

# The Bailing Wire

ABATE of CA. Newsletter for Motorcyclists Volume XXXIII ISSUE XI

**A Union of Motorcyclists**

**Dedicated to Freedom of the Road**

**November 2014**

## Members Steve & Paulette Snyder

So here we are on our "couch" as we call it, my husband and I enjoy riding all over the USA and of course me with my phone in hand snapping pictures wherever we go. Neither one of us can remember where or when this was taken but I know who can, the picture taker, whoever that may be! Thanks!



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## *Executive Director's Report*

by **Dave Hastings, Executive Director**

Once again I am facing a print deadline that falls one week before a scheduled Board Meeting and possibly the largest motorcycle gathering at our state capitol that has occurred in many years. The Sacramento Motorcycle Unification Rally and our ABATE Board of Directors meeting will occur on the 25th and 26th of October respectively.

ABATE is proud to be a participant in the Unification Rally and I want to say "Thanks" to everyone who worked so hard to make this rally possible. The Unification Rally will provide the riders of California a public forum on our state capitol grounds to present our wants, needs, and concerns about motorcycling in California. It should be very well attended and will increase our visibility and credibility with the non-riding public and some of the politicians in Sacramento who make a career out of attempting to micro manage every facet of our lives. The motorcycle community is growing larger every year and this rally was put in place to present an opportunity for every rider to participate in an event that will serve to unify and strengthen our political and public persona in California.

If you missed this year's event, plan to join your fellow riders on the capitol steps next year. I assure you, we are not going away and we are definitely not giving up.



I hope I get the opportunity to see you in Sacramento at both the Unification Rally on Saturday and our ABATE Board of Directors meeting on Sunday and together we can let everyone know that "Freedom" still, and always will, ride a motorcycle in California!

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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.

### ABATE Info or Message Line

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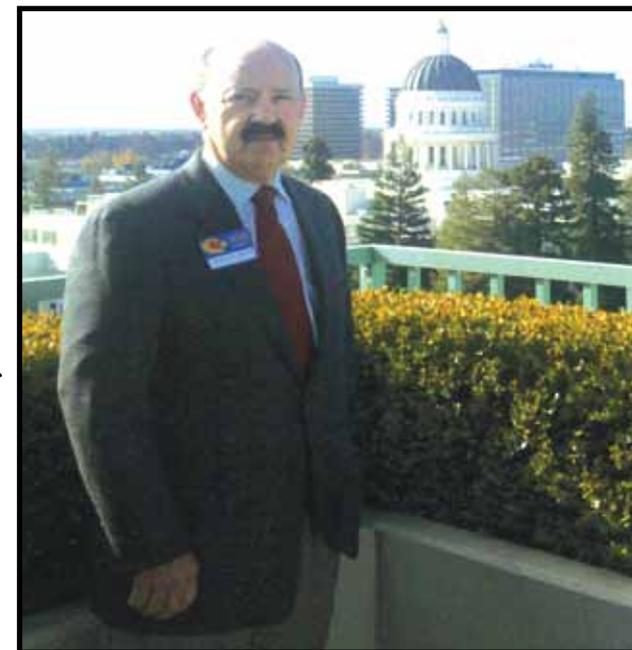
## Lobbyist's Report

### by James Lombardo, Lobbyist

The November General Elections are coming up November 4th! Please Vote!

The Senate has three key races to try to keep the Democrat Supermajority there — Senate District 14 Incumbent Republican Senator Andy Vidak in the area of Fresno, Hanford and a portion of Bakersfield (a good friend of ABATE) is opposed by Democrat Luis Chavez; and the 34th Senate District with former Democrat Assemblyman Jose Solorio vs. Republican County Supervisor Janet Nguyen. The other race for the 32nd Senate District features motorcyclist-friendly Republican Downey Mayor Mario Guerra against former Democrat Assemblyman Tony Mendoza.

In the Assembly, there are numerous seats statewide that are too close to call for the Democrats to maintain a Supermajority in that house. I will have a full breakdown of the outcome of these races



and the outlook for ABATE in my December Bailing Wire article.

I will be at the Sacramento Unification Rally on October 25th and the Board of Directors and Legislative/PAC meetings, the next day. I look forward to seeing you there.

Thanks again to our members and Locals who support the Lobbyist fund to keep me in the Capitol promoting Biker rights!



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## 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**

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**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  
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 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.  
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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.

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**PHOTOS**

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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.

**Drew Leavens, Candidate For Congress - 45th CD**

Here with Hessian Spike and Gill Mellen

I met with ABATE Local 20 at Cypress American Legion. ABATE is a group of motorcycle riders, concerned with safety and legislation, who also raise money for important charities. They put me to the test on gun policy, immigration and other tough issues. We didn't always agree but we listened and were respectful. Note to Congress: that's where it starts.



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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



Local 1 had their meeting October 19<sup>th</sup>. Hope it was well attended. This meeting comes after the Bailing Wire columns are due so it is a report of the foreseeable future. Meeting takes place at the Elks Lodge, 10137 Commerce Ave in Tujunga. All are welcome to stop by for our breakfast meeting that starts 9 am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

Regards, Sporty, President ABATE Local 1

## Local #02 Simi Valley



It's another great night for Local 2! Great thanks to our volunteer cooks, Scott and Ken, for drawing me in with that BBQ smell, oh yes! We start serving our great \$5.00 meal of Burgers/Hotdogs and all the fixings you could imagine at 6:45 pm and our meeting starts at 7:30 on the second Tuesday of the month. We meet at VFW Post 10049, 4242 East Los Angeles Street. We are truly blessed to have access to this great facility every month, we get to use a great BBQ that could cook a hundred burgers at once if need be and a beautiful semi-enclosed patio or you can chow down inside, plus a full bar with very reasonable prices. To all that couldn't make it or those who missed a few, you gotta check out these fabulous upgrades, besides, we miss you!

Our Pres. Guy got us going with the Pledge

of Allegiance. After a few announcements we got VFW's Commander Tony into our meeting and presented him a check for their new kitchen fund that they are doing, besides we get full access to it as well once it's done. Commander Tony thanked us for doing what we do and was very happy about our commitment to freedom as well. He gave us a very inspiring talk and you just had to be there to feel it, it was great!

We had Pres. Chuck and Aaron stop by from Local 3/13 to talk about their upcoming run (11/9) and Pres. Chuck talked about other ABATE agendas. Thanks for your Dedication bro! You Rock!

We also discussed our new nominated officers as well. If you want to know who they are, please come to our next meeting and meet them. All our officers gave their monthly reports and we had our drawings with good prizes! Our membership drawing was not won by Andi because Andi wasn't present, so it rolls over.

I tell yah right now, this was a good meeting tonight. The camaraderie was very festive and we ALL had great fun as well as deciding important issues and having great discussions as well. To ALL and anyone who can't make it to the meetings here or there, you can always check out the Bailing Wire on line and read our report as well as ALL the great information and you can read previous issues as well!

One more thing for all our members: It's that time of the year and our great Christmas party is just around the corner! Come on down and get together with us, it's gonna be great!

Ride safer than last time, PTL norm e.

## Local #20 Orange County



Tonight's special guest was Drew Leavens. He is running for Congress for the 45th district. He has been a Mental Health Professional for 40 years and is deeply concerned for the health and well-being of our nation's Veterans. Members asked several questions regarding his political/personal views about many different things including biker profiling. He replied that he is against any and all discrimination against any groups, and that includes targeting bikers.

Gill talked about California Proposition 41, Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond (2014) being passed but expressed his disappointment regarding the amount of funds allocated to Orange County saying we really got shorted compared to other counties.

Spike told us that after several months of returning to court, he was well prepared when he presented his case to the judge and as a result his case was dismissed. He now has another documented case of police profiling to help our cause.

A total of 35 people were at the meeting including 7 guests. 3 members renewed. We drew Don Snow's name for the dollar draw, but we wasn't here so the \$17.00 rolls over to next month. The non-politically correct Gill.

## Local #24 Fresno

Our meeting on October 14 was attended by 38 members and guests. Mike from the Stonehouse, one of our business members, was introduced. We also have a new business member, the Rancho's Café in Madera Ranchos. Ray, our Madera Ranchos rep, said it was a VERY good place.

Ursula also reported we gained a new member on the End of Summer Run to Santa Cruz. Our treasure is in OK shape, so we will send some more \$ to State ABATE.

No membership drawing tonight, seems the member list was a no show. We had lots of donated prizes for the raffle. All the folks that donate items to the monthly raffle are very much appreciated. It sure keeps our meetings interesting as some of the prizes are "unusual." So, please keep bringing items.

The ABATE prize of \$87.00 somehow ended up attached to my number! It will sure help fill the 6.5 gallon gas tank on my new bike. I thank all of you! Bruce

# 2014 ABATE Events

## www.abate.org Events Calendar

**November 4** – State Election Day – VOTE and make sure YOUR mail-in ballot is received BEFORE the polls close!

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** – ABATE Local 24 – Annual Turkey run – Meet at Kimmies in Clovis at 10:00 am (More details? contact Jeff Krebs 559/801-5655)

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** – 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Totally Kids (a.k.a. One More from the Heart) - benefits Totally Kids Specialty Health Care Center. 1720 Mountain View Ave; Loma Linda CA 92354. More info? Contact HR 951/279-4370 or email [hr-wolfe@att.net](mailto:hr-wolfe@att.net)

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** – ABATE Locals 3/13 – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Run (for details, see flyer on page 5).

**November 11 – Veterans Day**

**November 22** – ABATE Local 38 Annual Turkey Run (see flyer this issue.)

**December 7** – ABATE Local #19 & Pomona Valley H.O.G. Annual Toy Run (see flyer in this issue.)

**December 7<sup>th</sup>** – ABATE Local 17 – 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Run (for details see flyer this issue.)

Even if you are not an ABATE Member, YOU are WELCOME to attend ABATE Events - Your attendance and support of these events helps ABATE to continue to represent YOU in our ongoing preservation of "Freedom of the Road".

All event flyers that have been received are also on ABATE's website Event Calendar – can be downloaded and printed in a PDF format –

**ABATE LOCALS** – Don't Forget To Get Your Event Insurance, contact the ABATE State Office.

# 6th Annual **MOTORCYCLE**

# TRIVIA RUN

# **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9**

**Come Ride with us to Historical Locations in Ventura County**  
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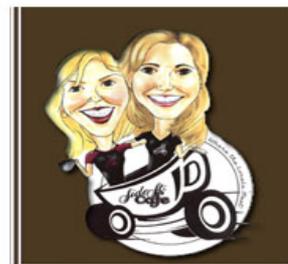
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# ABATE Local 24's End of Summer Run

by Bruce Waldon

October 4th, 24 riders gathered at Ozzy's Sports Grill for the start of our End of Summer Run. Under bright sunshine we headed first towards Los Banos and a stop at Espano's - very good tacos, by the way, along with other goodies.

Our next destination was Whiskey Creek in Hollister for a break and to rest up. Then off to the Whole Enchilada on the coast at Moss Landing. Our final destination for the day was a very nice motel in Santa Cruz. While dining on the Wharf there was an almost hour long fireworks show for 100th anniversary of the Wharf.

The next day we rode North on Highway 1 and up the La Honda road to Apple Jacks. We had a short stretch of fog and cold, but back into the sunshine as we started up the hill. After a short stop at Apple Jacks, we rode by Alice's Café (packed as usual) and along Skyline Blvd. The next stop was Joe's or the Cowboy's. From there it was into the motel at Ben Lomond for the night.

As befitting our Local 24 Officers, they were housed in "castle" quarters. Rank does have its privileges! (See Photo)

All in all a good time on a nice weekend.



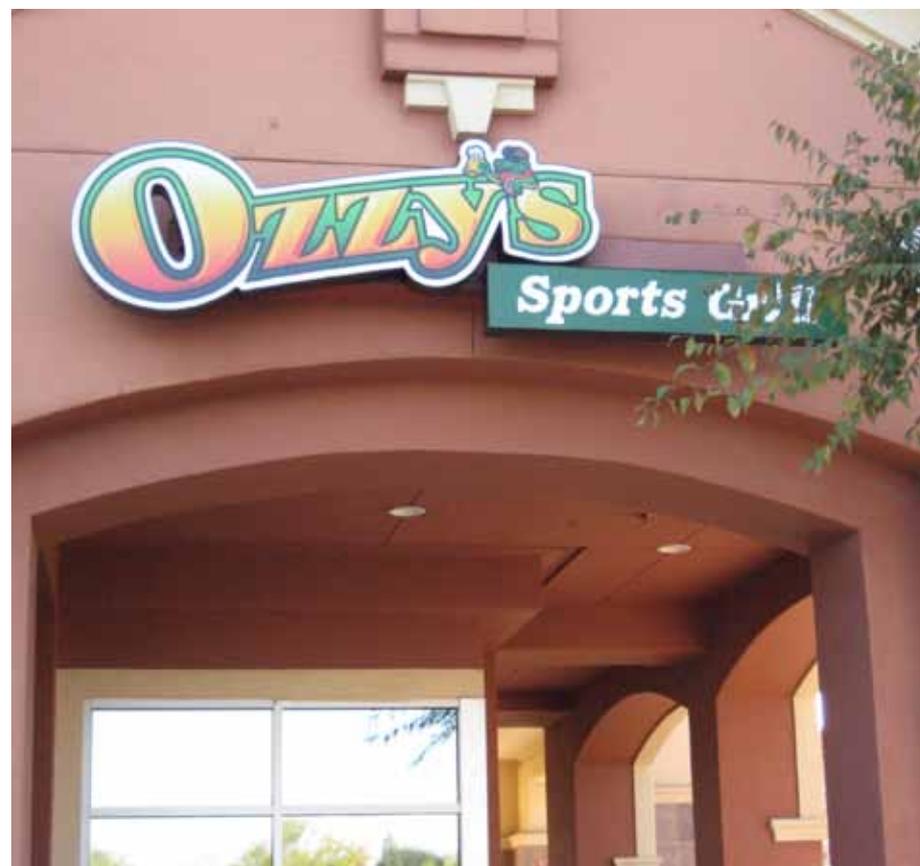
# ABATE Local 24's End of Summer Run



# ABATE Local 24's End of Summer Run



# ABATE Local 24's End of Summer Run



# Motorcycle Safety Report

by Norm e. Newiger, Safety Officer

## The End of the Year is Almost Here

It's mid October and it's that time of the year. For the majority of us, riding has been a year long adventure with fair to excellent riding weather. I guess we're fortunate to have all-year-round riding from the ocean to the mountains and any path in between. From the northern part of the state to the southern most we have so many miles of asphalt we cannot calculate how many miles we are blessed with. California in my mind has one of the best road systems in America. With that in mind I mean we keep our roads as up-to-date with continuing road maintenance, new roads, and major construction modernizing our freeway systems and highways. We're talking millions of miles of riding! Double thanks I guess to all of us tax payers!

When you think about what it takes to build roads or freeway systems it gets really involved; first with the engineers who design our roads to the construction crews who do the work. The good news about this is that it's about safety for the drivers and riders of all vehicles. There is nothing arbitrary about it, that's why we have all these signs that regulate our speed and warning signs of what lies ahead (read my previous article from April this year). I know there are some zones that really suck out there but I've been in some states where the roads are so bad that you have to ride with a death grip or else you could get tossed that fast!

So let's talk about obstacles! What have you dodged or collided with? I'm not talking about the general trash or litter or the occasional wash out, but the really bad stuff. I have run over a ladder in the fast lane! I hit it just right I guess but I was alert enough to grip hard and power through it - remember it happens that fast! That incident made me focus on how fortunate I was; I really paid attention the rest of that ride.

I have friends that have run over the 18 wheeler tire treads that seem to litter our freeways everywhere. It could be like a snake bite if you hit it just right or you can get tossed from your bike. The biggest obstacle I have ever had to avoid was a refrigerator in the third lane on the 118 FWY! Talk about freaking out! I had noticed cars changing lanes fast but to see a refrigerator on the freeway is eye popping! My spacing was good enough for me to react in time to prevent a collision with an object that wasn't moving.

I do avoid following trucks. It seems to me that stuff happens when you follow trucks. I'm not talking about the gravel trucks that spew out the fine sand in your face while doing 65 or most 18 wheelers for that matter, it's the pick up trucks coming or going to construction sites etc. I was a contractor for 25 years; have you ever seen the stuff floating around in the bed of those trucks waiting to jump out and kiss yer bike! You see all kinds of garbage on the sides of the road. I know, I've driven to a job site and was missing a duct that I knew I had loaded up



earlier in the day - it does happen! And don't forget about the people who are moving. The people that just toss stuff into their truck and use string to hold it down. My friend had a tangle with somebody's wooden chair! Lucky for him it was fairly busted up by the time he hit it. Then we see the person up the road who had pulled over and now had to settle for a 5 piece dinette set. The list of temporary obstacles is endless and everywhere and this does not include the good ole stalled car in any lane!

Having clear vision is very important and knowing the road conditions. You must take precautions while riding through the mountains and deserts after any rains or storms that have just recently passed - clean up crews might not have been alerted as fast as you hoped. I have learned that while riding it's very important to keep fluctuating your line of sight from in front of you to what's some ahead of you as well as your surroundings. It's based on where you're riding as well; it's riding in a responsible manner. And it's not always about what you avoid. The person in front of you who's half asleep at the wheel might react late to avoid hitting an object that you couldn't see causing others to react, which we call, after all is said and done, an accident. You all know nobody on the freeway keeps proper distance as per what the DMV states. This type of reaction of avoiding an accident while causing an accident is very perplexing, and many times this situation is left to the courts to decide who is wrong and who is responsible. We all are guilty of tail gating as far as what's the proper distance and speed of flowing traffic. I always see this; every time I properly space myself from the vehicle in front of me, whether driving or riding, people always cut in front of me. They think I'm a slow poke just because I'm following the law and being safety minded! They just don't get it - the space between you and them is one of the safest thing you could do driving or riding. I'm shocked when I hear about a single car accident on the morning news! Just kidding...

Let's single out a bit of education here - just a quick thought - I call this a rundown of where I'm going whether solo or with a group. I think about all things that could dictate my route and the possibilities of what could be unforeseen, i.e. stormy conditions, heavy traffic etc. I personally do a quick mental shakedown to get my brain thinking, and when I'm with others we talk about safety in our group as we ride. This is important and should not be taken lightly; things can happen and being prepared mentally as well as physically is just being safe, not just for you but for everyone! Have you ever ridden in a group and then noticed that half your group or less is with you after miles of riding? This is not uncommon. I've been on both ends of this and it can get yer heart a pumping real fast. I have been on the broken down side of this and the minor accident side and it's not fun at all - it can definitely be a buzzkill. That's why it's important to have a pre-ride safety meeting.

The end of the year is almost here and there were excellent riding conditions pretty much all throughout this year. Don't let down your guard just yet; it's the fourth quarter and you need to be in the safety mode now more than ever with the holidays a looming people are driving or riding with more on their minds than usual.

This last part of my article really sucks! I am disheartened to report this stuff, but please take note my research for motorcycle accidents from September 30th to October 12th in Southern California. On Monday October 6th the morning news bugged me, 5 motorcycle accidents in the morning reported on the TV. As I started this report I was shocked by the real time statistics from September 30th - October 12th. The total amount of reported motorcycle accidents in So Cal was 25!!! - 5 of them fatal or DOA. This is in just only 13 days! It could have gone up but at the time of my report this is what I have. I started on September 30th because there were 3 fatalities that day, one was a police officer and the other was a double fatality which included the passenger of the motorcycle. Monday October 6th thru Friday the 10th there were 15 accidents and 1 fatality. These accidents were not just on the freeways, the reports covered the mountains and cities from Ventura County to San Diego County and all in between, all at different times of the day with no prejudiced type of bikes! I cannot and will not say who was right and who was wrong, they all have their own stories and it makes me think real hard on what to do sometimes.

All I know is that constant education whether it is new or just a re-read is that important! Please don't laugh or scoff at someone who's preaching safe riding. Don't think that you know everything and you are satisfied just because you got a license! Motorcycle safety goes way beyond that! When I think about ABATE and its capabilities, it reinforces my thinking of freedom, our rights and most importantly education, not just for the motorcyclists, but for all drivers of all vehicles on our roads. Spread the word everyday, because there are new drivers and riders everyday and we don't want to meet them by accident! Ride safer than last time and have many miles of Freedom!

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Sustaining Members (VIP's) are mailed a hard copy of the Bailing Wire (the months it is printed); a certificate of Appreciation (suitable for framing); their membership card with VIP printed on it; and as you see here, their names are printed on this list. ABATE of California appreciates their extra support.

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

### Our THANK YOU THIS MONTH... (Received up to October 15th)

Thank you to each and everyone who has 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.

Thank you to the following for Donations designated for the **General Fund**:

Rick Mullaly, L#52;  
**And from ABATE Locals: 2, 19, 21, 23, & 31.**

**Donations to the Lobbyist fund from:**  
Robert DuVall, L#33;

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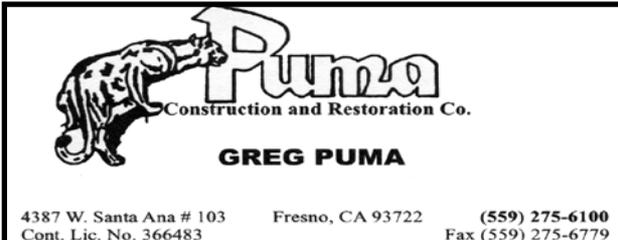
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**Michael Decker, Local 6;**  
**Brian Gabel, a.k.a. "Creeper", ABATE Locals 8 & 20;**  
**Jim Hilton, Local 27;**  
**James Jungwirth, Local 9;**  
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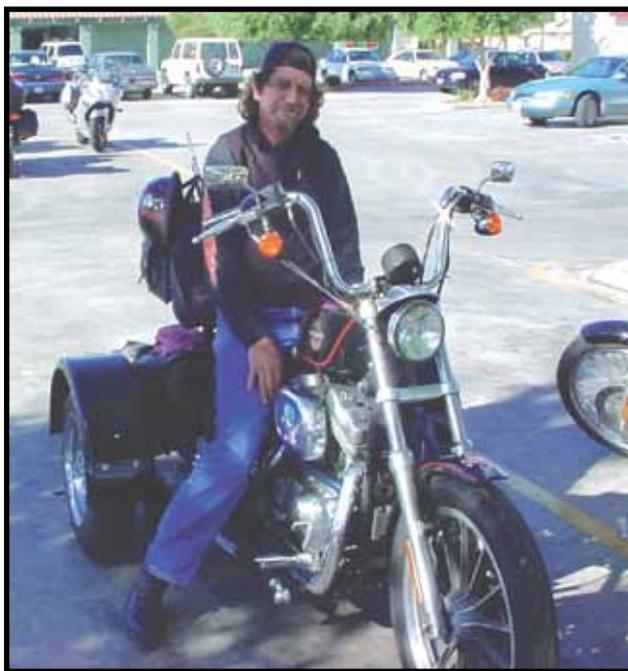
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# Sporty's Rides

by Sporty Milligan



Greetings all! Here's another addition of Sporty's Rides for your reading pleasure. Flash alert: My new prosthetics is here and I am wearing it as we speak. Yes, after a month of Sundays I finally have the relief I have wanted. Renee, my best one, was kind of miffed that I was not shouting from the roof tops that I had got my prosthetic. I am glad to have this thing and will now go through the process of learning how to walk again on two legs. They have what is called "Gait" training. This is a special type of physical therapy for people with new prosthetics. It was not easy, but I am Sporty Milligan, and I have been through quite a lot of S##T lately. Ok so that is where I am medically.

What does one do to amuse themselves when there is a lot of down time? Well I had time again to ponder why this mishap happened. I also have been reading information in the motorcycle magazines, especially their safety columns. The one thing I learned was that when you're riding from point A to point B you need to concentrate only on getting from point A to point B. I must not be thinking about anything else except going to my destination in a safe manner. I guess the day I had my mishap I was thinking of other things instead of concentrating on riding home safely; therefore I was mentally distracted and the result was a crash. I guess you can learn from your mistakes which I have done.

I am planning to go to the Unification Rally in Sacramento and the Board of Directors meeting the weekend of the 25th. Hopefully we will have a fair turn-out that will generate a fair amount of decent new coverage. My friend and Local 1 member, Steve B, will come along for the ride to drive me there or assist me in driving there should I be able to drive myself. Again, the little truck that could has a freshly reupholstered

bench seat. Yes, that is a sweet deal. My truck runs great and yes, Virginia, it passed smog.

Finally it has been my pleasure in writing my column all these years and I hope to continue to do this. Also I plan to not give up riding. If you look closely to the picture that comes with this column it is me on my 2002 883 Sporty that had the Voyager Kit on it. The bike needs a rebuild as it has over 100,244 miles on the speedo. I have a shop in mind to do the work that is close to my house and I think they could do the job nicely for me. Just have to firm up the plans when I am ready to have the work done - sooner than later.

To all of you that have wished me well throughout this mishap, my deep and profound thanks are sent out to each and every one of you all. The journey is coming to a close and I shall overcome any of life's pit falls that come my way.

Extra note: Remember that the membership drive is still going on, so please get ABATE some new members.

Regards, Sporty Milligan (scribe writer of whimsical note)

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan, Membership Chairman

Hi all! As you have read from the previous columns regarding membership, I have requested you to get more members and to keep your Local's renewals. Please do just that.

I have been doing this membership gig for many years and sometimes I feel that my requests have been to deaf ears

The Membership Drive will be done by December 31st and the winners will be awarded at the first Board of Directors meeting of 2015. Until then you should be on scramble mode in making your attempts to get new members and Local Presidents and Local Membership Chairs keep your renewals.

I am making a request if you have ideas on getting new members and ways to get your members to renew PLEASE send your ideas to me at [sportymilligan@yahoo.com](mailto:sportymilligan@yahoo.com).

Local 1 has a booth at the Love Ride at Castaic Lake (over by the time you read this) and my hope is that our Local scores a couple of members. I also hope to get a couple of members at the Unification Rally in Sacramento (again, over by the time you read this).

The points of this month's report are that memberships, new and renewals, play an important role in making a stronger organization. So once again, do just that! Keep your renewals and get new members.

Regards, Sporty Milligan, Membership Chairman.

Chris Telford  
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# Pac/Lobbyist Report

## by Dave Hastings, Treasurer

Our California statewide and local elections will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. Are you ready to stand up for your personal rights and demand accountability from your elected and appointed officials? Remember, that your single vote still does matter, and it can mean the difference between actual freedom or just more years of the "same old - same old". Use your vote wisely this November and help make sure our elected officials serve us, not just themselves.

Hopefully you took the time to help an elected official gain or retain their office in this election cycle. ABATE, and our programs, gain strength with every friend we help in an election year, but always remember we can also help after the elections are over. Stay in contact with the people you have worked with and offer assistance



to them and their staff if you can. Most elected officials are looking at politics as a career possibility and our friends in "low places" some-

times move up the political ladder quite rapidly once they get their "foot in the door", so to speak. Hang on to those contacts and their coattails and take ABATE on that ride with you. We all benefit from your friendships and the hard work you put into a campaign when that person moves on up. Friendships will open a closed door and hard work is often remembered and rewarded when we have an issue that needs some help at crunch time. Cultivate the seeds you have sown and continue to help ABATE grow a new crop of motorcycle friendly politicians. Who knows, you may become our next "friend in low places". Stranger things have happened!

**"THANK'S TO ALL THAT DO, AND TO THOSE THAT DON'T, PLEASE TRY TO!"**

## Coming to California

### by Paul Snyder

Back in 1976 when I was living in southeastern Pennsylvania I had an opportunity to take a vacation on my bike. I had no idea how greatly my life was about to change...

The ride was a combination vacation plus "maybe" look for a job - I had talked to my boss and described what might be up-coming, and asked if I came back, would I still have a job there? He said yes, so off I went to California!

My '70 XLCH was not the perfect bike to ride coast-to-coast; far from it. My Sportster was starting to smoke about the time I got half-way across the country and I had to get a new plug for the rear cylinder at the HD shop in Amarillo. (After I got settled in Long Beach, the HD shop that used to be there installed new valves & guides. But that was just the start of a long string of issues with that P.O.S.)

Arriving in California I started looking around, and in a week I had a job, and in the second week I found a cheap place to live. Part of the transition, of course, was getting a new California Driver's License.

I passed the test, but with a formal protest to the DMV. The driving test was too easy (three circles and three figure 8s inside the stall, plus the serpentine, and demo up- and down-shifting smoothly, all without touching my feet down - and yes, I did this on my Sporty with its 4" tubes and a 5x16 on the rear). I asked to see the test supervisor to discuss some of my multiple-choice answers on the written test. In particular were the choices offered for the questions regarding "where in a lane should you ride" and "safe following practices". The information in the CA M/C Drivers Handbook was actually in direct conflict with official flyers distributed by the California Highway Patrol, which were even available in the bins at the local DMV. The CHP info was clearly much more attuned to the realities of riding.

Even though I passed, I was irritated by this enough to write a letter to the DMV in Sacramento. Shortly after, I was contacted by Don Pierce, who was not only a CHP Motor Officer, but also ABATE's safety liaison with the DMV. We discussed what had occurred, and he said something to the effect that "You're exactly the kind of rider that ABATE needs, how about coming out to our meetings?" So, I started attending Local 1's meetings; this was before Local 22 was formed.

In the years since, I've changed bikes several times, and I've met so many great people, participated in so many wonderful events, and learned a lot about the riding community as a whole. Thank you all for this lifetime of brotherhood! (Paul's picture was on the front page of the October Bailing Wire.)

Rich Lavallee  
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# NCOM Biker Newsbytes

THE AIM/NCOM MOTORCYCLE E-NEWS SERVICE is brought to you by Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM), and is sponsored by the Law Offices of Richard M. Lester. If you've been involved in any kind of accident, call us at 1-(800) ON-A-BIKE or visit www.ON-A-BIKE.com.



The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning will now use government grant money to buy a fleet of 20 Suzuki training motorcycles, though so-called "Buy America rules" say NHTSA cannot award any funds "unless steel, iron, and manufactured products used in such project are produced in the United States."

However, NHTSA is allowed to waive the rules if they are "inconsistent with the public interest" or such materials and products are not produced in the United States in reasonably available quantities or "the inclusion of domestic material will increase the cost of the overall project contract by more than 25 percent."

Finding that "a cost waiver is appropriate for the twenty training motorcycles because domestically produced motorcycles would increase the cost by more than 25 percent," NHTSA awarded Michigan grant funds to improve rider training.

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

**CITY IN WASHINGTON SETTLES PUBLIC RECORDS LAWSUIT WITH BIKERS:** The city of Kennewick, Washington has settled with a Tacoma motorcyclist and a group of motorcycle clubs who accused the city of violating the state Public Records Act.

The city will pay \$45,000 as part of the settlement of two lawsuits and will release some of the disputed records, City Attorney Lisa Beaton recently told the city council.

The city has not admitted any wrongdoing in the handling of the records requests filed by Edward Goehring and the Washington Confederation of Clubs (COC).

Both separately sued Kennewick after they claim they were improperly denied documents, including photos and videos that Kennewick police took when they cited motorcyclists in separate incidents.

Goehring was one of eight motorcyclists stopped by Kennewick police and Benton County sheriff's deputies in August 2012 and cited for traffic violations.

And in April 2013, authorities stopped some motorcyclists from the Washington Confederation of Clubs and cited them for traffic infractions during a gathering in Kennewick.

In both cases, Kennewick police pursued information about outlaw motorcycle gangs, according to Beaton.

The city, Goehring and the motorcycle club still disagree about some records. However, they agreed to have a third-party arbitrator review those records to decide which should be withheld or redacted and then released, Beaton told the Tri-City Herald.

The \$45,000 will come from the city's risk management fund. Insurance does not cover public record lawsuits, she said. About \$12,400 will go to the WA COC, and Goehring will receive the remainder.

As part of the agreement, Goehring and the motorcycle clubs will dismiss their lawsuits with prejudice, which means they can't be filed again, according to city documents.

Goehring and the Washington Confederation of Clubs are represented by the same attorney group, Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) Attorneys Marty Fox and Mike Meyers.

**CHIEF OF POLICE CANCELS OCEAN CITY BIKE WEEK "NO COLORS" POLICY:** A.I.M. Attorney addresses Ocean City's No Colors Policy...

GOOD NEWS (Sept 12, 2014): The Maryland Confederation Of Clubs Attorney Mitchell Greenberg approached the Ocean City Police on Thursday, Sept. 11 to address the "NO COLORS" policy stated on the Chief of Police Bike Week Rules and Regulations page on the OCPD website.

The matter was brought to a quick and friendly close including a personal call to Mitch from Chief of Police Ross Buzzuro who assured the Maryland Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) Attorney that all Clubs and Colors are welcome in Ocean City. Mitch in turn assured Chief Buzzuro that the leaders of each Club share his hope for a Safe and Incident-Free bike week.

The OCPD also assured Mitch that the "No Colors" language will be removed as soon as possible and that Colors are welcome in Ocean City public areas.

**NHTSA WAIVES BUY-AMERICAN REQUIREMENT FOR MICHIGAN RIDER TRAINING:** Because the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration determined that American makers don't offer a small and light enough motorcycle for a Michigan Rider Training Program, the agency has approved their request to waive federal Buy-American rules to allow the state to purchase foreign-made motorcycles for their courses.

**VIRGINIA COPS SPIED ON MOTORISTS AT POLITICAL RALLIES:** Documents released by the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia confirm that the Virginia State Police used cameras to track motorists attending political events. Automated license plate readers (ALPR) are used by law enforcement agencies throughout the country, ostensibly to fight crime by finding stolen cars. But a March 18, 2009 state police memo also documents the use of the "Help Eliminate Auto Theft" (HEAT) camera to identify attendees at 2008 campaign events for then-Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama and Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin.

It was not until 2012 that the state police chief asked for an official determination of the legality of the license plate reader program, and in a February 13, 2013 ruling, Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli blasted the "passive" use of recording the comings and goings of innocent drivers who are not part of an ongoing criminal investigation.

"Its future value to any investigation of criminal activity is wholly speculative," Cuccinelli wrote. "Therefore, with no exemption applicable to it, the collection of license plate reader data in the passive manner does not comport with the Data Act's strictures and prohibitions, and may not lawfully be done."

**TAG, YOU'RE IT:** In a survey of 2,000 licensed adult men and women across the country, Carinsurance.com found that half or more of America's drivers would support the use of special license plates to identify certain drivers on the road:

49.4% support license plates identifying drivers older than 70.

57.9% support license plates identifying novice drivers.

Continued on next page

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**Biker Newsbytes continued From Page 14**

59.8% support license plates identifying those convicted of texting while driving.

69.1% support license plates identifying those convicted of a DUI.

**ANTI-POLLUTION RULES IN SPANISH CAPITAL FAVOR MOTORCYCLES:** New anti-pollution regulations in Spain's capital, Madrid, exempt motorcycles during restrictive hours. Effective the first day of 2015, no non-resident will be allowed in the center of the city, but these restrictions do not apply to motorcycles, which are free to roam the center of Madrid. Still the exemption is only valid between 7 am and 10 pm, but it's important to note that the mayor of a big city understands that bikes are a solution in the urban clutter and not the problem.

**BIKERS VS. ISIS: "NETHERLANDS OKAYS BIKER GANGS TO FIGHT ISLAMIC STATE":** The Dutch public prosecutor has announced that "motorbike gang members" who have joined Kurds battling the Islamic State group are not necessarily committing any crime. Members of the infamous 'No Surrender' motorcycle club are fighting against Islamic State militants in northern Iraq, and public prosecutor spokesman Wim de Bruin told the AFP news service, "Joining a foreign armed force was previously punishable, now it's no longer forbidden."

Many countries including the Netherlands have been clamping down on their nationals trying to join ISIS jihadists who have taken over swathes of Iraq and Syria. Measures include confiscating would-be jihadists' passports before traveling and threatening prosecution should they return.

"You just can't join a fight against the Netherlands," he told AFP after reports emerged that the Dutch bikers were fighting ISIS insurgents alongside Kurdish troops in the Middle East.

In November 1965, Ralph "Sonny" Barger of the Hells Angels MC sent a letter to President Lyndon Johnson at the White House offering tactical support for the war effort: "I volunteer a group of loyal Americans for behind-the-line duty in Vietnam. We are available for training and duty immediately."

**SNITCH ALERT -- AUSTRALIAN BIKER REWARD SYSTEM DEEMED UNSUCCESSFUL:** In October 2013, Police Minister in the Australian state of Queensland, Jack Dempsey, announced Queensland's Crime Stoppers would be allocated \$5 million in reward funding for information about criminal gangs or bikers. But so far only \$1,150 has been paid out.

Dr. Terry Goldsworthy, Bond University Criminologist, said the information being provided has not necessarily helped the crackdown on bikers. "[Crime Stoppers] have received about 1200 pieces of information," he said. "124 offenders have been arrested in relation to drug and property and weapon matters, but interestingly though, only 22 people can actually be able to have shown to have any links to any criminal organizations - it'd interesting

to see how many of those 22 were actually bikers."

Between 2000 and 2010 the Queensland police -- a separate organization from Crime Stoppers -- paid out \$900,000 in rewards, and although figures weren't available for Crime Stoppers, Dr. Goldsworthy said they'd be quite different to QPS figures. He said the reward campaign has not had the outcome the Government anticipated... "This reward system has been highly advertised, and to only have one successful pay out, indicates to me that I don't think it's a success."

**BRITISH POLICE APPEAL FOR INFO ON BOOBY TRAP:** Police in Totton, Hampshire U.K. are investigating after a piece of thick string was found tied across a road at neck height, posing a distinct danger to motorcyclists.

It had been tied between lampposts either side of a residential street, and "The string could have caused serious injury and even a broken neck," according to the Motorcycle Action Group (MAG-UK). "It was spotted by a passer-by at night time, when it would have been difficult for riders to see."

Totton councilor Chris Lagdon said: "The morons responsible must be tracked down by the police and made to face the full force of the law. As a motorcycle rider myself I know how dangerous something like that can be. It was an atrocious thing to do and I'm absolutely disgusted that an incident of this sort has occurred in Totton."

Mog Morrison, head of the New Forest Motor Cycle Action Group, said: "If this was some sort of prank involving youngsters I hope the police or their parents take them to one side and educate them about the potential consequences of their actions... This sort of thing has killed people in the past."

Totton Police Tweeted following the incident on Tuesday, October 13: "Unknown persons have placed green string across Water Lane near Bagber Road. Any information?"

**WEIRD NEWS: HORMEL MOTORCYCLE RUNS ON BACON GREASE:** Hormel Foods Corp. headed out on the highway with a motorcycle designed to run on bacon grease. The Austin, MN-based company created a new marketing campaign in time for the International Bacon Film Festival in San Diego in late August, and rode the bacon bike from Minnesota to California.

America runs on bacon, and so does this bike -- getting about 100 mpg -- and the exhaust smells like bacon! Hormel and marketing firm BBDO Minneapolis sponsored the world's first motorcycle that runs on organic biodiesel made of refined bacon grease, and a team of 12 traveled with a rider during the trip

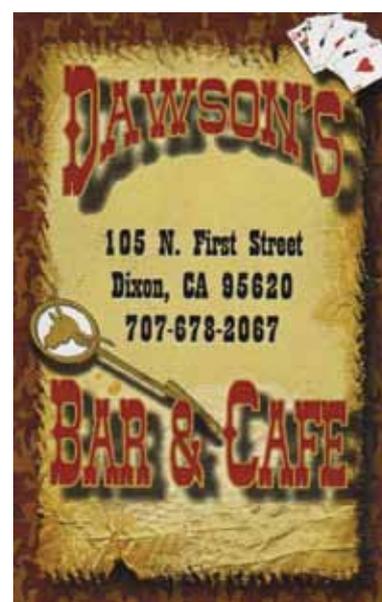
to document the journey for a film, "Driven By Bacon," which was shown at the film festival this year.

Charlie Smithson of CSE Engineering and Taylor Bamber, Smithson's work partner, custom designed the motorcycle based on a rare 2011 Track T-800CDI diesel model. Grease is an abundant fuel source, as hotels and restaurants in the United States generate 3 billion gallons of waste cooking oil per year, which could fill tanker trucks parked bumper-to-bumper from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. and back.

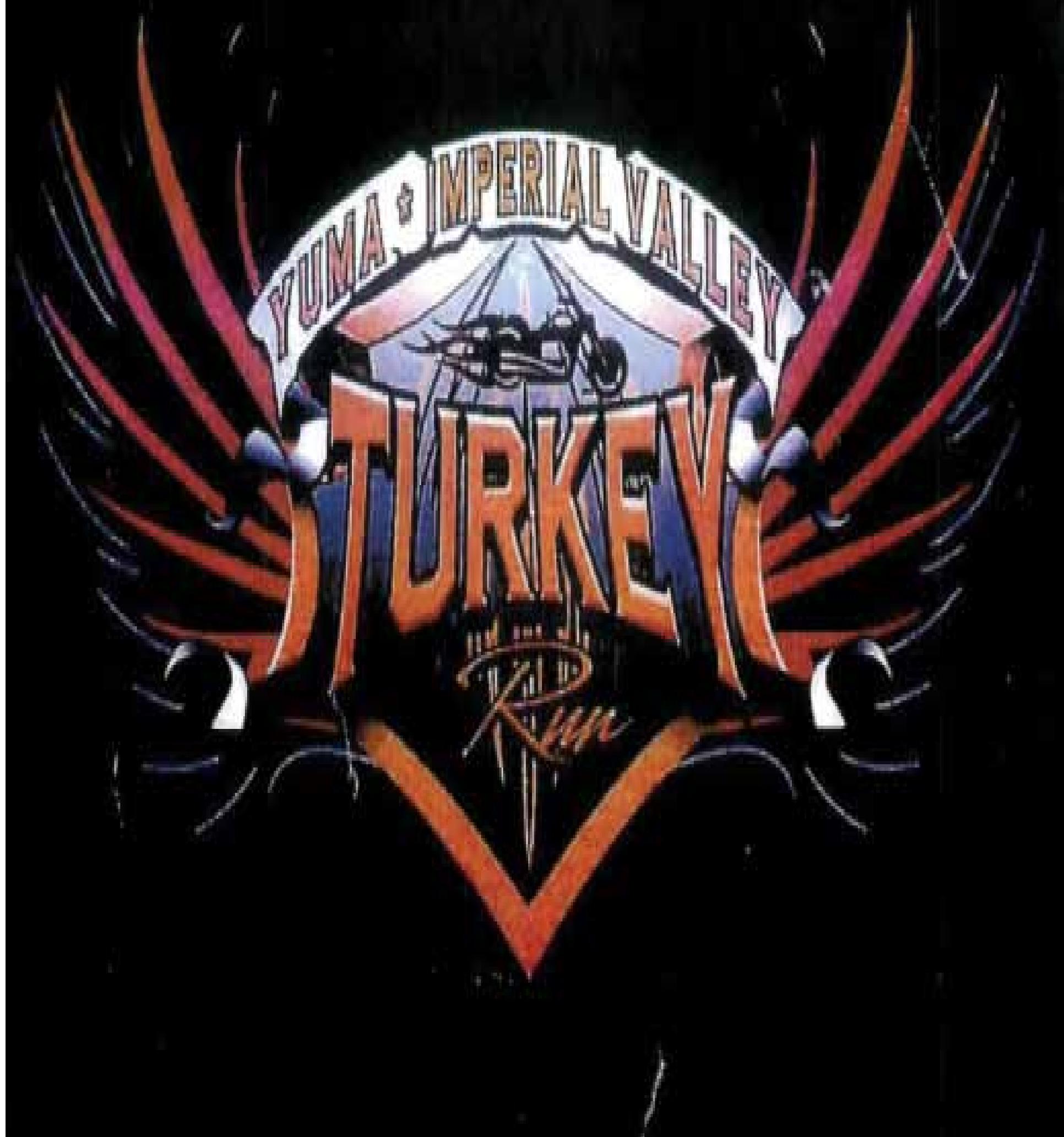
Hormel representatives say the marketing push is an exciting opportunity to spread the word about Hormel's Black Label Bacon brand and the pig-powered hog will likely be used as a promotional tool in the future.

Once the film is complete, the motorcycle could be displayed at the Spam Museum.

**QUOTABLE QUOTE:** "Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote." ~ Government posters in the city of Chicago (1928) - original authorship unknown



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See other side for donation information



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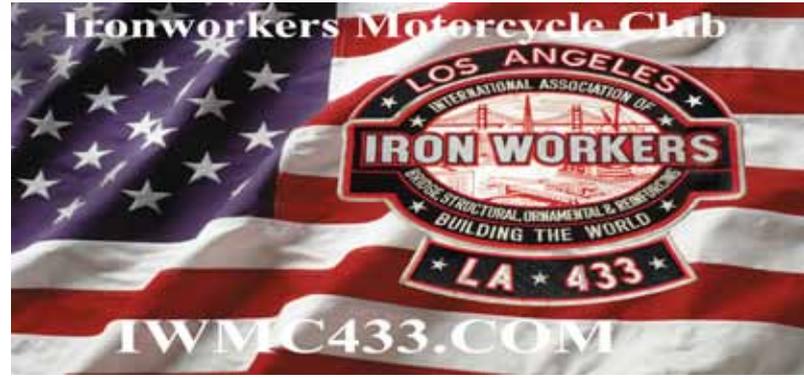


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		XXX-Large 11-331		
			<b>Total Men's T's</b>	<b>X \$ 20.00 =</b>

<b>MEN'S</b> ABATE Navy Tank Shirt Medium 08-213 Qty.	<b>Total Tank Shirts</b>	<b>X \$15.00 =</b>
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<b>WOMEN'S</b> Educate NOT Legislate White T-Shirts			
Short-sleeve Large 11-334	Long-sleeve Small 11-337		
V-Neck X-Large 11-335	Scoop Neck Large 11-339		
XX-Large 11-336	X-Large 11-340		
	XX-Large 11-341		

<b>WOMEN'S</b> ABATE Emblem T-shirts Qty.			
Heather L/Sleeve Large 07-202			
			<b>Total Women's T's</b>
			<b>X \$20.00 =</b>

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## Los Angeles County - Local #01-Reg#8

Sporty Milligan 3rd Sun - 9 AM  
1616 4th St Elks Lodge  
San Fernando 10137 E. Commerce  
818/ 361-8800 Tujunga, CA 91242

## Simi Valley - Local #02-Reg#7

Guy Corrigan 2nd Tues 7:30 PM  
805/796-6328 VFW Post#10049  
4242 E Los Angeles Ave.  
Simi Valley  
Crashman1@sbcglobal.net

## Thousand Oaks/Ventura Local#03/13-Reg#7

Chuck Pedersen 3rd Thurs - 7:00 PM  
Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge  
805/496-0323 158 N Conejo School  
Thousand Oaks

## San Diego County - Local #06-Reg#12

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

## Orange County - Local #08-Reg#11

Daniel Pfaffly 2nd Mon.7:30PM  
American Legion #354  
8071 Whitaker  
714/335-9627 Buena Park

## South Orange County - Local #09-Reg#11

Cory Toroian Meets with L#20  
949/496-2936

## San Diego County (North) - Local #11-Reg#12

Dan Buse 2nd Sun - 11 AM  
buse13@att.net Escondido Moose Lodge  
760/807-7294 25721 Jesmond Dene Rd  
Escondido 92026

## Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano & Napa Counties L#17 Region #3

Glenn Phillips 3rd Sun.- 10:00 AM  
P O Box 148 Judy's Wild  
Vacaville 95696 Wrangler Saloon  
707/624-6310 4826 Midway Rd.  
Vacaville CA

## Pomona Valley - Local #19-Reg#9

Jeff Bassler 4th Wed - 7:00 PM  
C/O 9648 Calle Vejar Round Table Pizza  
Rancho Cucamonga 1020 N Mountain  
91730 Ontario, CA 91729  
909/596-9685

## Orange County - Local #20-Reg#11

Gill Mellen 2nd Tues - 7:00 PM  
2104 Continental Ave. American Legion  
Costa Mesa 92627 5646 Corporate Ave.  
949/632-9787 Cypress CA 90630



# ABATE MEETINGS

## Antelope Valley - Local #21-Reg#13

Ron Sundquist 2nd Thurs - 7:00 PM  
37230 52nd St. East AV Roadhouse  
Palmdale 93552 320 W Ave J2  
661/586-5555 Lancaster 93534  
ron.sundquist@sbcglobal.net

## South Bay - Local #22-Reg#11

Suzanne Palmiere 2nd Tues - 7:00 PM  
310/245-0543 Meet with Local 20  
suzpalmiere@aol.com

## San Bernardino - Local#23-Reg#9

Kevin Sorrell 1st Sun 9:00 AM  
909/793-1112 Vicky's Restaurant  
502 S Waterman Ave  
San Bernardino CA

## Fresno - Local#24-Reg#6

Jeff Krebs 2nd Tues. 7:00 PM  
559/801-5655 Yosemite Falls Cafe'  
www.abatelocal24.org Shaw & Blackstone, Fresno

## Sacramento - Local#25-Reg#2

Lil' David Morena 3rd Thurs - 7:00 PM  
916/616-9605 Denny's  
3520 Auburn Blvd.  
Sacramento 95821

## Riverside - Local#27-Reg#9

Kenny Nuttall 1st Tues - 7:00 PM  
P.O. Box 7070 American Legion  
Riverside CA 92513 2979 Dexter Dr  
951/377-5772 (in Fairmont Park)  
www.abatelocal27.org Riverside, CA 92513

## Morongo Basin - Local#29-Reg#13

Marty Rapp 2nd - Thurs - 6:30 PM  
P.O. Box 2334 Odd # Months  
29 Palms CA 92277 Call Marty for Location  
760/367-1694

## North Valley - Local #31-Reg#2

Larry James 2nd Tues - 7:00 PM  
Last Call Lounge  
530/893-4827 876 East Ave. Chico

## Yuba City - Local #33-Reg#2

Steve Katen 2nd Tues. - 7:PM  
530/749-1003 American Legion  
5477 Feather River Blvd.  
Olivehurst

## Imperial Valley - Local#38-Reg#12

Ed Aranda Last Thurs - 7:00 PM  
760/337-8372 La Fonda Bar & Grill  
220 Wake Ave.  
El Centro, CA 92243

## Bakersfield - Local#40-Reg#6

Godfather 3rd Tues. 7:00 PM  
P.O. Box9311 Rusty's Pizza  
Bakersfield 93389 5430 Olive Dr  
661/301-5403 Bakersfield 93308  
661/323-9819

## High Desert - Local#44-Reg#13

Dave Hastings 2nd Sat. 9:30 am  
760/947-4700 Eagles Order #4181  
P.O. Box 3094 16195 Main St  
Victorville, CA 92392 Hesperia 92345

## Barstow - Local #47-Reg#13

Yermo Eddy Meet with L#44  
PO Box 521  
Yermo CA 92398  
760/953-7353

## Grass Valley - Local#52-Reg#2

Craig Griswold 3rd Wed - 6:30 PM  
21183 State Hwy 20 Alta Sierra  
Penn Valley Pizza & Grill'  
530/263-8071 15690 Johnson Place  
Grass Valley

## Ridgecrest - Local #58-Reg#13

Dave Cornelius Meet with Local#44  
760/447-4342

## Venice Beach/Santa Monica Local # 63-Reg#7

Kimko 310/907-6174 1st Monday 7:00pm  
On the Water Front Cafe'  
205 Ocean Front Walk  
Venice Beach 90291  
mindbodyalignment@verizon.net

### Regions With Local info:

Region 2: Regional Representative Lil' David Morena 25, 31, 33 & 52.  
Region 3: Vacant  
Region 6: Regional Representative Ed Rogers 24 & 40.  
Region 7: Regional Representative - Chuck Pedersen 2 & 3/13 & 63.  
Region 8: Regional Representative Tom Lubbers 18&19.  
Region 9: Regional Representative Mark Loudermilk 23, & 27  
Region 11: Regional Representative Gill Mellen 8, 9, 20 & 22.  
Region 12 Regional Representative Dave Connors, Locals 6, 11 & 38  
Region 13: Regional Representative Yermo Eddy 21, 29, 44, & 47.

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### by Tim Tennimon,

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