

The Bailing Wire

Newsletter for Motorcyclists

Volume XXXI

ISSUE V

MAY 2012

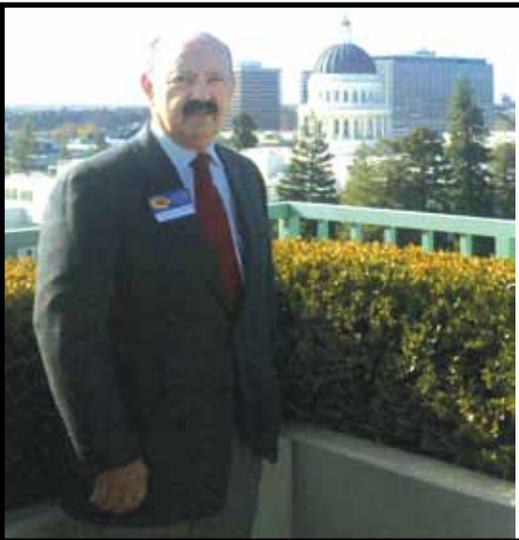
A Union of Motorcyclists
Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

American Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education



Lobbyist's Legislative Report

by James Lombardo, Lobbyist



AB 1890, by Assemblyman Jose Solorio, will allow motorcyclists to have their transponders anywhere on a bike for recognition on California's toll roads and bridges, rather than have to be affixed to the motorcycle. AB 1890 has passed out of the Assembly Transportation Committee and was passed off the Assembly Floor on April 16! It now goes to the Senate for another committee hearing and vote sometime in early June!

ABATE's 2012 legislative package is quickly moving through the Capitol! Our bill, AB 1535, authored by Assemblywoman Linda Halderman, that mandates Caltrans to put back up *Motorcycles*

OK signs on all HOV/Car Pool lanes, is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, after passing out of the Transportation Committee and will be heard before the May deadline.

We still have stiff resistance from Caltrans, which has grossly overestimated the cost to put *OUR signs* back up, that *they* took down years ago. Caltrans is highballing its estimates at \$7 million. This is to kill the bill when it reaches Governor Brown's desk for his signature. We will continue to meet with Caltrans to see if we can convince them to establish a realistic cost (if any), since the re-installation is supposed to be done when other signage work on a freeway is ordered.

Our other ABATE sponsored bill, AB 1047, by the Transportation Committee Vice Chairman, Kevin Jeffries, to *BAN MOTORCYCLE ONLY CHECKPOINTS* has passed the Assembly and is waiting for a hearing in the Senate Housing and Transportation Committee, which will be sometime in May.

Finally, there is still a good chance a bill will be hijacked (different language put into another bill which has already moved further along the legislative process) to *BAN LANE SHARING/ LANE SPLITTING!* Stay tuned — *WE WILL CALL FOR YOUR ACTION WHEN THIS HAPPENS!* We will need *all* motorcycle riders who can come to Sacramento to lobby against the bill.

Because the official List of Candidates for June's Primary election was only released two

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

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

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 Gill Mellen 949/632-9787
 David Morena 916/616-9605
 Lee "Sporty" Milligan 818/361-8800
 Johnny O'Kane 760/956-1669

Executive Director's Report**by Greg Covell**

Welcome all new and returning members! Our Board of Directors meeting for April was online via an online conference service. The meeting went well considering this was our first attempt. It was well organized and monitored by Dave Hastings - Thanks Dave. Not only did it save individuals hundreds of dollars in travel costs, we actually had 16 Locals represented which met or exceeded our last "in person" BOD meeting.

The names of Regional Directors were presented to and were approved by the Board. This is a very important position allowing for communication between the Board and the Locals and back again.

Region 2 - 'Lil' David; Region 3 - Bob Blatz; Region 6 - Ed Rogers; Region 8 - Tom Lubbers; Region 9 - Jack Howell; Region 11 - Gill Mellen; Region 12 - Dave Connors; Region 13 - Not Con-

firmed. Still looking for volunteers for Regions 7 and 10. Look at the back page of the Bailing Wire to see which Region your Local belongs to.

Our Southern Regional Rally is nearly here. How impressive it would be to see all of our Locals represented at this event. Not only is this a chance to get away for a while, but when and where else will you get a chance to sit down with people from all over our great State and talk ABATE in a casual setting?

Many Locals are gaining strength and as they do so their support of ABATE as a whole is increasing. A strong, active ABATE Local is the key to a strong ABATE of California.

We need club members, clubs, organizations, and independents. Numbers, numbers, numbers, the more members we recruit the stronger is our voice and the more likely we are to reach those who wish to get involved and help make a difference.

I am pleased to report that thanks to Gill Mellen's efforts, Junior ABATE is coming back to life through scholarship funding from Richard Lester, enabling Junior ABATE members to attend motorcycle safety courses through the CMSP program.

Elections and candidate support: Information on candidates is being processed now and should be available soon. Look to see who ABATE suggests and offer them help with phone calls, putting up signs, and/or canvassing. These are the candidates who will support us so we should support them where and when we can.

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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 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.

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.

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The Bailing Wire newsletter is published monthly by ABATE of California, Inc., with corporate mailing address at 10240 7th Ave. Hesperia CA 92345. All editorials, membership and advertising is to be sent to the corporate mailing address. Circulation: 10,000 monthly.

Written articles are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily the opinion of ABATE of California. Editor reserves the right to edit any copy.

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Carol Cromwell & Caroline Griffith

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Gill Mellen & all our Members

COLUMNISTS

Bill Bish, Steve Guderian, Sporty Milligan, Jim Lombardo, Dave Hastings, & Craig Griswold

DEADLINES

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

AD RATES

- Business Card \$15.00 /Mo.
\$150.00 /Yr.
- Double Size Business Card W/Color \$250.00
- 1/4 Page (5"W x 5"H) \$150.00 /Mo.
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PHOTOS

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

Jim from page 1

weeks ago by the Secretary of State, we don't have much time to work for the candidates that we support. *Welcome to California's political realities.*

I will be sending out a list of current ABATE endorsed Assembly, Senate and Congressional candidates from the last election, who have close races in the June 3rd primary elections, and will need your help. I will follow with June races in which we have Motorcyclist-friendly candidates running, to go and work for. We are waiting for the ABATE questionnaires to be returned before we can complete all of these lists.

Thanks again to those individuals and Locals who contribute to the Lobbyist Fund to keep me representing you here in the Capitol.

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May 11-12-13, 2012

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- Going North on 15 fwy, take Stoddard Wells exit (first exit past Mojave River bridge).
 - Then right onto Stoddard Wells.
 - Coming from 395: Head East on Mojave Dr or Hwy 18/Palmdale Rd. take 15 North to Stoddard Wells Rd. then Right.



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 RV INFO. - JEFF OZANNE (760) 948-2186 - E-mail jazz47@verizon.net
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EVENT ENTRY

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LOCAL NEWS

Local #01 Los Angeles



Sporty here! At 9 am on the day we had our virtual reality Board of Directors meeting we conducted our Local 1 meeting. Small, small, small meeting. However Local 1 is still active with over 100 members.

We discussed the bills currently in Sacramento and I requested members to write their current legislature where they reside to move them along. We also discussed who to support in the political races.

I requested members to support the Southern Regional Rally on Mother's Day weekend. The Elks Lodge is doing their Mother's Day breakfast, so **THERE WILL BE NO LOCAL 1 MEETING IN MAY** - we will, hopefully be at the Southern Regional Rally.

We are planning to take a group ride, meeting at Peter Daniel's house, for Local 23's run. Local 1's members request that you support ABATE runs.

We had breakfast then adjourned. Regards, Sporty.

Local #02 Simi Valley



This year is moving fast! Already it's mid-April, and it seems like it's not slowing down, I don't know if it is the effects of being old or what! Thanks to our Volunteer cooks Mike and Pres Ray. We serve a great meal deal for \$5.00. BBQ burgers and hot dogs with more fixin's than you could eat! We start at 6:45 pm and our meeting starts at 7:30 pm. We meet at VFW Post 10049, 4242 East Los Angeles Ave on the second Tuesday of the month.

Pres Ray got us going again, talking about ABATE and our Sweaty Buns run stuff, great job Pres! Local 2's Sweaty Buns run is on July 22 this year. We need all the volunteer help possible! Be-

cause of you we've had success every year. Please come to the meeting's and join us on our fantastic journey! We have a new run stop and great promotional gifts for all riders. This is the start of our most important day for Local 2 and it benefits ALL!

Secretary Jane read the minutes, and did the treasurer report, Pat did the membership report. Come on missing members, where yah be? Andi displayed our merchandise - and we have great stuff, Guy talked about future fun runs and Norm talked about the Laws of Insurance, got some?

April 23 we are going to Simi Valley City Council for our annual Motorcycle Awareness presentation. Call Jane for more info.

We had a good amount of prizes for our raffles and Andi won the 50/50 drawing! Dennis could have won the membership drawing if he had only been here. This meeting went fast, why? Don't remember!

Anyway refreshing my thoughts about insurance think about this: How much protection do you think you have? Do you have un-insured motorist insurance? This is a biggie! Make sure you have the maximum for bodily injuries and property damage, or else you're screwed! Seriously, if you get hit by someone who doesn't have insurance, chances are they don't own a mansion, and you'll be footing the bill! Make sure your spouse or friend has a contact for legal representation in the event that you can't, it's a good thing.

I was pulling into a parking lot following an elderly lady and parked next to her. She asked why my bike was so loud. I said, "Did you hear me?" She said, "Yes", and then I said, "That's why!"

This is going to be a great riding season, make sure your bike is ready and be prepared for the unexpected. When you ride, enjoy your freedom, and thank all the volunteers from ABATE! PTL norm e. new

Local #06 San Diego



April Fool's Day was our meeting day - no comment! But we had a nice turnout on a fairly nice San Diego day and we thank everyone who took the time to come.

Snowman opened the meeting around noon, and we did the Pledge of Allegiance although the big flag was not flying as usual at the park and we

had to make do with the flag on his vest. We reviewed the treasury (needs a little help), membership, the phone tree and merchandise.

Gibran, campaign manager from Toni Atkins' (candidate for CA Assembly District 78) office, came by to speak about her campaign a bit. San Diego Mayoral candidate Bob Filner's staff member was there also. Bob was unfortunately late because of a prior engagement at a church, but did get there right as the meeting was breaking up and was able to visit with a few people. Bob has been a long-time friend of the biker community in San Diego.

We chatted about politics a bit. If you can help on a political campaign this year, please let one of the officers know or better yet, contact Douglas and find out what's needed where. We'll have little chance of making a change in California without getting involved in the process to get friendly legislators elected.

We talked about safety, too, and it was reiterated that you can call Caltrans Street Division at 619-527-7500 to report pot holes, lights that don't work, and some other road issues. And if they don't get pot holes fixed in a reasonable time, it was mentioned that the city can get sued.

Past and future events were discussed, and please remember to support those who support us. Some of the upcoming May events are Barry and Carol Sandberg's Memorial, ABATE Southern Regional Rally, NCOM Convention, Yuma Prison Run, and the Boozefighters MC Annual overnighter in June. Check our website at www.abatelocal6.org for these events and others.

Our next meeting is the same day as Barry and Carol Sandberg's Memorial which starts at Mt. Soledad at noon. Since our meeting starts at the same time, we're going to make it as short as possible and meet up with the others at the Mt. Soledad memorial and ride to San Diego Harley for the party. Barry and Carol were ABATE Local 6 members for a long time, and let's honor them by attending the event after our meeting.

Ride safe, we will ride free again! Nancy Nemecek

Local #11 North County San Diego



Local 11's April meeting landed on Easter Sunday this month. We did not expect a large turnout, but we had 12 members present. It was a warm sunny day in the hills of Lake Wolford and a great ride up to the meeting. President Dan Buse

LOCAL NEWS

opened up the meeting talking about the local political candidates and a reminder that the place to be election night is at Golden Hall in San Diego. All of the candidates will be there as the returns come in. Vice President Dave Caldwell gave us all the info on the local upcoming events.

Unfortunately he informed us of the loss of another local biker due to an accident. Update on last month's column, the passenger in that crash passed away. We will get with the Moose Lodge/ABATE member Dale to see if they still want to do an event of some kind.

We had a guest from Local 6 San Diego, Wrench, the President of the Wolf Pack MC. Wrench gave us some insight to the workings of the COC as well as a reminder of a good source of bikers' rights information, the "Phil and Bill show" on blogtalkradio.com/bikersofamerica. Bill Kennedy is owner of Kennedy's Custom Cycles in Oceanside and Phil AKA "Screwdriver" is a member of BOLT. The Show airs on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Treasurer Tim Clark reminded us **our May meeting will be at the Southern Regional Rally**. Also, our can drive is starting and will be tallied up at the June meeting.

Jim won the 50/50 and donated it back to the Local. Thanks Jim! Ride Safe. Gary.

Local #13 Ventura



Greetings, from Local 13! April's meeting went off without a hitch. Not a whole lot of discussion going on, except for the following three things:

Our current PAC Officer, Bill Crispano, had to step down for health reasons. We all wish him continued progress with his back trouble and hope he is on the mend soon. Dennis Dilorio stepped up and has accepted the vacant position for Local 13! Thank you, Dennis...and he never even left the room!

Second, we now have a starting point for the Callous Cheeks Run. Sign-ins will be from 8:00 am to 9:30 am at My Garage, located at 1559 Palma Drive in Ventura. My Garage has been a Local 13 business member for a long time and their shop is freeway close and a perfect starting point for this run. So mark your calendars for JUNE 23, 2012!

It's a great run and we're gonna end at a really fun location with great food!

Third on the list were these two local events. On May 6, Ventura Harley has their Hawaiian-themed Poker run and Local 3's overnighter on May 19 -20! Check out the Local's Facebook page for more info!

Last but not least...had Dave Williams been at last month's meeting, he would have won close to \$300! Too bad you weren't present. Are you all trying to tell me you couldn't use some FREE money? Come to the next meeting on May 10 and get all the news that's not fit to print! Ride safe... and check your tires!

Scott McCool, President

Local #20 Orange County



The regular meeting of the ABATE was called to order at 7:00 PM on April 10, in Costa Mesa, CA by Gill. There were thirty five members and one guest in attendance.

New member Glenn Pillsbury II; and renewals are Doreen Matsumoto, Distributor for Mona Vie; Leons Transmissions, Lifestyles Cycles, Nikki's Flags and Leenie. Thank you all for supporting ABATE!

Gill told us that AB1047 has passed the Assembly and is on its way to the Senate. He thanked everyone that was able to make it to the last Capital run and said that there was a good turnout. He explained that destructive driving does not only apply to cell phones, it includes drinking your morning cup of coffee or eating your lunch while driving and that the police are out in force to write citations for such driving behavior.

He asked everyone to tell Richard Lester thank you when we see him for his contributions to the ABATE Junior program and told us that Dogg's son, Alex, was the first Junior ABATE member to receive the scholarship for riding lessons through CMSP.

Upcoming runs that were announced include Byron Madwell's Blood drive, the 10th Annual Bike Blessing and Benefit Rally in Oceanside and Pay It Forward Fundraiser.

The dollar draw is now up to \$74.00 and Paul Byron's name was drawn, he was present but refused to accept so he drew Ken Skolyan's name

but he wasn't present so the money rolls over to next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm by Gill. The next monthly meeting will be at 7:00 pm on May 8 in Costa Mesa. ~Leenie~

Local #23 San Bernardino



Well it is almost here. We have been working hard and spreading the word. May 19 is our Bikers Rights Poker Run. Vendors are ready, all the stops are planned out and everything and everyone is jazzed up and ready to ride!

It is important that we support each Local's events as much as possible. We are all here for a good reason - We Love To Ride! We want to continue to be able to ride! So - Come One - Come All. Support any ABATE function that you can and continue to fight for our rights to ride our bikes!

Tammy Odell, Membership, ABATE Local #23

Local #24 Fresno

Some quick news, need to get ready for our AMMO RUN next weekend. If you haven't been on this run you have missed one heck of a good time.

About 36 members present when Vice Pres Scott opened our meeting with the Pledge to the Flag. President Ed is recovering from major repair work to his body. He is doing fine, but it will take a while to return to full "Ed."

On the local political scene, Linda Halderman M.D., our State Assembly Representative has decided not to run for re-election. This is a big surprise as meetings with her local staff gave no advanced notice about this.

The Horni Day Ride turnout was 38 bikes and everyone reported much good fun.

Our Treasure reported we are holding on, but just barely. We need a good turnout for our Runs and Day Rides to keep State ABATE support going. Membership reported we have 114 members and 15 business members.

Lots of very good prizes were donated for our raffle. The \$146.00 50/50 was won by the table that seemed to win most of the raffle. When you buy the tickets you win. Keep that in mind for the next meeting.

LOCAL NEWS

Membership drawing of \$90.00 was won by business member Kimmies; unfortunately they were not at the meeting. So you all next month!

Local #25 Sacramento



I want to thank the ABATE Board of Directors for inviting me to join in online for the first virtual meeting. I thought it went very well. Everyone was courteous and it surely saved us money so we didn't have to travel far.

By the time this BW is released, Local 25 will have had our Tour of the Capitol Day. I am hoping this will have been a great success.

MMA (I'm a member) has asked me to work with them on a Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Rally at the Capitol during the same time as our Southern Regional Rally. Right now they have planned a get together in Old Sac downtown on Saturday, May 12, at 7:00 am. This is not a protest of any kind. We are trying to make aware that motorcyclists are being targeted throughout Sacramento parking garages - not being allowed to park - especially during events. Let's show them that if you park one motorcycle per parking space, cars will not be able to park anywhere. Motorcycles are a means of transportation also. Please leave your attitudes at home. Just as soon as I get more information I will forward it on Facebook and then on to the state office.

So many of us can't afford to come south for the Southern Regional Rally, so we are planning on having a Northern Regional Rally/Campout for those unable to make it south. We are checking out campgrounds as we speak. For all of the other northern Locals, if you would like to receive our email newsletter, please send your email address to Abate.ca.local25@gmail.com. I'd like to start networking with other Locals up north to the Oregon border on putting together a Northern Regional Rally/Campout.

Condolences to Lady Kay on the passing of her brother; he died in a scooter accident in Hawaii. Please take a moment of silence.

Rebel Ruthi, President, Local 25

Local #27 Riverside



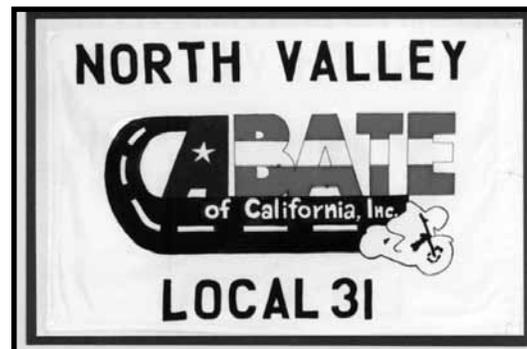
Local 27's Bare Necessities Event to support the Salvation Army got off to a slow start but turned into a great fun day. The weather was perfect! The Salvation Army received 1 3/4 barrels of "necessaries", the food prepared by the American Legion Post 79 Auxiliary was delicious, and we all enjoyed the Tattoo contest -The GEEZERS, HEART-n-SOUL, MOLOCHS, POBOBS, AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS, and IEHOG, and Local 23 were among those represented. And we managed to pull in memberships as well - 3 singles, 1 couple and a business!!

The next event on our agenda is the Southern Regional Rally. A chance to really relax, camp out and get away from the craziness of everyday monotony. Come out and show your support for ABATE - your voice for motorcyclist rights in California - then plan your other rides.

Coming up locally: ABATE Southern Regional Rally May 11-13th; ABATE Local 23's run May 19; ABATE Local 27 is assisting with the Riverside Chili Cook-off/ Car & Bike Show on May 26; and ABATE Local 27 will have a booth at West Coast Thunder (Soboba location) on May 28.

Want to know what's happening here locally? Check our website www.abatelocal27.org. Keep your Eyes Wide Open, Greg Covel, President Local 27, gmcvl@yahoo.com.

Local #31 North Valley



Local 31 held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 10, and spent some time discussing one of our hometown boys, Arron Ray Clark, who is the only Chico, California native to lose his life in the war in Iraq.

On December 5, 2003 Arron was killed when a radio controlled bomb was detonated near his convoy while they were driving in Baghdad. Arron was a member of the U.S. Army assigned to the 440th Signal Battalion, 22nd Signal Brigade, V Corps based in Darmstadt, Germany. He spe-

cialized in detection and decontamination of biological warfare agents. Arron and his convoy were amongst the first wave of soldiers deployed to Iraq.

Arron Ray Clark will be missed dearly but not forgotten. In his 20 years he impacted the lives of many and is highly regarded amongst those who knew him. He was a man of confidence, determination, courage, sympathy, optimism, and humility.

Local volunteers, family and friends have united to raise funds in Arron's memory in an attempt to create a monument in our city park in his memory. Local 31 has adopted this project, as we are all humbled and grateful for the ultimate sacrifice that many of these young men and women make on behalf of our freedom.

We are asking all ABATE members of California to consider contributing to an account that has been established at Wells Fargo Bank to help us raise the money needed to create this monument. The goal is \$30,000 and the fundraising efforts have gotten us about half way there. You can go into any branch of Wells Fargo Bank and let them know that you'd like to contribute to the "Arron Ray Clark Memorial Fund". The website created for Arron is <http://www.arronrayclark.com/>. You can donate via PayPal on the site, as well.

The members of ABATE Local 31 in Chico, California thank you in advance and know that you value the freedom we are afforded as Americans because of the tireless service of our Armed Forces. And the freedom we enjoy riding the roads of America!

Local #44 High Desert



Local 44 will be moving our monthly meeting to a new location and a later start time beginning with our June 9, 2012 meeting! After much discussion and a mail-in vote from all of our members, Local 44 will open our June 9 Local meeting at 9:30 am at the Victor Valley Moose Lodge #1808, 10230 "E" Ave. Hesperia.

LOCAL NEWS

We would like to give a huge "Thank You" to the Eagles Fraternal Order #4181 at 16195 Main St. Hesperia for their many years of hosting our meetings and the excellent service they always provided to our Local. This was a tough decision, but to adequately and comfortably seat our members, Local 44 needed a larger venue and our new location at the Moose Lodge will fulfill that need.

On a sad note, at our April meeting we were informed of the serious medical condition of one of Local 44's founding members, Brother Wayne Reeves. As this report is being written plans are being made for a fund raising dinner at the Eagles to help offset the family expenses and a "farewell party" at the Hesperia VFW. Make the time to

meet Brother Wayne and his lovely wife Sheri at one or both of these events. They are exceptional people and have done a lot for Local 44 during their many years of service. You will never regret time spent with this couple and when you leave you will have a heart full of old fashioned biker love and respect for an ABATE member and his wife who have truly "been there & done that" for both our Local and motorcycle rights statewide. For more information on times and dates for these two events please contact me at (760) 947-4700 and I will be happy to assist you as soon as the event info is confirmed and available.

We will not have a Local 44 meeting in May because the Southern Regional Rally is scheduled on the same weekend here in Victorville.

Please try to attend or at least pre - pay your contribution for the Southern Regional Rally and remember ALL of the proceeds from this event are dedicated to the support of ABATE of California. The committee has done a super job of setting this event up with vendors, live music, and a fun, family orientated, biker weekend awaits us. As usual, our "R/V Queens" will have our traditional Local 44 potluck dinner on Saturday evening, and I don't think you could find a better home cooked meal anywhere. Show up, support your ABATE, bring your friends, and let's make some Local 44 memories! Dave H.

The following information is from the CA DMV:

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness month. To highlight the importance of this month, the Department of Motor Vehicles developed the newsletter below to share with its patron's important information on how to keep the roadways safe while on a motorcycle or similar vehicles.

Motorcycle Safety - Similar Vehicles and Their Restrictions

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is aiming to raise awareness on motorcycle safety especially in light of May being Motorcycle Awareness Month! A National Highway Traffic Safety Administration report shows that for the same per-mile exposure, motorcyclists are roughly 28 times more likely to die in a collision than occupants of other vehicles. The primary cause for 59 percent of motorcycle collisions were attributed to three factors: unsafe speed, improper turning, and driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Aside from traditional motorcycles, there are similar vehicles that face the same dangers, require similar documentation, and follow similar rules on the roads. Below are definitions and requirements for motorcycles and similar vehicles:

Motorcycles: A motorcycle has an engine size that is greater than 150cc and no more than three wheels. It has to be registered and the driver must have a motorcycle license (M1). M1 license holders may operate any motorized bicycle, moped or motor scooter. With a Class M1, you can operate any two-wheeled motorcycle and any motorized vehicle. With a Class M2, you can only operate any motorized bicycle or moped or any bicycle with an attached motor. Three-wheeled motorcycles or a motorcycle with a sidecar require only a Class C driver license.

Completion of a motorcycle safety course is required for those applying for an M1 or M2 license if they are under the age of 21. However, this course contains valuable information that is useful to drivers of all ages when operating a two or three-wheeled vehicle. The course explains optimal positioning, braking strategies and reviews common situations and ways to maneuver safely in difficult situations. Some insurance companies also offer discounts to those who have completed a motorcycle safety course.

Motor-driven cycle: A motor-driven cycle has 149cc or less engine size and is not allowed on the freeways or expressways, such as a dirt bike. It must be registered and the driver must have a motorcycle license (M1).

Motorized bicycle or moped: A motorized bicycle or moped is defined as: 1] A two or three-wheeled device, capable of no more than 30 mph; 2] Equipped with pedals for human propulsion; 3] Equipped with a motor producing less than two gross brake horsepower and an automatic transmission.

Those operating a moped or motorized bicycle must have a motorcycle license (M1 or M2). A motorized bicycle is issued special license plates and identification cards, which requires a one-time \$18 fee that does not need to be renewed.

If you operate a motorized bicycle you: 1] Must be 16 years of age or older; 2] Must wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet; 3] Are exempt from the motor vehicle financial responsibility, driver license, and moped plate requirements

Motorized Scooter: A motorized scooter is a two-wheeled device that has handlebars, a floorboard designed to be stood upon when riding, and is powered by a motor. It does not require registration and the scooter does not need to be insured. Even though insurance is not required, owners of these scooters should contact their insurance company to determine if coverage is available.

If you operate a motorized scooter you: 1] Must be at least 16 years old; 2] Possess a valid driver license or instruction permit; 3] Must wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet that meets the standards of either the American Society for Testing and Materials or the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.

A motorized scooter can be driven on a bicycle path, trail or bikeway, but not on a sidewalk. On the streets, it must be operated in the bicycle lane, if there is one. On roads without bicycle lanes, motorized scooters may operate where the speed limit is 25 mph or less, and shall be ridden as close to the right hand curb as possible, except to pass or turn left.

When driving a motorcycle or a similar vehicle, be sure to wear the right clothing and protective gear. Helmets for all the above vehicles, excluding motorized scooters, must meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 218 and display a "DOT" emblem. If face shield is worn, it must be shatterproof. Other recommended protective gear include eye protection, high-top boots, gloves, brightly colored clothing covering arms and legs and reflectorized material if driving after dark.

Make sure you are visible, that you communicate your intentions to other drivers, and keep adequate space for passing and lane sharing. Knowing how to control your speed and balance and always being prepared to act is key to being a safe motorist. Similarly, drivers of traditional vehicles must do their part to keep an eye out for motorcyclists and maintain safe speeds and maneuvering tactics. Every vehicle has its place on the road, but motorcycles and similar vehicles face additional dangers because they are harder to see and require exceptional handling ability. Do your part to keep the roadways safe!

For more information on owning and driving a motorcycle, getting a motorcycle license and training classes, and additional motorcycle requirements visit www.DMV.ca.gov.

Pac/Lobbyist Report

by Dave Hastings, Treasurer

I'm going in a slightly different direction for this month's PAC report. Your ABATE of California Board of Directors conducted a "virtual" on-line Board of Directors meeting on April 15 and our Lobbyist, Jim Lombardo, and many of our Local Presidents signed in and participated in this meeting. This technology in itself is not new, but this is the first time ABATE of California has used this format, and the BOD agrees that this format will be very beneficial to everyone (including our Presidents) when you factor in the travel time and monetary savings this program allows.

What does this have to do with our PAC? This same format will allow ABATE of California to hold PAC and Presidents' meetings also. When this system is activated, we have unlimited access during the 30 day billing period. These meetings can be set up and scheduled in advance for routine ABATE business or called for and activated immediately by a simple e-mail to the participants if urgency is required. This gives all our PAC Members and ABATE Officers the opportunity to participate from the comfort of their home/office computer whenever an "official" meeting is deemed necessary. Old technology to our ABATE computer geeks, but new, exciting, and very useful to people like me that still wear an analog wrist watch!

Hopefully you have been checking out your upcoming election choices and have volunteered



to help in whatever way you can your favorite candidates. Remember how important the primary election is this year and make sure you vote! That single item is probably the most important donation you can give. Candidates win or lose by one vote so make sure yours is counted even if it is the proverbial "last act of defiance" against a gerrymandered system. At least the politicians know we are watching and we are aware of what they are up to!

While we are talking politics, please keep your donations coming in to ALL of our dedicated ABATE fund accounts, support your Local ABATE events, ride often and always within your personal comfort zone, and "Thank You" for your support!

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

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Sporty's Rides

by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan

Hi all! As I sit here and begin to write this month's Sporty's Ride column my mind is remembering a bunch of old Neil Young songs. Some of you might remember that a lot of the lyrics had lines in it that talked about rain and stormy weather. Well as I write my column it's raining really hard outside. So we will begin this month's column...

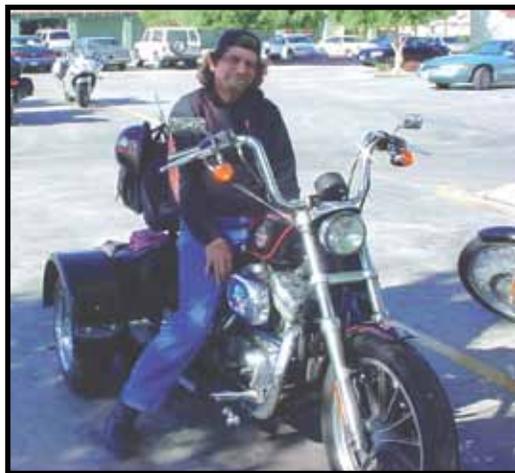
April 1 I had a dilemma to decide if I would be going to the pre-Laughlin ride sponsored by the MMA and hosted by the Sundowners MC or the Viet Nam Vets/Legacy Vets 21st Annual Vung Tau run in Camarillo. I had invited the Local to the MMA run, but I chose the Vets' run in Camarillo as I have done this run many times before.

It was really windy in San Fernando as I prepared to go to the run. You may remember I don't do well in windy conditions. Never the less off I went. I arrived and was one of the first folks there. Weather was a little chilly, but not as windy as in San Fernando.

It was the usual fair vendors and Tri-tip sandwiches, which I ate even though I should not have red meat. Sometimes you break the doctor's rules just so you can eat. Plus I have been drinking maybe a tad bit more coffee than I should. Could also be the reason I have gained a few more pounds than I need. But I can fix that problem as well. What was nice was I found some really nice "over the glasses" sunglasses that were only \$10 - sweet -

and an old second cav pin that I have been looking for a long time.

I ran into folks I have not seen in ages. Saw Scott McCool and I want to thank him for taking over as President of Local 13 Ventura and keeping ABATE alive in the area. Good job!



Thank you to F Troop Viet Nam Vets/Legacy Vets for a great run that helps support vets.

Ok in the early afternoon the wind picked up and the ride home was, to say the least, windy, windy, windy. I stopped at Cycle Trends in Van Nuys and bought a pair of goggles and a fake helmet that were both on sale big time.

Not much in the way of bike adventures except the work grind on the bike.

Ok our next Board of Directors meeting on April 15 is something new - a virtual real-

ity meeting. That's a meeting on-line. So what is happening is that on April 15 at 12:45 pm we will turn on our computers and be hooked up to the meeting. Hopefully this will work out. Presidents and other officers will be allowed to be at the meeting, but there are only 100 spots allowed to hook up with the meeting. We have had several practice sessions and we think on Sunday we will be good to go. This is a non-visual meeting as the program does not allow visual for more than 25, so no picture, just sound.

I will request, as your Board member a very quick meeting summary to be put out to the rest of you guys. We're doing this in order to save on travel expenses. Our By-laws say four meetings a year and, if this works out, we will have two face to face and two virtual reality meetings.

I hope that a lot of you have planned on doing the Southern Regional Rally on Mother's Day weekend. ABATE can use your support and you'll see old friends and have fun!

That is it for now. I hope to have more to report ride-wise next time. Meanwhile support your ABATE Local. Later, Sporty.

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COAST TO COAST BIKER NEWS

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish

MICHIGAN RIDERS WIN HELMET FREEDOM:

Proving that persistence pays off, motorcyclists in Michigan shook off the sting of two previous gubernatorial vetoes of their helmet law repeal bills over the past few years and bounced back to win freedom of choice with the stroke of their new governor's pen.

"Michigan gained freedom today when Governor Rick Snyder signed the bill (SB 291) into law (Public Act #98) that repeals the 37-year old mandatory helmet law," announced Angel Richardson, Legislative Director for the Michigan Confederation of Clubs and a member of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) Board of Directors. "The repeal is effective immediately!," she continued. "Thanks to everyone who made a phone call, sent a letter or a postcard, or sent an e-mail.....your efforts made a difference."

The Michigan legislature overwhelmingly approved the measure with broad bipartisan support, and with Gov. Snyder's signature on April 12 Michigan now joins 30 other states in amending their mandatory helmet law in favor of adult choice. "The new law modernizes Michigan's outdated mandatory helmet law, which was a hold-over from bygone days leaving Michigan in the minority as one of only 20 states left enforcing an empty federal mandate," said Vince Consiglio, President of ABATE of Michigan.

The proposal to update Michigan's mandatory helmet law was introduced in the Senate by Senator Phil Pavlov (R) St. Clair. "Every year, millions of dollars leave our state because of Michigan's outdated mandatory helmet law," Pavlov said. "This bipartisan plan will keep our dollars here, attract even more tourists to Michigan and help our state in these tough economic times."

Allowing motorcyclists to ride helmet-free could also generate more than \$1 billion in direct and indirect revenue, according to a recent Michigan Consultants study.

The new law gives Michigan the strictest requirements for riding helmet-free of any state that has modified mandatory helmet laws for adult choice. To ride helmet-free in Michigan, motorcyclists must: 1] Be at least 21 years old. 2] Have at least two years of riding experience or undergo special safety training. 3] Carry at least \$20,000 in additional medical insurance.

"On behalf of the NCOM Board of Directors we congratulate the State of Michigan on a job well done and to all who supported them," said James D. "Doc" Reichenbach II, Chairman of the NCOM Board.

NEW VIRGINIA LAW ALLOWS MOTORCYCLISTS TO RIDE SIDE-BY-SIDE:

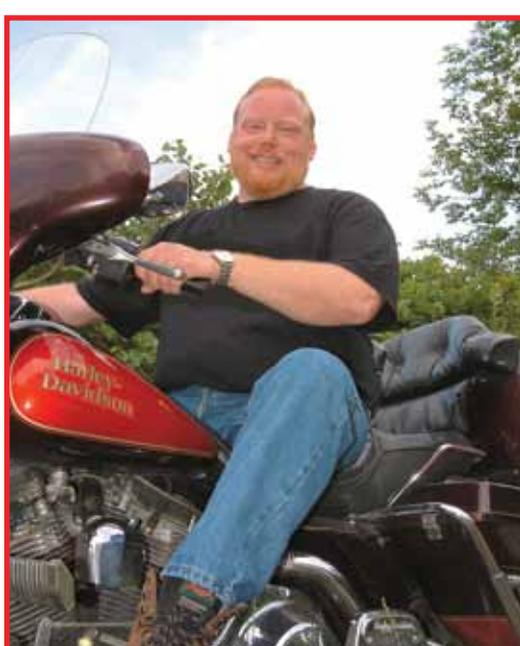
Motorcyclists are eager to legally cruise side-

by-side now that Governor Bob McDonnell has signed legislation permitting them to ride two abreast in a single driving lane in Virginia.

House Bill 97, sponsored by Delegate Tony Wilt (R-Harrisonburg), passed overwhelmingly 87-10 in the House and 38-2 in the Senate, and will now allow two-wheeled motorcycles to drive alongside each other in one lane. State law currently prohibits motorcyclists from riding next to one another, and violators can be charged with reckless driving.

"The bill allows riders to use their own judgment in determining when it is appropriate to ride beside someone, but does not require them to do so," said Del. Wilt. "One goal is to eliminate the harsh punishment placed on riders for doing something as innocent as pulling aside another rider while stopped or taking off together after being stopped."

Virginia will become the 49th state to accommodate two-abreast riding when the new law takes effect July 1. Vermont remains the only state to prohibit the practice.



KENTUCKY MOTORCYCLE LICENSING MEASURE PASSES:

"HB 328 was signed into law by Governor Steve Beshear on April 11, 2012," announced Jay Huber, State President of the Kentucky Motorcycle Association in a legislative alert to KMA/KBA members. "In short this bill does two things: Stops the cycle of people riding around on a permit for years and years along with providing a way for 16 and 17 year olds to once again get a motorcycle license."

According to the bill's digest, the new law will "allow a person who has received an intermediate operator's license to apply for a motorcycle instruction permit; make a motorcycle instruction permit good for 1 year, with the ability to renew the permit 1 time, allow a person whose motor-

cycle instruction permit has expired apply for a motorcycle operator's license if the person can present proof of successful completion of a motorcycle safety education course."

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY ACT BECOMES LAW IN WISCONSIN:

Governor Scott Walker signed AB55 into law, reports ABATE of Wisconsin, which not only clarifies penalties for right-of-way violations but also establishes motorcycle awareness training in Drivers-Ed courses.

AB55 provides a technical correction for 2006 Wisconsin Act 466, moving the penalty provisions from the courts to an administrative function of the DMV. All right-of-way violators that cause serious injury or death on Wisconsin's roadways will be subject to up to a one thousand dollar fine and up to a nine month license suspension and must complete a DOT approved right-of-way awareness class before being reinstated. Also, AB55 adds a mandatory minimum of thirty minutes of motorcycle awareness training in all drivers' education classrooms throughout the state.

"It is ABATE of Wisconsin's hope that the education and awareness portions of this law will help promote responsible driving on Wisconsin's roadways and make our roads safer for all roadway users," said the motorcyclists' rights organization in a prepared statement.

FLORIDA FUNDS RIDER SAFETY:

"This morning the Governor of the State of Florida signed into law the budget for the next fiscal year," reported ABATE of Florida State President James "Doc" Reichenbach, adding that "Included in the budget was \$250,000 to ABATE of Florida, Inc. for motorcycle safety."

In the past five years the Florida Legislature has put in the budget \$1,250,000 for motorcycle safety to be administered by ABATE. "Congratulations to the members of this great organization," Doc told the membership.

BIKERS ROLL WITH "COLORS" LAWSUIT:

Police claim that a group of bikers was pulled over for wearing improper helmets, but an attorney for the bikers claims they were stopped by state troopers because of their colors.

In a recently issued court opinion, U.S. District Judge Jerome Simandle in Camden, N.J. said two members of the Pagans Motorcycle Club and one Tribe M.C. member can proceed with their lawsuit stemming from a July 30, 2009, traffic stop in Burlington County, including malicious prosecution. During the stop, New Jersey state troopers ordered riders of six motorcycles to remove their "colors," the members' patched jackets, but the bikers refused -- leading to a federal lawsuit alleging actions by the troopers violated their constitutional rights.

Continued on Next Page

Continued from Page 12

“The court has basically said, ‘Yes you have a right to wear a patch, these logos,’ “ said Norristown attorney Boyd Spencer, who represents the Eastern PA Confederation of Clubs.

The bikers were ticketed for not having approved helmets, and were told to remove their colors if they wanted to leave. The whole traffic stop, which lasted more than an hour, was captured by mounted cameras in the police cruisers.

“Now you’re all going to take your jackets off, because on this highway, these are the only colors,” one of the state troopers told the group after nearly 50 minutes had passed, referring to State Police blue and gold uniforms.

None of the bikers removed his colors, and at a later municipal court hearing, the helmets were found to be legal and a prosecutor dismissed the charges.

“We’re looking ... for the court to rule the obvious: These people have a right to wear their colors,” said Spencer, who is the Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (AIM) attorney for Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and serves as legal counsel for the local Confederations of Clubs. “This is a widespread practice of police officers harassing people with (club) patches on,” asserted Spencer, who contends his clients were stopped and detained by the troopers because of their colors. “It’s not an isolated incident.”

The state filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit but Simandle, in his ruling, said the plaintiffs “sufficiently alleged deprivations of a clearly established constitutional right.”

DATA SHOWS HIGHEST RISK FOR NEW MOTORCYCLISTS: Safety studies show the most dangerous time for motorcyclists is their first year riding, peaking in the first month. For

motorcycle riders, their first 30 days are about four times more risky than their entire second year. A study by the Highway Loss Data Institute shows 22% of nearly 57,000 collision claims from 2003 to 2007 occurred within 30 days of a new policy taking effect. The claim rate then dropped by one-third in the second month and by almost two-thirds after six months.

PREDICTING FUTURE CYCLES: The Motorcycle Industry Council has reported a 7.2% gain in first quarter motorcycle sales across 18 leading brands, and a staggering 50% increase in scooter sales – suggesting that the recent spike in gas prices is inspiring more Americans to take to two wheels.

The MIC also notes that total on-highway tire sales rose 27.5% for motorcycles and 48.6% for scooters, indicating that already-owned bikes are seeing usage.

Market prognostication is an iffy proposition at best, but the MIC is boldly offering their first ever estimate for future motorcycle sales, though it’s not an entirely rosy outlook. Regarding the remainder of 2012, MIC president Tim Buche says “Even with low interest rates making this a great time to buy for many people, overall economic uncertainty is leading us to predict we’ll have fewer sales in 2012.”

The MIC does offer a positive observation: “Spending on maintenance and repairs has been rising since April 2010, according to the business advisory, suggesting that the market for consumers taking care of bikes they’ve long owned, or improving used bikes they’ve recently purchased, could continue to improve.” The MIC also states that tire sales confirm that riders are putting more miles on their motorcycles, suggesting that while new bike sales might be weak, interest in the sport isn’t waning.

WEIRD NEWS: MOTORCYCLISTS CHARGED WITH TERRORISM FOR NOISY EXHAUST:

Prosecutors in violence-stricken northern Mexico have brought terrorism charges against two motorcyclists because their loud exhaust pipes backfired and caused a sound like gunshots that sent a crowd into a panicked stampede.

The two motorcyclists were leaving their workplace near the main square of the northern city of San Luis Potosi, where an Easter week festival was being held. The two got on their bikes and fired them up, and that is when the confusion began. Because the backfiring of the engines sounded like the popping of gunshots, hundreds of people stampeded out of the square seeking cover. But the streets were nearly blocked by vendor stalls, causing the crowd to pile up and resulting in some people getting trampled.

That, not the motorcycle engines, was the real problem, according to the state Human Rights Commission, which has launched an investigation into the arrests and noted that the two suspects had been beaten by police.

State law defines terrorism as acts that “produce alarm, terror or fear in the population ... to disturb the public peace or try to undermine government authority.” Officials say state criminal codes often lack lesser but more appropriate charges to handle situations involving acts that may be irresponsible but are hardly criminal.

It would all seem like a tempest in a teapot, if the two men weren’t facing possible sentences of five to 20 years in prison if convicted. While that seems like harsh punishment for a noisy exhaust, authorities said such irresponsible behavior is a real problem for states where drug-gang gun battles have terrorized residents in recent years.

QUOTABLE QUOTE: “The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.” ~ Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881), British statesman

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Motorcycle Safety?

by Steve Guderian, Safety Officer

"In order to make the right decisions, motorcycle riders need the right information"

Motorcycle safety, obviously a very important topic for all who ride, and this begs the question; what does motorcycle safety mean to you as a rider? The "you as a rider" in this question is personal; it means whoever may be reading this piece. Since it is my position that motorcycle rider safety starts with each individual rider using the roadway, it seems to me that motorcycle riders should have some idea of what motorcycle safety means to them.

Of course the easiest and most direct answer for most riders is that motorcycle safety means being able to ride a motorcycle without getting hurt. But, this leads to another question, how do motorcycle riders accomplish this? Furthermore, does rider safety depend on the type of motorcycle you are riding or the type of riding you do? Again, these questions are personal to all of the motorcycle riders who may be reading this, how do you accomplish being a safe rider?

I believe these are fair questions that we as riders need to have answers to. Furthermore, it seems to me that the best way to answer questions about motorcycle safety would be to find out what the definition of motorcycle safety is. Therefore, I asked some people, who are in a position to have some influence over us as riders, what the definition of motorcycle safety was. In essence I was told that we don't need a definition for motorcycle safety because it is going to depend on who is working on or looking at motorcycle safety.

I believe the answer I got from these people is completely unacceptable. I very much believe that we as riders need to have some type of framework, some definition that we can go by or refer to so that we can in fact be responsible for our safety when we ride our motorcycles on the roadway. If we don't have some type of guide, then motorcycle rider safety can pretty much mean anything to anybody and how will we as riders know what is best for us? So to that end I have come up with my first version of a definition for motorcycle rider safety.

Motorcycle Rider Safety: the primary goal of rider safety is the prevention of crashes with a secondary goal of injury prevention and survivability in the event of a crash. These goals are accomplished through a complex system of component areas working together such as research into rider actions and human factors, rider and roadway user education and awareness programs, prompt medical attention for riders when needed, and manufacture and roadway design changes for rider safety.



A point I want to make is this definition does not say "Motorcycle Safety" it says "Motorcycle Rider Safety." Dan Petterson at www.Smarter-usa.org brought to my attention a few months ago that we needed to personalize or humanize motorcycle safety. We need to let everybody know that motorcycles have riders and riders are people. A motorcycle is an object; a rider is a person, so we are really interested in motorcycle rider safety. I am in complete agreement with Dan, so my position is that any definition, or anything else for that matter, dealing with our safety does in fact need to reference motorcycle riders, not motorcycles. Just as a side note, we could also refer to "motorcyclist."

NOTE: Other than personalizing rider safety Dan and/or Smarter-USA may not agree with other things I say and write.

This definition also points out that there is a lot involved to keeping riders from getting hurt when they ride. This is something that all of us, all riders need to remember because it means there is a lot of information that we need to be aware of for our safety. One last thing, this definition applies to all riders no matter their style of motorcycle or type of riding.

PART 2: Of course it is important for all of us to have our own awareness of motorcycle rider safety. However, since this is a rider safety article I probably should cover some rider safety information. So consider the following four things:

1) No tip, rule, guide or advice is absolute, not even this one. There is always more than one way to accomplish any task. Another way to say this, no one way of handling things will ever work in every situation. The roadway is a dynamic environment. All of the cars, trucks, people and every other thing using the roadway around us is always moving and changing. Therefore, when we are riding we too have to change in response to what is happening and/or changing around us. I have had people argue about the best place to be in a lane to avoid a collision. Sorry, no one place or position in a lane is ever always the best place to be. If you as a rider have developed a lane position strategy that works best for you and allows you to ride in the safest manner that you think you can achieve, then don't change. Any habit that you have that lets you ride, safely keep it.

An example of this that involves me, I recently learned of some riding techniques that

have the potential to reduce my perception and reaction time to an emergency situation. However, I already have a well-developed habit for an emergency response that I practice every time I ride. Changing my current habit could end up causing me to have a delayed response. So, even though I have found something that has the potential to help me avoid a collision, I am going to stay with the habit I already have because I know that it works for me.

2) Look far enough ahead in order to form a plan to keep yourself safe, there is no magic time or distance to look ahead.

This was the topic of last month's piece, but I don't think that I can say enough about this. The roadway environment you are riding your motorcycle in at any given place and time is unique to you at that moment. So, only you can decide what the safest course of action for you at that moment may be. And, it goes back to #1 above; no rule for rider safety is absolute.

3) Your emergency riding skills have to be better than your comfort zone riding skills. Emergency situations require you to operate at your absolute best skill level and will require you to push or take full advantage of the handling characteristics of your motorcycle. Comfort zone riding lets you operate at a nice, easy skill level and you don't have to push your motorcycle to the edge of its capabilities. Obviously, practice on emergency braking so you can get the best of the motorcycle stopping power helps you understand what your emergency braking skill can be. Leaning the motorcycle over in a turn a little more than you are comfortable with can get you used to how far your motorcycle can actually lean. This prepares you just a bit more for an emergency situation that may come up involving leaning the motorcycle.

4) Have faith in yourself and your motorcycle. You know more about the road in front of you than you think you do, and your motorcycle can do more than you normally use. This follows #3 and kind of speaks for itself. To add a bit of clarity, if you didn't think you could ride a motorcycle, you really wouldn't be riding it on the roadway. And, a motorcycle is not car, but the roadway environment is the same for all vehicles. In other words, driving your car gives you experience that you can use when you ride your motorcycle.

As always any thoughts and information are always welcome, call or email, Galileo_g@sbcglobal.net, anytime. I will be at the 18th Annual Southern Regional Rally on May 11, 2012. I look forward to talking with and meeting everybody there.

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Junior ABATE Program

by Gill Mellen

Richard Lester, attorney and founder of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists, has always been in the forefront of biker rights. His support and representation covers across America with a talented team of biker friendly attorneys who aid all bikers with accident claims and representation with biker rights issues.

Lester's latest support is dedicated to the up-and-coming young riders of America with their biker riding education, in the form of the Junior ABATE Program. Juniors can join ABATE for a cost of only \$5.00 (must be sponsored by a current ABATE member). Junior ABATE members are eligible to become full ABATE members at age 18.

Richard Lester has agreed to support the Junior Members by carrying the cost for a full scholarship which allows the ABATE Junior Member to attend the (CMSP) California Motorcycle Safety Program's Rider Course for Beginning Motorcyclists cost free. This is a first class start to motorcycle riding education and to the enjoyment of bike riding.

We would like to state our appreciation in ABATE of the actions and support of Richard Lester. You may contact Gill Mellen at (949) 632-9787 or email gillabate@yahoo.com for more information on this scholarship program.

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Tech Tips by Craig Griswold

Carburetors (Part IV)

In the last few articles of this series we talked about tuning procedures for a few different carburetors. During the tuning process, the tuner must ascertain whether the air fuel mixture is appropriate for a given circuit, or overly rich/lean. There are several ways to determine this. Be advised that a lean condition can be caused by vacuum leaks as well, so you'll want to diagnose that symptom before proceeding.

In any given circuit (idle, intermediate, or main), a lean condition will usually result in popping or coughing through the carb. The ideal jetting will be just rich enough to eliminate this symptom. On the other hand, an overly rich tune will result in sluggish performance and in most cases, black smoke



from the exhaust. Most carburetor manufacturers provide guidelines for jetting. You can use this as a baseline. Remember that when changing jetting, go two sizes at a time. This will usually produce enough of a change that will be noticeable and will make tuning easier.

Using the above acceleration characteristics is probably the most common procedure. This can be combined with spark plug readings which will provide even more accuracy. Spark plug readings, also known as "plug chop" readings can be difficult and even dan-

gerous depending on road conditions and traffic density. If possible, use a closed course.

The procedure is fairly simple. Warm the bike to full operating temperature. Run it in the RPM band that you are tuning. For the intermediate circuit, cruising between 2000 and 3500 RPM with less than 50% throttle will be about right. After several minutes and when it's safe to do so, pull in the clutch, chop the throttle, and kill the motor. Coast to a safe location and pull the plugs. The condition will illustrate the state of tune for that circuit. Black sooty plugs indicate a rich condition, white and/or blistering appearances indicate too lean. A tan to rusty brown powdery deposit is indicative of ideal combustion. The same procedure can be used for the main. RPM should be above 3500 with greater than 50% throttle.

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If you're in doubt, a dyno tune is definitely the most accurate procedure of all. It's also pretty expensive, so it pays to shop around. Although labor rates may be comparable, how the hours are charged can vary greatly.

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

2012 ABATE Events

ABATE Of California, Inc web site
www.abate.org/Events

Kernville, Frandy Campground & an ABATE Business Member.

May 11, 12, & 13 18th Annual Southern Regional Rally (see flyer this issue for details)

October 13 – ABATE Local 17, Solano & Napa Counties – Fall Bingo Run

May 19 – ABATE Local 23, San Bernardino – Biker Rights Run (see flyer page 19)

Please email your ABATE Event information (in Microsoft word document) and Flyers (in a JPG file) to Bailing.wire@abate.org by the 15th of the month to be listed in the next issue. Your flyers MUST be in a jpg file to be used in the Bailing Wire. Your event flyer will also be on the ABATE web site on the Events Calendar.

June 2 – ABATE Local 44, High Desert – Annual Poker Run (see flyer page 20)

Don't forget to get your **Run insurance** – contact the ABATE State office for the information.

June 23 – ABATE Local 13, Ventura – Annual Callous Cheeks – Details TBA

July 21 – ABATE Quarterly meeting – Place TBA, (will be in Southern CA.)

July 22 – ABATE Local 2 (Simi Valley), Annual Sweaty Buns Run – Details TBA.

September 14, 15 & 16 – Annual Golden State Rendezvous (aka ABATE State Run),

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan, Membership Chairman

Hi all! Sporty, your Membership Chairman with the monthly pep talk on Membership. You, as ABATE Members, are the lifeline of this organization and without your support we don't exist.

With that said, we are having a Membership raffle funding drive. This is our annual raffle and the purchase of these tickets will give you a chance to help pay for the annual Membership drive completely.

The president of your Local has received the Local's allotment of tickets and, as your Membership Chairman, I encourage you to sell these tickets and return the stubs before the Board of Directors meeting in July.

These tickets make lovely Membership renewal trinkets. You might ask, "Sporty, how does that work?" Example: You get a renewal during the period of selling these tickets. Take 5 of those tickets and send the renewal some chances on winning the \$250 cash prize. The renewing Member will know that your Local cares about the renewing Member.



I do this in my Local. This is one way you can keep your Membership intact with the trinket program I have talked about. Ok, with that said there are other ways to do the trinket program as well and if you have suggestions on what you do to keep your Members, please, by all means, share it with the group. Send your suggestions on improving Membership to me, Sporty, at sportymilligan@yahoo.com.

Hopefully we can keep your Local vibrant and exciting to the Members in your Local and also keep them renewing each year.

Now remember there is strength and unity in numbers of Members. Regards, Sporty.

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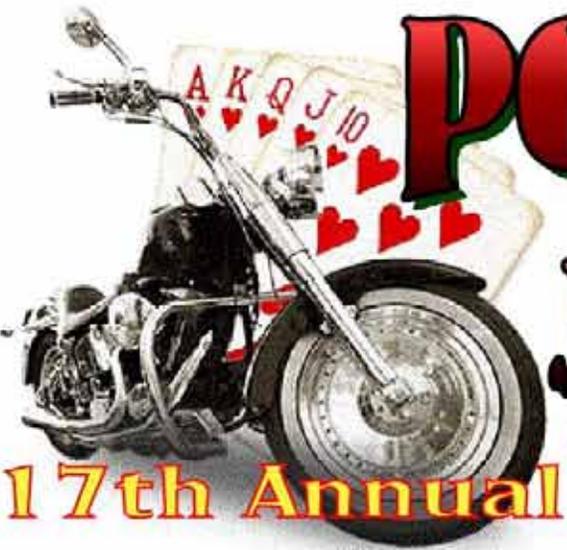
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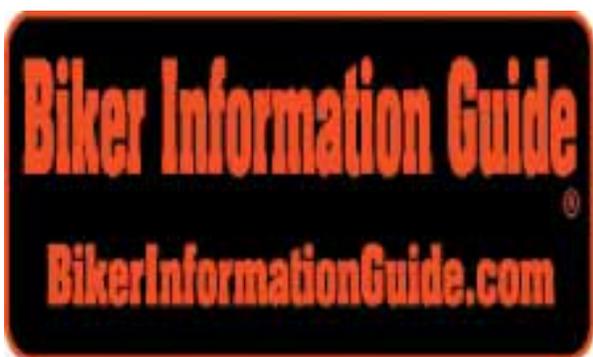
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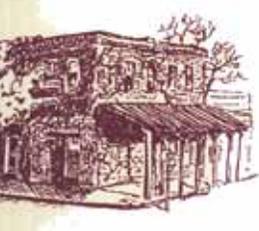
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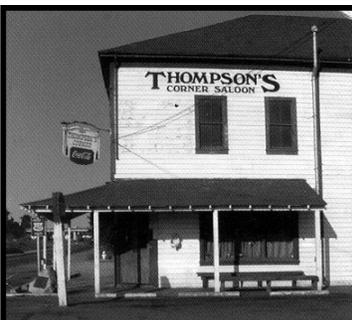
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Local #24's 2012 AMMO Run

by **Bruce Waldron**

Well after a week of the heaviest rain Fresno has received all winter and with the temperature on the real cool side Local 24 gathered for the 13th AMMO Run. Somehow it seemed fitting to start the 13th run on the day after Friday the 13th. What could go wrong?

Forty five bikes and over 55 people gathered at Brooks Ranch, the historic starting spot. Scott was the leader since Ed is still very sore from his recent maintenance work. With all the past rain and farm field work we kept more to the main roads heading to Coalinga for our

first stop at The Pit Stop. It was cool and somewhat windy, but got warmer as we neared Coalinga.

Since the Priest Valley area road conditions were unknown, we went South on Highway 33, then West on 41 to get to Cayucos. Of course very few got past the Pine Street Saloon in Paso Robles. We found that a bunch of "old time members" had come directly there to join up with the ride. I noticed Pine Street had a new fence and the building seemed to lean a bit more. However the money still rolled across the bar and into the register.

On to Cayucos and the 6:00 pm drawings for prizes at the Old Cayucos Saloon. As usual, about 6:30 pm the drawing started. There were many happy faces and some disappointment. If you don't buy the tickets, you don't win.

There was a \$100.00 cash prize, a \$300.00 cash prize and the \$450.00 50/50. On top of this there was a \$150.00 Gift Certificate from Mathews Harley-Davidson and another \$150.00 Gift Certificate from Harley-Davidson/Buell Fresno.

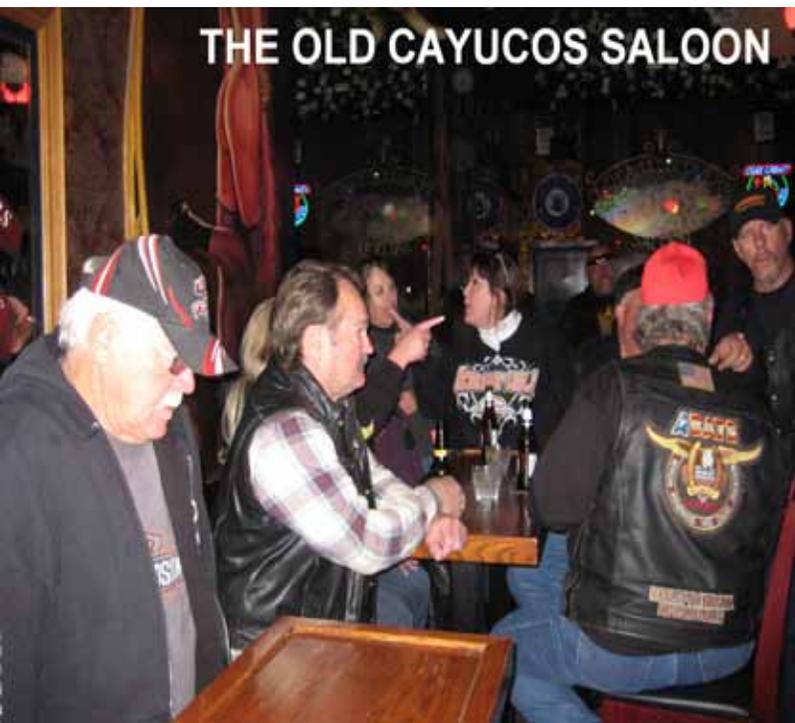
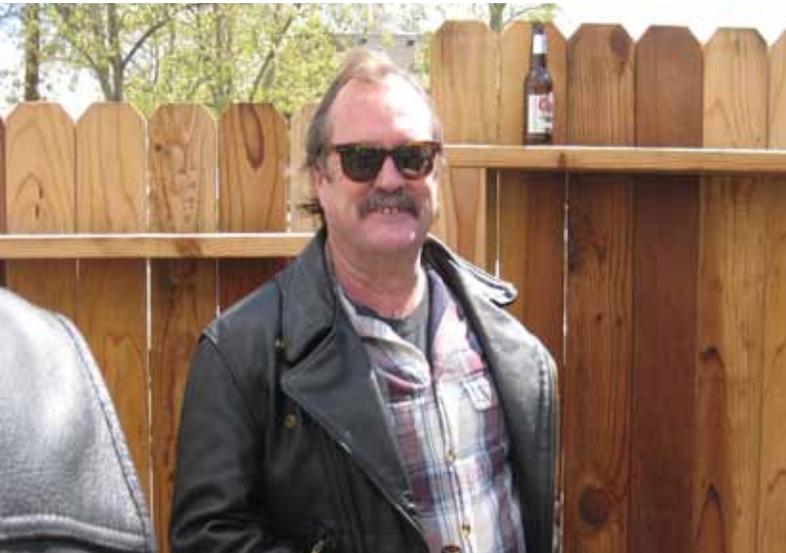
Another good ride and the coast weather was perfect.



Local #24's 2012 AMMO Run



Local #24's 2012 AMMO Run



Local #24's 2012 AMMO Run



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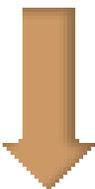
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Thousand Oaks 91360 158 N. Conejo School
805/496-0323 Thousand Oaks

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5031 Tripoli Ave American Legion #354
Los Alamitos CA 8071 Whitaker, Buena Park
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Cory Toroian 2nd Tues. 7:00 PM
949/496-2936 Call for Meeting Place

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760/807-7294 Oakvale Country Store
buse13@cox.net 14900 Oakvale
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Scott McCool 2nd Thurs. - 7:30 PM
VFW Post #3935
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805/657-2454 Pt. Hueneme CA 93041

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Houdini 1st Wed 7:30 PM
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Dennis Seace 1st Wed - 7:00 PM
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P O Box 4664 Round Table Pizza
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ABATE MEETINGS

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Gill Mellen 2nd Tues - 7:00 PM
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949/632-9787 Costa Mesa CA 92627

Antelope Valley - Local #21-Reg#13

Ron Sundquist 1st Thurs - 7:00 PM
37230 52nd St. East Moose Lodge
Palmdale 93552 44545 Dvision St
661/586-5555 Lancaster 93535
ron.sundquist@sbcglobal.net

South Bay - Local #22-Reg#11

Suzanne Palmiere 1st Thurs - 7:30 PM
310/245-0543 Chowder Barge
suzpalmiere@aol.com 611 N. Henry Ford
Wilmington 90744

San Bernardino - Local#23-Reg#9

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

Fresno - Local#24-Reg#6

Ed Rogers 1st Wed. 7:00 PM
559/264-2891 Cedar Lanes
3131 N. Cedar, Fresno

Sacramento - Local#25-Reg#2

Rebel Ruthi Wolfson 3rd Thurs-7:30 PM
916/320-6439 Denny's
Abate.ca.local25@gmail.com 3520 Auburn Blvd.
Sacramento 95821

Riverside - Local#27-Reg#9

Greg Covell 1st Tues - 7:00 PM
P.O. Box 7070 American Legion
Riverside CA 92513 2979 Dexter Dr,
951/522-3434 Riverside, CA 92513
www.abatelocal27.org

Morongo Basin - Local#29-Reg#10

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

North Valley - Local #31-Reg#2

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

Yuba City - Local #33-Reg#2

Steve Katen 3rd Thurs. - 7:PM
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5477 Feather River Blvd.
Olivehurst

Palm Springs - Local #36-Reg#10
Closed

Imperial Valley - Local#38-Reg#12

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760/352-7995 El Centro

Bakersfield - Local#40-Reg#6

Omar Macias 3rd Tues. 7:00 PM
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661/900-8690 5430 Olive Dr
Bakersfield 93308

High Desert - Local#44-Reg#13

George Butterfield
P.O. Box 3094
760/954-1227

Barstow - Local #47-Reg#13

Yermo Eddy 2nd Sat-9:00 AM Meet with L#44
PO Box 521 Eagles Fraternal Order
Yermo CA 92398 16195 Main St., Hesperia
760/254-3833 or 760/953-7353

Grass Valley - Local#52-Reg#2

Craig Griswold 3rd Wed - 6:30 PM
21183 State Hwy 20 Larry & Lena's Pizza & Grill
Penn Valley 15690 Johnson Place
530/263-8071 Hwy#49 Grass Valley

Ridgecrest - Local #58-Reg#13

Dave Cornelius 3rd Sat 10:00 AM
760/447-4342 Mickey's Pub
1661 W. Triangle Dr.
Ridgecrest

Colfax - Local #60-Reg#2

Larry Burch 2nd Thurs 7:00 PM
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