

#### Thank you to the following: Donations to the General Fund

Larry Meyer, Local 1  
Dick & Sherry Beckton, Local 6  
ABATE Locals 1, 2, 3, 19 & 23

#### Donations to the Lobbyist Fund

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**ABATE Events for 2021**

**2021 Events:**

March 7th – ABATE Local 1 – 34th Annual Polar Bear Run

April 17th – ABATE 2nd Quarterly PAC/ Presidents/Board Meeting Online (see flyer this issue)

**Bike Nights:**

ABATE Local 3/13 – 1st Thursday of the month (See flyer in this issue)

If you have a date for your event, and no details or flyer yet, 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.**



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**2nd Quarterly ABATE of California Meeting for 2021**

**April 17, 2020**

**On-Line Meeting with ZOOM Video Conferencing**

**ABATE Meeting Schedule**

**PAC Meeting: 9:00 am**

**Break**

**ABATE Presidents/Officers/Board Meeting: Immediately after Break**

**ABATE of CA Needs You!**

2021 is shaping up to be a great year. We have had many new folks step up into our desperately needed open positions, but we still have a few more to fill.

We need you! We need your fresh ideas, and we need a bit of your time to continue to make ABATE the Motorcycle voice that it has always been.

Take a look at the positions below and if you think one of them is for you contact the State Office or any Board Member. We will need a short bio and a selfie sent to [bailing.wire@abate.org](mailto:bailing.wire@abate.org).

Except for the Board position all jobs are appointed by the BOD.  
All candidates need to have been a member in good standing for at least 1 year.

If you ever thought you could do it better, now is the time to raise your hand. Let's get into the conversation!

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Bailing Wire Editor



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## Sporty's Rides

Hello All! This is the first addition of Sporty's Rides for the year 2021. I start out by saying we're still not able to do events, but Local 1 is thinking of doing a Covid-19 version of the Polar Bear run. That will be determined at our first ABATE Local 1 meeting of the year, January 17th, at our temporary new home, the Devil's Disciples club house in North Hollywood. Meeting starts 9 am. ABATE had its first 2021 Board of Directors meeting online. I have been elected as this year's Board Chairman - another feather in my array of ABATE hats. These hats keep me busy and that's a good deal at this time in my life. I'll say this, we have challenges which we are going to meet, God willing.

I'll now begin my treks since last I visited with you with my involvement in this past year's toy runs. I'll start with Local 19's toy run. It was billed as the 33rd annual Covid-19 toy drop to benefit Santa Clause Inc. In order to get folks to attend this event, you have to get the word out. So, I picked out shops and delivered card flyers to them and passed out flyers when I could.

The day of the run was the first Sunday in December. The weather was dry, but cool as I rode to Santa Clause Inc in Ontario. The drop off went from 10 am to 2 pm. We had one of the members of Local 19 dress up as Santa Clause. The VFW across the street had burgers and chips available for a nominal fee along with coffee for those who needed it. When 2 pm rolled around, the riders who showed up with toys will make some down trodden kids happy. There will also be a mixture of girls' and boys' bikes, 100 to be exact, given to disadvantaged kids. Thanks to Local 19 and Carol Barnets and her crew at Santa Clause Inc for a wonderful day. Ride home was cool and safe.

The next week was the Glendale HD and Local 1's LA toy run. This toy drop benefits the Ronald McDonald House LA Chapter. As with the previous run, in order to get things rolling and riders to come to the drop off we had to get event flyers out to the various bike shops, which I accomplished. When you become retired you have time to deliver flyers whenever you can. So that portion of the run was accomplished. The drop off was to be directly to the Ronald McDonald House. The Messengers of Recovery SCV Chapter's president, Tom Jones, had volunteered the club to be the road guards and directors to the drop-off boxes at Ronald McDonald House. The drop off lasted from 9 am to 12 pm. They provided coffee if requested. This has been a good day for all who participated thanks, as always, to Richard Wagner for setting this up. The Ronald McDonald House benefited greatly from the generous support from the bikers who donated toys.

Now on to the other run of the month. The day before Christmas the Top Rocker HOG Chapter did their 3rd annual Christmas Eve run. I joined the group at Top Rocker and we took a leisurely ride to an eatery in Camarillo. We had a nice meal at the end spot and we took our picture. Thanks for the invite!

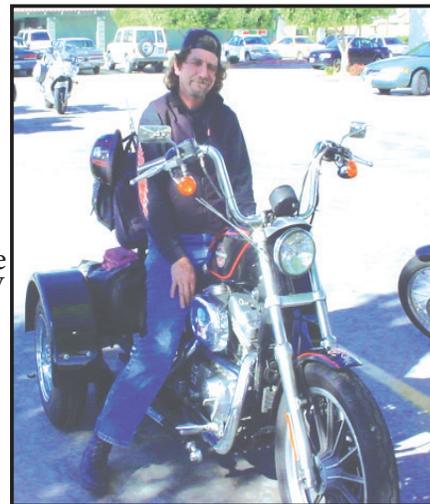
The Glendale HOG Chapter took their last run of the year on Saturday, December 26th. We left Glendale HD and proceeded to go up the 2 Fwy to the 210 then Angeles Crest to Angeles Forrest then we took a long ride to Aliso Canyon, followed that to Soledad Canyon. Took Soledad Canyon to Sand Canyon then on Sand Canyon stopped and got gas at the Shell station. From there we continued on Sand Canyon till we hit Little Tujunga Canyon Road and continued all the way to the 210 Fwy to the 118 Fwy then south on the 5 Fwy. To get back to Glendale HD, we took a route through Griffith Park. Well, not exactly to Glendale HD. We went to a pizza place near the dealership. It was fun ride with fun folks from the HOG Chapter. Thanks to Paul for making our day exciting and enjoyable.

On the 10th of January, a cold morning, I bundled up for a ride to the Shaggers club house in Lancaster. It was a cold ride there, but the reward was a renewal of the Shaggers' ABATE business membership!

My final ride for this month's article was a quick night ride to the Local 2 meeting at Jane Warthen's house on Tuesday, January 12th. Again, I bundled up. Jane is the 2020 winner of the Freedom Fighter award and that made the meeting even more special. We had hot dogs, potato salad and Cheetos before the meeting. The ride home was chilly, but as I was bundled up, not too unbearable.

As we creep into the New Year, I hope things will get better. That ends this month's Sporty's Rides. Remember do rides when you can - before you can't ride!

Scribe Sporty reporting



**Our 23rd Annual Membership Raffle  
has begun.**

**Reach out to your Local Presidents  
or Regional Reps to buy your tickets.**

**As always, the tickets are \$1 each and the  
winning ticket will receive a \$250 Prize.**

**Good luck!**

### Local #01 Los Angeles

Hi All! Our meeting this month is going live! We have been given access to the Devil's Disciples club house in North Hollywood – thank you! We will be using the premises until the Elks Lodge in Tujunga reopens. With that said, once again the Local 1 meeting is after the article due date for the Bailing Wire. Here's how it should go:



We do the Pledge of Allegiance. I give opening remarks regarding the first 2021 Board of Directors meeting and the state of ABATE. Then a brief PAC report and discussion of our monthly contributions to the lobbyists and general fund. Once that is accomplished, our attention will be centered on this year's Polar Bear run and how we intend to put this event on. Then I will turn the meeting over to our vice president for additional comments. Since there are no runs coming up, we will turn the meeting over to comments from the members in attendance.

Sporty Milligan, ABATE Local 1 President

---

### Local #38 Imperial Valley

Wow, what a year! The 23rd annual ABATE Local 38 Turkey Run had to undergo changes. There were many challenges, but we got it done! I want to thank our host, The El Centro Wal Mart Supercenter. Grace and her team did an excellent job. Next El Centro Motors for the use of 2 Super-duty Ford trucks to haul the turkeys around. Faith Assembly was a God send, from flyers, letters and donations. Rocio Green, thanks for promoting this event on social media, TV stations and soliciting donations. Also want to thank The Dragon Bikers for all their help. Our initial goal was to collect 402 turkeys, but we collected 387. Plus, we received a late request for 34 turkeys on top of that. We never know till the day of the event how many turkeys we will have. Rocio reached out to Orange Coast Title for the 34 turkeys!

The following is a list of sponsors who helped make this possible: ABATE Local 6 – San Diego, Allstate Insurance – Julie Oliver agent, Auto Zone – 4th St and Adams in El Centro, Baja Sons Growers, Blue Knights X, Bob and Alicia Brown Rentals, Bob by's Territorial Harley Davidson, Coyne Powersports, Danielle Lopez, Danny Collins, Dragon Bikers, Eddie and Diana Rodrigo, El Cajon Harley Davidson, El Centro Motors, Escobedo Paint and Body Shop, Faith Assembly, Fire Group, Graffik Industries, Herrera Trucking, Hussey's Brake and Wheel, Imperial Valley Motorcycle Events.com (I.V. Moto), Jim Earnest, La Fonda Bar and Grill, Law Tigers Motorcycle Attorneys, Lerma Transport Inc., MitoSinka Barros and Sharp, Oreda Chin, Orange Coast Title, Rocio Green, Rogers and Rogers, Southwest Equipment and Supply, Spreckels Sugar, Sun Runners Car Club, Tres Chiles, United States Gypsum – Plaster City, El Centro Wal Mart Supercenter, and Yuma, AZ HOG Chapter 0104! WOW!

Sincerely, Ed Aranda, President ABATE Local 38

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*Sustaining Members (VIP's) receive a mailed copy of the Bailing Wire, the months it is printed, a yearly certificate of Appreciation, suitable for framing, their membership card with VIP printed on it, and their names printed on this list.*

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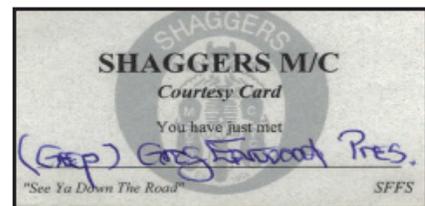
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## NCOM Biker Newsbytes

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

**PANDEMIC KICKSTARTED A MOTORCYCLE BOOM:** From soft sales and even negative growth at some companies, to the specter of businesses collapsing in the face of Coronavirus, to sudden sales spikes and even triple-digit growth, 2020 has been a whirlwind year for the motorcycle industry. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, red flags were waving in many pockets of motorcycle commerce according to Forbes.com, and there was a growing dark cloud hovering over the industry, generated in large part by one particular problem: Not enough new riders are buying motorcycles and replacing those that are leaving the sport. "There have been many reasons postulated for the shrinking ridership numbers and flagging sales, from Millennials being more risk (and motorcycle) averse, to smartphone addiction enthusiasts aging out of the market," wrote Forbes contributor Bill Roberson in his article; "The Motorcycle Industry Was At A Crossroads, Then COVID-19 Changed Up The Map".

When the pandemic hit, something very interesting happened: Motorcycle and bicycle sales started climbing, often at double-digit rates. "It made sense on some levels, since anyone returning to work or life in general was avoiding ride share and mass transit like the plague (sorry) and many ex-riders suddenly rediscovered their mothballed two-wheeled conveyances - or decided to buy new ones," surmised Roberson, adding that as people began to return to workplaces, suddenly motorcycles, scooters and bicycles became viable options. Besides being a socially distanced activity anyway, added benefits like discounted tolls, free parking (in non-car spaces) and HOV lane access for motorcycles could help drive even more people to give motorcycles a go. Also, motorcycle industry insider Robert Pandya told Roberson that many cities experienced an unusual phenomenon unseen in decades: literally no vehicle traffic. "And the new crop of electric machines, along with the surge in adult-sized small-displacement motorcycle options give perspective riders more to consider than what has long been the primary market focus in the U.S.: selling large displacement, high-margin motorcycles," explains Roberson. Pandya noted that businesses and repair shops have experienced some "exceptional months." But, while the latest boost is good news, the big question is; can it be sustained? Will the sudden high tide of bike and motorcycle sales result in a renaissance for that kind of personal transportation? "We find ourselves in this industry on our heels, and you can look in the rearview mirror all you want," Pandya told Forbes.com, "but I think the access to technology and design, and our marketing abilities, speaks to this awesome opportunity to go from seven percent [of people riding motorcycles] to eight percent." Just that small of a rise in ridership could be enough to swing the fortunes and future of the motorcycle industry.

**U.S. HELMET USE TRENDS HIGHER:** Helmet use by U.S. motorcyclists has trended higher over the past decade, according to a new government survey. According to the U. S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS) is the only survey that provides nationwide probability-based observed data on motorcyclist helmet use in the United States. The NOPUS is conducted by NHTSA on an annual basis and the findings of the survey over the past ten years show a gradually increasing trend in the use of helmets by motorcycle riders. According to the NHTSA survey, helmet use nationwide increased among motorcyclists from 54.3% of all riders (including passengers) in 2010 to 70.8% in 2019. In states with a mandatory helmet law, helmet use among riders was 89.2% in 2019, while in all other states - those that only require helmet use for specific riders - helmet use was 56.5%. On a regional basis in 2019, riders in the West helmeted up most often, with helmet use noted among 83.7% of those observed. The South was next at 74.6%, followed by the Northeast region at 74.1%, and the Midwest at only 43.4%. Having a passenger aboard is an apparent factor in increased helmet use by the driver, with 79.7% of riders wearing a helmet when they have a passenger compared to 74% when riding solo, based on the data for 2019.

**TEACHING MOTORCYCLES TO COMMUNICATE:** In an international effort to improve road safety for motorcyclists, a number of motorcycle manufacturers are co-operating to connect motorcycles with other vehicles and infrastructure. In the Connected Motorcycle Consortium (CMC), motorcycle manufacturers BMW, Honda, KTM and Yamaha work together to develop new standards and techniques to connect motorcycles with other vehicles and infrastructure. CMC started in 2016, because C-ITS (Cooperative Intelligent Transport System) specifications for passenger cars had not taken motorcycle specific safety factors and challenges into consideration sufficiently. The consortium aims at joining forces between motorcycle manufacturers, suppliers, research institutes and associations, to make motorcycles part of the future connected mobility. The first goal was to define a first 'basic specification' for motorcycles to connect and 'talk the same language' to other vehicles or infrastructure by means of wireless communication. The next move will be CMC 'NEXT' with a wider scope, as motorcycle experts will be looking at further improvements of the specification while at the same time taking account of new functions supported by on-board sensors both in cars and in motorcycles.

"I am very glad that the motorcycle industry has joined forces to develop these specifications," commented FEMA (Federation of European Motorcyclists' Associations) General Secretary Dolf Willigers, adding that "The new technologies that are involved here will assist the car drivers in their task and by doing so will make the road safer for motorcyclists." Current developments in the industry offer a glimpse of what a solution by CMC might look like: ~ Smartphones, especially when connected via the upcoming, powerful 5G network, could be a major part of the solution, transmitting information between nearby vehicles. ~ Inspired by military headgear, U.S. manufacturers are designing smart helmets for PTWs, with cameras for traffic in front of and behind the driver and LEDs projecting warnings on the visor. ~ Researchers point to the value of intelligent speed controllers. A number of manufacturers have already presented various innovations towards a fully operational C-ITS: ~ BMW's ConnectedRide, introduced in 2016, warns bikers when a car comes into the blind spot of their rearview mirror. ~ KTM is working on a Blind Spot Detection system, using short-range radar. ~ Ducati has collaborated with Audi on C-V2X technology warning drivers of a collision when near a crossing or behind a driver who suddenly brakes.

What's missing for now is the required infrastructure, and the regulatory obligation for all vehicles to be equipped with such systems. The European Commission has launched an EU-wide strategy for C-ITS, facilitating investments and exploring the rules required.

**EURO 5 IS COMING:** Despite pleas from the motorcycle industry and European manufacturers to delay implementation until 2022, particularly due to COVID-19 lockdowns, factory shutdowns and supply chain slowdowns, "Euro 5" is due to come into force January 1, 2021, forcing bike makers to meet ever-increasingly stringent emissions regulations worldwide. As the name suggests, Euro 5 is the fifth set of European standards for motorcycles aimed at reducing air pollutants produced by two-wheelers incrementally over the years since Euro 1 in 1999, and every few years since the standards have tightened. As time goes by, the EU's regulations have grown to include safety systems (ABS, traction control) and other technology as well. Wonder why two-stroke engines have disappeared, why carburetors have been replaced by electronic fuel injection, or why ABS is becoming standard even on lowly beginner bikes? Thank Euro5 and its predecessors. Today, either directly or indirectly, European regulations are responsible for many decisions in the development of new motorcycles. Because of how strict the standards are and how influential the European market is to the entire global motorcycle industry; Euro 5 will essentially be the de facto worldwide standard. It's easier for the OEMs to make one bike for the whole world, instead of a dozen variations for differing regional regulations. Euro 5 means you can expect another imminent cull and extensive redesigns as current Euro 4-legal models are revamped or replaced to suit the stricter new tailpipe limits, and air-cooled engines are inevitably threatened each time there's a new bout of emissions restrictions. Of course, Euro5 isn't the end, either. In coming years, we'll see Euro5+ enacted; all new models sold after 2025 must meet that even stricter standard. Look for new exhaust regulations, as well as changes to the rules around OBD2 code sensors, even weight restrictions, and expect technological advances, to meet all the new rules. The EU's rule changes may be killing off some much-loved models, but they're also forcibly moving the industry forward.

**JURY FINDS MYRTLE BEACH RACIALLY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BLACK BIKERS:** The city of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, was motivated by race when it created a new traffic plan designed to "suck the fun" out of Black Bike Week, a federal jury has found.

Civil rights groups accused the city of racially discriminating against the Black tourists by treating them differently than white bikers who attend Harley Week earlier each May, citing in particular a 23-mile one-way no-exit traffic chute that funnels them out of town during the peak nights of Atlantic Beach Bikefest, otherwise known as Black Bike Week. The city also puts up barricades and increases its police presence in ways that don't apply to the mostly white bikers during their event, NAACP attorneys said.

The jurors -- five Black and four white -- deliberated for more than three hours before delivering their verdict, on December 10, agreeing that "race was a motivating factor," but they also sided against the black bikers, saying Myrtle Beach probably "would have made the same decision anyway, even if it had not considered race in its official actions regarding Black Bike Week."

**QUOTABLE QUOTE:** "Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder." ~ George Washington (1732-1799), American military leader and Founding Father





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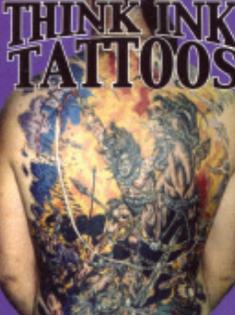


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# INTRODUCTIONS: NEW Board Members & Executive Director

## RICK ROBISON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## JIM LOMBARDO SR.

I started riding motorcycle's when I was twelve, my first day was off road and hunting with my Father in Northern California. That day, I survived going over a boulder on the 200cc Triumph tiger cub, flipping it, landing directly next to me only missing me by inches - I was hooked after that!

I have been a member of ABATE since the 90s, while also lobbying on behalf of ABATE at the Capitol for almost 30 years, I am a Representative on the California Motorcycle Safety Program and are currently the Interim Legislative Director of ABATE's Legislative Committee.

In 1990 ABATE sent me back to DC where I lobbied with Motorcycle Riders Foundation Lobbyist, Wayne Curtain, trying to block the inclusion of a Mandatory Helmet Law. ABATE sent me again to Washington DC to try and block amendment's to the Highway Transportation Funding Act which included penalties to States without that Law - We were not successful...However, in 1992 ABATE sent me to DC for the next Highway Transportation Funding Act. This time I was successful in securing 32 California Congress Members to co-author and repeal the Mandatory Helmet requirements - this time we were SUCCESSFUL!

For my efforts I was given an award at the MRF's Meeting of the Minds in Columbus, Ohio.



## Tom Jones

I have been a member with ABATE Local 1 for the last couple of years. I have been a member of the Messengers of Recover MC club since 2003. I have many friends in various clubs and people not in clubs throughout California and think I would be an asset to ABATE.



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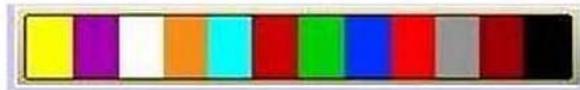
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## COC ORANGE COUNTY

### ARTWORK TO FOLLOW

### Attention ABATE of CA Membership!

You asked for it and you got it – Scoot Shots on the front page..... but I am running out of pictures! Please look through your phone and forward to me any that you have. Any format is fine just send along a name and a local #. Thank you so much for the help. Janet



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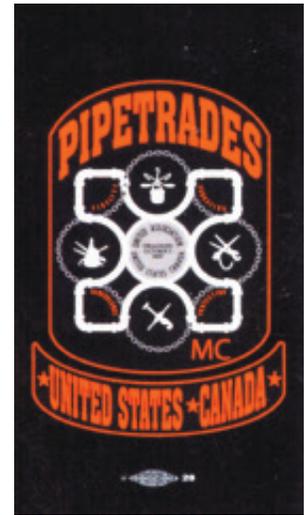
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**A Union of Motorcyclists**

ABATE of California, a leading organization in protecting motorcycle rights in California, is proud to offer 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/sun-tanned racing style) seat belt harnesses, prohibits the addition of fall roll cages, and requires mandatory helmet use in these and ONLY these vehicles. Portions of this law went into effect on January 1, 2013 and all parts of the law were enforced on July 1, 2013. AB 1595 had an immediate and very negative impact on side-by-side safety and prevents 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 fulltime 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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Family	\$ 68.00
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Sustaining Single or Couple	\$ 100.00
(Membership patch 1 <sup>st</sup> year / Annual pin each successive year / Annual Certificates and includes printed Bailing Wire*)	
Gold Business	\$ 125.00
(Black and white business card in Bailing Wire and includes printed Bailing Wire*)	
Gold Business w/ Color Ad	\$ 208.00
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(Same as above but double size color ad, and posted on our web site with a link to your business)	
Single Life Membership	\$ 450.00
(Life Membership patch and Membership card)	
Family Life Membership	\$ 650.00
(2 Life Membership patches and 2 Membership cards)	

Our Bailing Wire newsletter is available every month online @ [www.abate.org](http://www.abate.org)  
\*A printed edition is available every month for \$10/year

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# ABATE MEETINGS

## Los Angeles County - Local #01, Region#8

Sporty Milligan 3rd Sun - 9AM  
1616 4th St Elks Lodge  
San Fernando 10137 Commerce Ave  
818/361-8800 Tujunga, CA 91402

## Simi Valley - Local #02

Jim Kibbe 2nd Tues 7:30PM  
VFW Post #10049  
4242 E Los Angeles Ave.

jimkibbe53@gmail

## Thousand Oaks/Ventura Local#03-13

Chuck Pederson 3rd Thurs - 7:00 PM  
kath55344@gmail.com

## San Diego County

### Local #06, Region#12

Snowman 1st Sun - 12 Noon  
P O Box 501946 Kate Sessions Park  
San Diego CA 92150 Pacific Beach  
619/855-9981 92109

## Orange County

### Local #08, Region #11

Please use contact info to verify all meet-  
ing times and locations

Daniel Pfaffly 2nd Mon.7:30PM  
714/365-5907 dpfaffly@gmail.com

## Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano & Napa Counties

### Local #17

Sal De Renzi 3rd Sunday - 10:00 AM  
707/483-7445

## Pomona Valley - Local #19, Region #8

Jeff Bassler 4th Wed - 7:00 PM  
909/596-9685

## Orange County - Local #20, Region #11

Rick Robison 2nd Tue - 7:00 PM  
714-315-1150 American Legion Post 132  
local20abate 143 Lemon St.  
@gmail.com 92866

## San Bernardino - Local#23

Ron Morris 1st Sunday 9:00 AM  
909/768-0355

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER



## 2021 Regional Representatives

Region #8  
(Local 1 & Local 19)  
Sporty Milligan  
818/361-8800

Fresno - Local#24  
www.abatelocal24.org 2nd Wed - 7:00 PM

Sacramento - Local#25  
Lil' David Morena 3rd Thurs - 7:00 PM  
916/616-9605

Riverside - Local#27  
Bob Marshall 1st Tues - 7:00 PM  
drbobmarshall@yahoo.com @ abatelocal27

## Imperial Valley - Local#38- Region #12

Ed Aranda Last Thurs - 6:30 PM  
Call Ed for meeting info 1-760-554-8843  
Edward\_A12@yahoo.com

Bakersfield - Local#40  
Robert Northam 3rd Tues. 7:00 PM  
Kilroy16@yahoo.com

High Desert Local 44/47  
Dave Hastings 2nd Sat. 9:30 am  
760-947-4700 davesautorepair@aol.com

Region #11  
(Local 8 & Local 20)  
D-Man  
714/833-9508

Region #12  
(Local 6 & Local 38)  
Dave Connors  
760/208-7232

**Please Use**  
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**Verify Meeting**  
**Times &**  
**Locations**

