

# The Bailing Wire

ABATE of CA. Newsletter for Motorcyclists Volume XXXIII ISSUE I-II

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

**Jan-Feb 2014**

**NICK'S COMPUTER WORKS**

**ABATE Members**



**American**  
**Brotherhood**  
**Aimed**  
**Towards**  
**Education**



## **Lobbyist's Report**

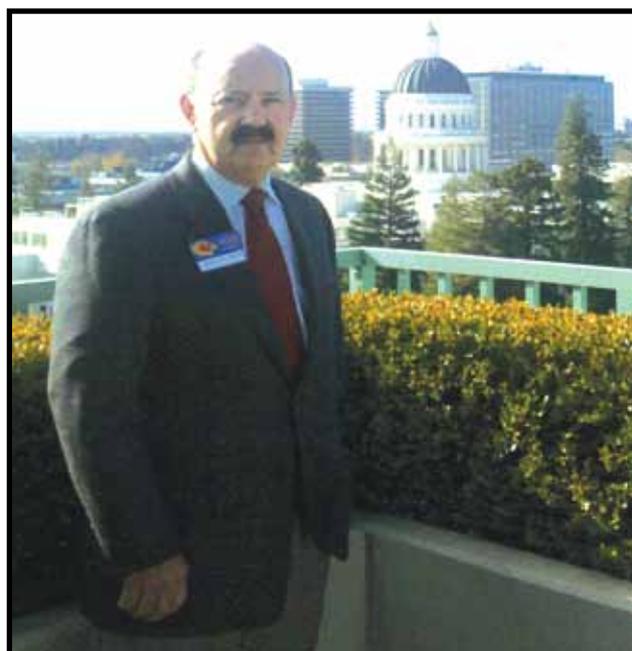
**by James Lombardo, Lobbyist**

The Legislature returned in January to face a Unification Rally of several thousand bikers that converged on the west steps of the Capitol. This was the largest Sacramento rally since the ones we held in January of 1993 and 1994! This was a great start to the New Year! A big shout-out to all the individuals that made this event a reality!

The beginning of the year also brought about the successful killing of SB 350. In January I met with Senator Beall's senior staff and they agreed to have the Senate Transportation Committee refer SB 350 from the Transportation Committee to the Senate Rules Committee and have it held in Committee – this process officially kills SB 350 for this year!

However, it's important to be aware that any Senator or Assemblyman may introduce a NEW bill that could ban lane-sharing. Of course I'm diligently on high alert, looking for any such bill that might be introduced. In addition to the lane-sharing issue, I'm monitoring the process and looking for any new legislation that might be introduced that requires motorcyclists to wear bright/reflective clothing while riding.

January's Legislative/PAC meeting was well attended and I thank you for your participation and continued interest with the legislative process. As discussed at the PAC meeting, for several years we've attempted to pass a helmet repeal bill. On a few occasions we've come close, only to have our efforts foiled in the end. This year, rather than attempt to once again introduce a helmet repeal bill, a strategy was presented that would defer this action for one year. Instead, we will dedicate concerted efforts to get motorcycle-friendly legislators elected this year; thereby enabling us to have the necessary votes next year to pass our repeal bill.



Please don't be confused – we are NOT retreating – we're simply taking time to regroup and re-evaluate our efforts and plan specific actions and steps that will allow us to accomplish our goal. We firmly believe that this approach will not only allow us to put in place the needed legislative support required to pass a helmet repeal bill, but it will also assist our fellow bikers as they move forward with an anti-profiling bill.

Successfully electing freedom-loving legislators is a vital and strategic step that will only prove beneficial as we continue to fight our ongoing battle to retain AND reclaim our rights as American bikers!

In the meantime, we'll be certain to keep you apprised of both our progress as well as making you aware of political campaigns that are in need of volunteer assistance.

Thank you for your continued financial support – both from individuals and Locals. Your contributions to the Lobbyist Fund help to keep your lobbyist in Sacramento!

## **Table of Contents**

Page 2	Exec Directors Report
Page 3	Membership Report
Page 4	Unification Rally
Page 5	BOD Mtng recap & Pics
Page 6-7	Local Reports
Page 8	Safety Report & Flyer
Page 9	Biker Newsbytes
Page 10	DMV & Run Flyer
Page 11	Sporty's Rides
Page 12	FYAO Flyer
Page 13	Tech Tips
Page 14	Junior ABATE & Motorcycle Training
Page 15	L#1 Toy Run Pictures
Page 16	Off Road App
Page 17	L#19 Toy Run Pictures
Page 19	VIP's, Donations & Jr. ABATE App.
Page 20	Thanks to our Business Members
Page 21	Merchandise
Page 23	Business Members
Page 24	ABATE Meetings

## 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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## Executive Director's Report

by Dave Hastings, Executive Director

First off a big "Thank You" to our departing 2013 Officers for your hard work and dedication to ABATE of California. You guys and gals have done a great job and did your best to guide ABATE through a very difficult and stressful economic situation that affected both our members and our California communities. Through it all you managed to keep ABATE active, helped us achieve the goals that were set, and gave us the incentive to look forward to the slow improvements that are just now beginning to open up for our members and their families. We, the 2014 elected Officers, will do our best to take advantage of the opportunities you have established for us and continue the steady growth and prosperity that your group worked so hard to ensure. We have some new ideas to renew excitement in ABATE of California and will be introducing them in 2014. Hard times may not be over yet for our members and their families, but we will do our best to make sure ABATE is a respected and viable entity for our California riders.

As your 2014 Executive Director I would like to reach out to every ABATE member, both past and present, and offer a personal invitation for you to return to your ABATE family again. I've heard all of the reasons for not being here such as, "I sold my bike", "I moved from the area", "My work schedule conflicts with the meeting", "I'm too old to ride anymore", or even worse, "I didn't feel welcome"! Whatever the reason, I'm going to ask you to put it aside for one day, and give us a chance to welcome you back.

ABATE has always tried to meet the social aspects of our motorcycle lives and I have made many friendships that are just as important to me as the ABATE organizational goals. Yes ABATE is politically active, yes we fight for motorcycle rights and freedoms, yes we are involved with our communities and charities. All of these endeavors require personal time and work on my part and the one thing that makes it all worth it is the friendships I have established in my 20 plus years of ABATE involvement. The opportunity to see my friends is what makes me get up early on a cold Saturday morning to go to a meeting, makes a "street clean up" day fun, and keeps me returning to the same old meeting routine year after year. Some of you I see outside of ABATE and others I only



get to see at an ABATE function. Either way, you are the glue that holds my interest, that keeps me enthused, makes the "work" part enjoyable, and makes me look forward to our next encounter, even if it entails an eight hour ride and more damn meetings.

Come home and see me, or that other friend you left behind, or never even had the chance to make. Whatever the reason, we want to see YOU again. I'm not asking you to commit to rejoining, I'm just asking you to get back in touch with a friend who still misses you. Stop in at our meetings and say hello, or if you can't do that, give me a call, my number is listed in this newsletter - we'll talk about that membership down the road. Right now, your ABATE just wants to see you home again - and soon!

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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 16.**

# ABATE OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

American Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education

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**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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### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Bruce Waldron & Gill Mellen

### COLUMNISTS

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

## DEADLINES

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

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Double Size Business Card W/Color	\$250.00
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Full color ad is 25% extra.

### BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

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Members may advertise in the Classified Section at no charge.

### PHOTOS

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

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

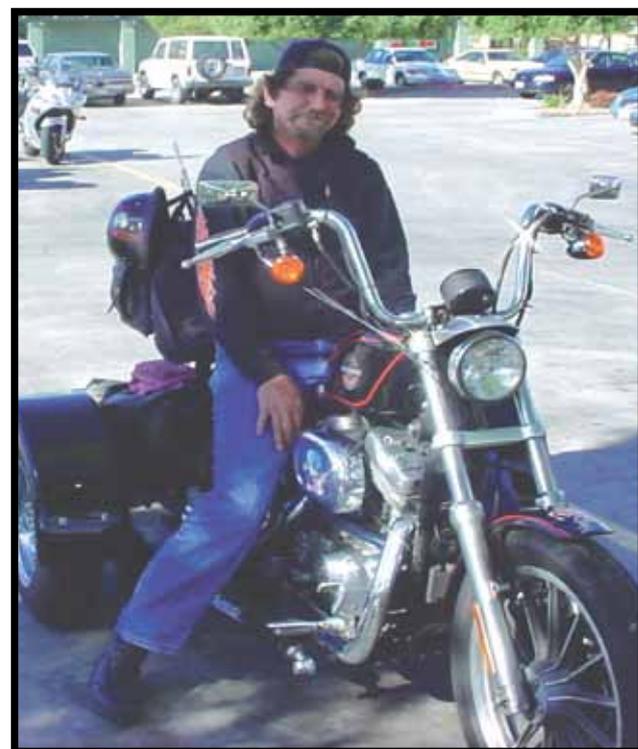
by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan,  
Membership Chairman

Hi all! Sporty here with the report on membership. As we move into the year 2014 it is my hope that we will improve our membership numbers. At our first 2014 Board of Directors meeting on January 12 we announced the winners of the just concluded 2013 Membership Drive. \$300 1st Place went to Glenn Phillips of Local 17, \$200 2nd Place went to Gill Mellen of Local 20, and \$100 3rd Place went to Chuck Pedersen of Local 03. Congratulations! And THANK YOU to everyone who brought in a new member in 2013. Let's keep up the good work for 2014!

What can we do to improve memberships? One thing I suggest is to keep your current members in your Local. Something I have done in Local 1 is made a special list of Local 1 members that have email. This is a list that I use to send out important information such as monthly meeting reminders. If you have members that can not attend your meetings then you have to keep them informed with Local email blasts. It is up to the Local presidents to keep the members informed of ABATE happenings. I have been doing this for some time now and it seems to be working as Local 1 members have continued to send me their renewals. I might lose one or two, but I am pretty consistent in my total membership.

Ok but what about members that don't have email? Then snail mail is important and post card reminders for the meetings. I do my best to keep all the members informed either by snail mail or email. Remember folks if this were a perfect world we would have perfect attendance at all our meetings. But it is not perfect so we have to do what we can to keep our members in the Local fold.

Getting new members is a tough sale but never the less PLEASE TRY YOUR BEST. You can try to obtain new members by setting up ABATE tables at bike nights, other folk's events and places where bikers congregate like El-



kins Ranch and the Rock Store, just to name a couple. I am sure there are places in your area where you can set up an ABATE booth/table for an afternoon. Just do it!

Now you have heard from me and now I want to hear from you. What keeps the members in your Local sticking around for the long haul? I need your help if we are going to be successful, so if your Local has a brilliant idea that is working to keep your membership, then I need to hear about it. Email me at [sportymilligan@yahoo.com](mailto:sportymilligan@yahoo.com).

The 2014 Membership Drive started on January 1 and will run all the way to December 31. Again start getting ABATE new members for the 2104 Membership Drive. Regards, Sporty Milligan.

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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.

# Unification Rally Thank You! Pics by Gill Mellen

from Dave Hastings, Executive Director of ABATE of California

electd representatives and the people of California that we are a cohesive, determined, force to be acknowledged, and we are not going to give up the inalienable individual and group rights that were granted to us by the Constitution of the United States of America! So again, I want to thank you all for doing a superb job and putting together one of the largest, peaceful, and law abiding motorcycle right's rally that California has seen in the last 20 years!

their individual names to the Declaration of Independence, and then penned our Constitution and Bill of Rights that forever established the God given rights and freedoms for every individual in this country!

So, even though I don't have your individual names listed here, you know who you are, and I and ABATE of California want to say "Thanks" for allowing us to help and participate in this important and hugely successful event. Let us be the first of many, to offer our help in keeping the positive, pent-up, energy and momentum you have established and released throughout Sacramento and our motorcycle world going strong in 2014 and beyond. Unification means banding together for a common purpose and you did exactly what you set out to do.

I would like to say "Thanks" by name to the hard working people who put on this event but I don't know who to list. That is probably the best and most important compliment I can give the organizers, workers, clubs, and independent riders that participated. No one wants to take credit for their help. Every time I get a name that or group refers me to someone else who they feel is more deserving. This truly was a group effort of the Confederation of Clubs and their members, independent organizations and riding groups, and the individual motorcycle enthusiasts from throughout California and other states too.

Everyone pitched in financially, ponied up and showed Sacramento and the people of California exactly what the goal of this rally was. We presented a unified, determined, and dedicated motorcycle presence that reasserted our claim to the guaranteed freedoms that the founders of this great nation put in place when they signed



Dave Connors 760/975-5953



# Recap of January 2014 Board of Directors Meeting

by Dave Hastings

Pics by Gill Mellen

This is my "recap" of our January Board of Directors meeting in Sacramento. The "Official" Board of Directors meeting minutes will be completed by our Board of Directors secretary and made available before the next Board of Directors meeting to be held in Fresno.

All of the 2014 Board Members were present along with representatives from Locals #00, 1, 11, 15, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 33, 44, and 47. If your Local is not listed, I would like to see you at our next Board of Directors meeting. Every Local should strive to have at least one person from their Local there to represent them and bring back information for their members. Remember some of our information is confidential and not released to the public. This is one reason it's so important to have a representative at every meeting. Make plans now to attend the May Board of Directors meeting!

Tom Lubbers was nominated and approved as our 2014 Board Chairman. Nick Benson will be our 2014 Secretary and Norm Newiger will be our 2014 Safety Officer. I will fulfill the duties of Executive Director for 2014 and the remaining Officer positions will be filled by our returning 2013 office holders. This should facilitate a smooth transition into 2014. I would like to thank everyone who ran for office and volunteered their time and enthusiasm to our organization. We are still looking for a candidate for our vacant Public Relations and Insurance Officer positions. If you have an interest or know someone who would be

an asset to our organization, please contact me or Carol Cromwell at the State Office and we will provide you with any additional information you may need for the positions.

Sadly, we again lost a member between Board of Directors meetings and needed a "moment of silence" for Jim Hilton of Local 27. Every ABATE member statewide sends our condolences to Jim's family and friends.

We received current updates from our State office holders and I will briefly review some of them. One of the highlights of the reports was our new Bailing Wire format. The Board of Directors and the members in attendance were very pleased with the improvements that have been implemented by Milky, Tina, and Nick. One other report that merits attention is our Directors and Officers insurance for 2014. We are currently reviewing bids and proposals, but will have a decision soon and will notify all of our Local Officers with a 2014 cost estimation. This policy provides protection for every ABATE State and Local Officer and it's very important that you provide the needed information so we can include you on the policy.

The ABATE Off-Road Division is slowly gaining momentum and members and we encourage you to help out by letting your off-road friends know we can help protect their rights too!

Nick Benson has our E-Mail Flash system up and running so make sure we have an accurate e-mail address so you can receive important updates on any time sensitive items we may have. One of our current items is the By Law Revision voting ballot. Remember you must vote and post-

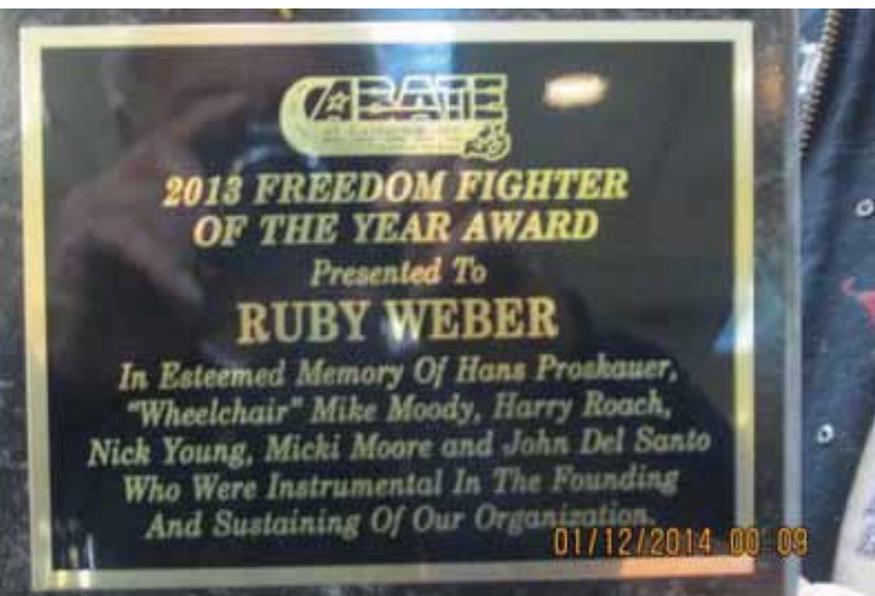
mark your ballot by January 27, 2014 for it to be counted!

The winners of our 2013 membership drive were announced and they were: 1st Place - Glenn Phillips, 2nd Place - Gill Mellen, and 3rd Place - Chuck Pedersen. Congratulations to all three for their hard work and dedication to our cause!

Speaking of congratulations; Lori Adams presented the 2013 Freedom Fighter Award to Ruby Weber. Ruby has spent the better part of her life helping ABATE and the motorcycle communities in general and is very deserving but also quietly embarrassed, of the accolades she receives from her riding friends. Her 2013 Freedom Fighter award from ABATE of California is long overdue and though a very significant and personal honor for her, it pales in comparison to her actual dedication and service to our motorcycle lifestyle. "Thank You" for being a jewel in our ABATE crown all these years Ruby!

The last item on our agenda was a recap by Greg "Coach" Coppes of the Unification Rally that took place on Saturday, January 11th at the State Capitol Building. He provided information about the event and was very helpful with addressing our member's questions and positive comments pertaining to the rally. This event was very successful and I will cover it in detail in another article in this issue.

In closing, our next scheduled Board of Directors meeting will be hosted by Local 24 in Fresno on May 3, 2014. Make sure your Local has someone in attendance and let's keep the positive energy we saw in Sacramento flowing in 2014!



# LOCAL NEWS

## Local #01 Los Angeles



Greetings all! Local 1 is alive and well. Prior to our meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>, Earl Blanchard, the man in charge of the Sunday breakfast at the Elk's Lodge #2098 where we meet sent me an email requesting that we either bring toys or nonperishable food to the meeting so they could make up Christmas baskets for the less fortunate folks in the Tujunga area where the Lodge is located. We did such a great job of providing toys and canned food that Earl is going to give us a couple of Breakfast tickets as raffle prizes for the Polar Bear run.

At our December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting we talked about getting raffle prizes for the Polar Bear run and for the attendees to try to make the Unification Rally in January as well as the Board of Directors meeting – both in Sacramento. I also encouraged those there to get new members. We heard from Glen C on memberships, Wildman on publicity, and Steve B gave us a run report. We have money in the treasury to help bank roll the Polar Bear run that will be going off the last Sunday in February. As usual we ended the meeting with the good breakfast from the Elks' personnel. They serve a fine breakfast for only \$7.50.

The January meeting again is going to be after the Bailing Wire deadline. So we will give you a recap. The Pledge of Allegiance starts the meeting. Pres Sporty recaps events from the Unification Rally and Board of Directors meeting. I will give the treasury report, Glen C the membership report, Wildman will give the publicity report and Steve B will do a run report.

Most of the discussion will center on the Polar Bear run and what we need to do to make it happen. I will provide Polar Bear flyers for the members to pass out, plus a final reminder to get a load of raffle prizes. We will conclude the meeting with a plea for you to attend the Polar Bear run on February 23<sup>rd</sup> - see the flyer in this issue of the Bailing Wire for details. Regards, Sporty Milligan, Local 1 President.

## Local #02 Simi Valley



Happy Great New Year Everyone! Our first meeting of the New Year started with a great BBQ by our volunteer cook's, Jim and Denny. Thanks for the hard work! We serve a great \$5.00 BBQ dinner of hamburgers or hot dogs with all the fixins'. We start serving at 6:45 pm. It's a great time to eat and hang out. Our meeting starts at 7:30 pm. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at VFW Post 10049 located at 4242 East Los Angeles Street in Simi Valley.

We would like to thank the VFW for being such great hosts, they have upgraded their facilities indoors and outdoors and everything looks great especially the BBQ area.

Our new Pres., Guy, started our meeting and after the Pledge of Allegiance he talked about many things throughout the meeting. Jane read the minutes which was pretty much about our end of year Christmas party. Pattibock gave us our treasurer's report and Norm talked about visiting ABATE's website. Scott, our merchandise coordinator, gave us a run down on our clothing inventory.

Guy is also the run coordinator and talked about our fun ride this weekend and hooking up for the Local 1 Polar Bear run in February.

Guy also talked about getting our Sweaty Buns Run going, it's going to take a lot of effort and we would like to see our members get involved as this is our highlight of the year and it's also a great way to meet new bikers and old

friends as well.

For our first meeting it was great, and time flew so fast that I was surprised when it ended! It was really good to see everyone again, it seemed to be a long time since our last meeting even though it wasn't, and it just shows what good camaraderie we have here!

For all that couldn't attend, we missed you and hope to see you at the next meeting. We have exciting things happening and hope you all don't miss out.

We are blessed to have such great winter weather right now. Tonight's weather was absolutely awesome, perfect for a night ride! Always ride safer than the last time. Always check your tire pressure and tire tread because someday we might get rain! PTL norm

## Local #08 Orange County

We had our January meeting last night. The turnout was small, but everyone joined in the discussions. Steve is new to Local 8. Welcome Steve! We discussed upcoming runs, possible events for Local 8, the Mountain View Run and the Christmas party at our last meeting. Nancy McKee's name was drawn to win the \$41 from our membership drawing can, but she was not present to claim the prize, so the money carries over to our next meeting.

As I have mentioned before I got a helmet ticket in early fall of 2012. The city of Orange ignored my Informal Discovery Request and the Officer lied in court. The ticket was dismissed, but only casually based on the facts based on law. I filed complaints with the Orange City Attorney and the Orange PD. The City Attorney basically ignored me. This is all old news. But a couple weeks ago the Orange PD interviewed me about my complaint. It is possible that the Officer might receive disciplinary action as a result of his actions. There are no available transcripts for the trial so proof of my complaint is difficult.

I found out that NHTSA has distributed a document that lists helmet characteristics that suggest whether or not a helmet might be compliant (a legal helmet or not). I haven't seen the document, so I don't know if it shows how a helmet becomes compliant in the first place (manufacturer certification). Nor do I know if the document notes the steps required to legally negate that manufacturer certification and cause the helmet to become noncompliant.

After the Federal court made its ruling in Easyriders v. Hannigan, the CHP was required to teach California police agencies how to properly enforce the helmet law. From what I have seen lately, the Orange PD has forgotten what it was taught. Some of their officers seem to be willing to write helmet tickets based on whether they think that the helmet should be legal or not, in spite of the law or the fact that the CHP suggests that they do not write tickets on "beanie" helmets. I offered to help the Orange PD understand how the helmet law can properly be enforced. They have not accepted my offer.

We ABATE members need to be vigilant about how motorcyclist related laws are being enforced. Tank Up & Tires Down, Larry

## Local #11 North San Diego County



Hope you all had a great holiday season and are having a Happy New Year. It looks like, as of this report, the Unification Rally at the capital was a success.

We had a few new guests at this meeting as well as two members from Local 6 San Diego. Dan Buse gave the presidents report on the local Democratic and Republican events happening around North County. He stressed the importance of getting ABATE out there at these events. Dan also ran down the local bike events coming up, especially the MMA meeting Thursdays at 6 pm. Tim Clark gave the treasurers report. A couple of members stepped up to donate to a few of the recurring expenses. Thanks!

Discussion was brought to the table again regarding a fund raiser. Regional Rep Dave Connors will look into getting a time slot at the American Legion Post in Escondido for a dinner fundraiser.

Reef from Local 6 won the opportunity drawing. Congratulations! See ya next month, Gary

Local #17 Solano & Napa Counties

Don't miss our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Freeze Your Ass Off run on March 1 – rain or shine! See our flyer in this issue of the Bailing Wire for more info. Hope to see you there! Glenn

## Local #20 Orange County



December's meeting had 36 members and 4 guests attending. Dinner was ham and turkey with all the fixings. We thank the ladies at the American Legion for their hard work cooking for us each month and a big thank you to the American Legion in Cypress for allowing us to hold our meetings there.

The results of our vote for the officers for Local 20 are: President/Treasurer Gill Mellen, Vice President Paul Yerrardi, PAC Spike, Membership administration Moonie, and Secretary Leenie. We are looking for someone to volunteer to be our PR person.

Tim Beckingham, Thea Sipma and Walter Coon all renewed their membership at the meeting. Thank you! The dollar draw was won by Joseph Valona for a total of \$108.00 and he gave \$30.00 back to ABATE. Thank you Joseph!

We had four new members at our January meeting, Philip Niehus, Jeannine Losee, Ryan Granneman and Lucus Reimers, - welcome! - one renewal, - thank you! - three guests and twenty six members at the meeting.

After the vote regarding the bylaws Spike told us about the Unification Rally at the Capitol. There were many designated parking spaces reserved for the Rally around the Capitol and filled to capacity! Spike said he appreciates all that attended and said it was great success.

The Presidents and PAC meetings were held at the La Quinta Inn following the Rally. There was an ABATE Board of Directors meeting the next day.

Richard Hrycyk's name was drawn for the dollar draw but he was not present so the \$33.00 rolls over to next month. We also had \$29.00 donated to the PAC fund by members –thank you! ~Leenie~

## Local #25 Sacramento



Lil' David called the meeting to order at 7:00 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. We had 12 members in attendance. Ron gave the merchandise report. We have minimal merchandise. Lil' David led a discussion on fund raising opportunities. He will investigate how much it will cost to have T-Shirts and caps made with the Local 25 logo.

Gary H gave the PAC Report. Ruby said the proponents of SB 350 are waiting to see how well CHP guidelines for lane sharing work out. It was mentioned that there has been some work on an anti-profiling bill, similar to what was enacted in Washington State last year. And once again the Federal government is pushing helmet laws.

Becky Smart asked about the motorcycle signs that are painted in the middle of the lane at some intersections. Ruby will investigate.

Continued on Next Page

# LOCAL NEWS

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05. David Smart

## Local #27 Riverside



Happy New Year all from ABATE Local 27! Our officers for 2014 are: President - Kenny Nuttall, Vice President - Frank Schafer, Secretary - Michele Curran, and Treasurer - Kellie Schafer.

On December 14th Local 27 held its annual Turkey drive for The Salvation Army - 18th annual to be exact! It was dubbed the TNT Run (Toys & Turkeys) this year. With the help of The Geezers M/C, Discount Hydroponics, Jam Sportswear, KCAL radio, Dalton Trucking, as well as other supporters too numerous to mention here, we presented the Salvation Army with 896 turkeys, several barrels of fixins' to go with them, several barrels of toys, and approximately 530 pairs of high end slippers!

The event was held at Discount Hydroponics in Riverside, who also generously donated the proceeds from their huge raffle to buy toys! The Salvation Army was there to receive the goods, and couldn't thank us enough!

Our next event will be BARE Necessities XII which will be held this year on May 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a charity type run that was so named because its main purpose is to collect under garments for the needy folks. That's right, 12 years ago a group of us came to the realization that needy, homeless folks could always get used pants, shirts and jackets, but used "undies"?! So we came up with this idea. It has been VERY successful in the past, and with all of your help, we look forward to another top notch event.

Please join us at our meetings, held the 1st Tuesday of the month at The American Legion Post 79, Fairmount Park in Riverside at 7 pm. Food, some of the finest tacos/burritos you'll ever taste, and drink are available.

Ride Safe, Kenny

## Local #38 Imperial Valley

At our meeting held on December 19 we elected the following officers for the next two years: President - Eddie Aranda, Vice President - Fred Bryant, Treasurer - Barbara McPheron, Secretary - Deborah Kensler and Ken Samples, Steve Mitosinka, and Bob Brown are the Board members.

We moved our monthly meeting to La Fonda Bar & Grill - 220 Wake Ave in El Centro; still the last Thursday of the month 7:00 pm.

Best wishes for the New Year, Deborah Kensler

## Local #52 Grass Valley



The Christmas party was a blast! We had a great turnout and there was certainly enough interest to do another one this year. If you have any ideas on how to make the next one better, give me a shout. Thanks to all who participated and a special thanks to Don Dickerman for setting things up and our good friends at the Willo for providing the room and the always excellent food and service.

This is an election year so get psyched up and PLEASE help in any way you can to volunteer for our candidates. This can be anything from making a few phone calls to putting up signs. Our list of endorsed candidates will be out sometime in March. I'll keep ya posted. Ride safe! Craig

# 2014 ABATE Events

www.abate.org Events Calendar

**February 15**, Saturday - ABATE Local #17 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament - Vacaville (see flyer in this issue for details).

**February 23**, Sunday - ABATE Local #01 - 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Bear Run - starts in Sun Valley (see flyer in this issue for details).

**March 1<sup>st</sup>**, Saturday - ABATE Local 17 - 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Freeze Your A\*\* Off Run - starts in Vacaville (see flyer in this issue for details).

**March 9<sup>th</sup>** - Sunday - Daylight Saving Time Begins (in California and a few other States)

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Saturday - ABATE Quarterly Meetings - Fresno; Meeting place and times will be forthcoming. Check the website.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>**, Sunday - ABATE Local #27 - 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Bare Necessities - (Contact Kenny Nuttall for more information, until we get a flyer.)

**May 9, 10 & 11** - Friday through Sunday - 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Regional Rally - Shady Oasis Kampground, Victorville. (See flyer in this issue for details). The Committee is looking for any pictures from the past 19 years of this event, and those who attended that we have lost touch with - please contact Run Chairman Paul Thomas prlitho@aol.com for details.

**September 12, 13 & 14 - Friday through Sunday - Annual Golden State Rendezvous aka ABATE State Run - Frandy Campground in Kernville;**

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.

# Pac/Lobbyist Report

by Dave Hastings, Treasurer



First off, a big "Thank You" to Local 21 for our first ABATE PAC donation of 2014! As we all know 2014 is an election year and we are now receiving requests on a daily basis for donations of our time and money from many of our friends seeking office.

ABATE of California has made a name for itself by being very active in supplying campaign help to our friends. Your "volunteer time" is an extremely valuable donation to a candidate and his or her staff and we urge you to step up and do so now.

The June primaries will be critical to office seekers this year because the two top vote recipients, regardless of their political party affiliation, will face each other in the upcoming November election. Theoretically, that could place two candidates from the same political party on the November ballot. So, regardless of a candidate's party affiliation, we may have some hotly contested June primary races. There is a Special Primary Election on March 25, 2014 for State Senate District 23.

Please offer your help to a candidate in your area and help ABATE place motorcycle friendly people in office. The more friends we have, the more influence we have when we are addressing legislative issues that affect our motorcycle lifestyle. Help us, and help yourself, by working a campaign this year.

Many of these races may be extremely close and your vote does make a difference. Research the issues presented and hold every candidate to their promises. Your vote may be the difference between victory and defeat for your candidate. Use that vote wisely and every California rider will benefit!

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

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# Motorcycle Safety Report

by Norm E. Newiger, Safety Officer

## Education is the remedy

It's just another beautiful day in So Cal. And it's January 13th as I'm writing this. My thoughts are T-shirt or Tank top? Ride or Drive? We Californians have the luxury of starting our New Year riding one second past the last year! And this doesn't mean that I'm bundling up like an Artic Explorer to take a putt, it means T-shirt or Tank top while I treat myself to a ride during this awesome winter weather!

As the New Year is here, there will be the re-set of statistics and the so called trend of graphical graphs of every type of visual projections of every type of statistic! Should it be alarming to us? Are we becoming more watchful of accidents and reacting with discerning thoughts? Because of this, are we are letting lawmakers/lobbyists make policies without our own thoughts? Is it because we let them and then complain, because when we do let them make laws they do it based on statistics, then they enact it on their own beliefs.

In general, we as a nation have become submissive "push-overs", for the New Year 2014 in America. There are now over 40,000 new laws all across our country, by the time you read these laws (with or without understanding them) there will be 40,000 more! And yes there are more new laws involving the motorcyclists all across America. You could spend hours researching new laws for every state and it will take you hours, I know! It's good to know the laws in the state you reside in and is equally important to know other state laws if you're planning a multi state ride. It's true other states have different laws and enforce them on all motorcyclists. Don't be overwhelmed! You have a great thing here in America, it's called ABATE!

Back to my statistical report of statistics. The statistics I'm providing are from 2012 because 2013 is not available at this time. I am using GHSA (Governors Highway Safety Association) for the information of the statistics I'm reporting to you. Based upon the preliminary data provided, GHSA projects that the number of motorcyclist traffic fatalities in the United States increased about 9 percent from 2011 to 2012. Number wise that's 4,612 to 5027. Is it safe to project another 9 percent for 2013? So it would be around 5,500 let's say, they say the population of motorcyclists in America is approximately around 7 million, now would you consider this good odds in your favor? Another statistic is motorcyclist fatalities are up in 34 states and down in 16 others, based on the first 9 months of the year. California, Nevada, Texas and Florida are some of the states that have



lower fatalities and have more motorcyclist population per capita. Go figure! Could this statistic be misleading? I think we have a more presence and educational factor due to the weather and great lobbying efforts by volunteers who seek our freedoms and rights, maybe ABATE is doing its part as far as getting the right education and presence due to the larger riding public, and it's not just the rider in general, it's all the vehicle drivers that share the same road.

The economy plays a big part in this because of the rising costs of fuel, higher income, and more production from ALL motorcycle manufacturers. As the motorcycle population grows so grows accidents from minor to major! The need to educate the population needs to grow as well. There is no indication that there is a certain group of people to be of higher risk, because of the constant fluctuation of riders from teens to the older generation. We as a people use education as the best preventive form of staying accident free. In all that we do the best thing we can do is to educate all people rather than making new laws that only impede on our freedom. It's really what America is about! If the federal or state government is so concerned with the fatality rate of motorcyclists then they should help fund organizations that promote education, because they do it for epidemic campaigns like smoking, drunk driving, guns, sexual diseases, drugs and many, many more issues. Is it because there's a larger minority crying foul? I know that

us motorcyclists are a small minority versus shall we say the automotive industry, and this includes large corporations that have equal issues with abuse/needs. It seems to me that they promote education for public awareness and promotion of their product indirectly.

Just watch the commercials on your television, they now show you their products with sidebar warnings as well as anti campaigns of abuse, they have exonerated themselves by saying buy our booze but be responsible, smoke our cigarettes but don't buy for minor's etc. etc. Is it a rude form of education? Some might say it's better than nothing while others may say we need more! And I say always! We need to be constantly educated. What it boils down to is this, ABATE needs corporate sponsors of the motorcycle industries of all phases, and a great wish would be funding from our government to educate all people. What is the impact of a biker handing out flyers versus radio or TV time?

Local governments try to control us because of many issues, noise level, handle bar height, modifications, what we wear, and many other issues, but they need to go the other direction and be concerned for our safety as well! They squawk about the high costs of the medical services for motorcycle accident victims and not about how did it happen, was it car versus motorcycle, why did it happen, no! They just talk about expenses and who pays for them, lest they forgot about car accidents etc. Its big dollars that's the issue, regular car accidents and DUI accidents combined are very staggering, and the fatalities are mind blowing, but we except this, why? Is it because we try to educate the general public nationally? You see it on TV all the time, the new anti texting campaign and DUI campaign as well. It's as if we react to it because of the horror that's happening everyday and it's a very sad thing to happen to anybody, hopefully through education it will get better. That's what we strive for anyway, isn't it?

So this is my safety report this month, this is how I'm starting. I've stepped back to reflect on what this New Year will bring and it will start with the dreaded statistics and the need to educate and constantly get educated! I humbly admit that I may know a lot but I need to know more, and listen when spoken to, and speak to those who will listen for I am no better than you!

May you all be inspired for a great 2014 and remember to spread the word about what ABATE is really about, it's not about a crusty old biker on a Harley, it's about ALL bikers who enjoy freedom on the ROAD!!! As I say to my buds, may yer camel spit nuttin' but sweet dates!

Ride safe, Ride smart....norm e. newiger  
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## NCOM Biker Newsbytes

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

**2014 PREDICTED TO BE A BREAKOUT YEAR FOR ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLES:** Navigant Research recently released a report titled "Electric Vehicles: 10 Predictions for 2014" in which it is estimated that 700,000 plug-in vehicles will be on the road around the world by the end of this year.

The given justifications? Rebounding economies, better products, battery prices that have come down providing competitive price points for e-motorcycles, a large potential clientele that has already had a positive electric experience via e-bicycles, e-scooters and e-mopeds.

**STUDY SHOWS WOMEN WHO RIDE ARE HAPPIER:** The old adage that you never see a motorcycle parked outside the psychiatrist's office may prove more insightful than previously considered, as a new study reveals that the key to happiness for the better half of U.S. is a bike key!

The Harley-Davidson Female Riders Survey, conducted by a leading global insights firm and commissioned by the Harley-Davidson Motor Company, shows that women who ride their own motorcycles are noticeably happier, sexier and more confident than women who don't ride. After interviewing 1,013 adult female riders and 1,016 adult female non-riders, the findings make it clear that riding a motorcycle greatly improves a woman's feelings of overall self-worth. More than twice as many always feel happy (37% of riders vs. 16% of non-riders). Nearly four times as many always feel sexy (27% of riders vs. 7% of non-riders). Nearly twice as many always feel confident (35% of riders vs. 18% of non-riders).

More than half (53%) of women who ride cite their motorcycle as a key source of happiness, according to the findings, and nearly three in four (74%) believe their lives have improved since they started riding.

When it comes to romance, the market research collected by Kelton Global also shows riding can improve relationships, as female motorcyclists are more content than non-riders with: Communication with their significant other (60% of riders vs. 38% of non-riders). Physical intimacy (51% of riders vs. 35% of non-riders).

More and more women are, in fact, riding. A 2012 study by the Motorcycle Industry Council found that women accounted for 12% of U.S. motorcyclists - up from 10.5% in 2009, and Milwaukee-based Harley-Davidson is selling more motorcycles to women than all their competitors combined, according to Claudia Garber, Director of Women's Outreach for Harley-Davidson.

**LIMIT ON LEARNER'S PERMITS IN PA:** Pennsylvanians who perpetually renew their motorcyclist permits to avoid having to take the state's motorcycle safety course will soon have their strategy derailed, as a new law will limit the number of times a motorcycle rider can reapply for a learner's permit to three times in a five-year period. Representative Seth Grove (R-Dover), author of House Bill 892, said some riders have been treating permits like actual licenses since current law allows them to reapply for a permit every year.

"Permits are temporary and their purpose is to get riders to obtain full driver's licenses," said Rep. Grove. "This legislation will enable riders to learn properly while pushing them to actually get their motorcycle licenses."

Under current law, a permit is valid for one year, but some motorcyclists apply for it year after year so they are never required to take the safety course that's required to receive the full four-year license, said Charles Umbenhauer, spokesman for ABATE of Pennsylvania, which supported the measure.



Umbenhauer told the York Dispatch that the legislation is a continuation of other safety measures for which the ABATE organization has pushed. Grove also introduced legislation that, when signed into law last year, required minors who hold motorcycle permits to successfully complete a free 15-hour riding course. HB 892 passed the House and Senate with little dissent and was signed into law by Governor Tom Corbett.

**HELMET USE IN MICHIGAN DROPS AFTER REPEAL, STILL HIGHER THAN NORM:** A state survey has found that nearly three-quarters of Michigan motorcyclists wear helmets, down from almost a hundred percent before the state ended mandatory universal helmet use in 2012, letting riders opt out under certain circumstances.

Data for the Wayne State University study was collected over the summer by use of video cameras randomly placed across the state, and shows that 73% of motorcyclists in Michigan wear helmets, down from 99.4% in 2006 when the last statewide observation survey was conducted.

Still, the authors note that Michigan's usage rate is 13% higher than the 60% of U.S. riders spotted wearing helmets in a nationwide survey in 2012. Also interesting to note, the current rate of riders wearing helmets is slightly lower than the 74.7% of helmeted riders involved in motorcycle crashes, according to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, meaning lidless riders have a somewhat better safety record.

The Michigan Department of Highway Safety said that helmet use varies widely among types of riders: 94.5% of people riding sports bikes wore helmets while only 33.3% of riders of choppers and custom bikes did. Female riders and those under 30 and over 60 also wear helmets more frequently.

**LOUD MOTORCYCLES TARGETED IN CHICAGO:** The city of Chicago is turning a deaf ear to loud motorcycles, so much so that that an alderman has proposed a ten-fold increase in fines for violators, those who change their mufflers to make them louder, according to DNAInfo Chicago.

The alderman is calling it a quality of life issue, and his proposal would increase the maximum fine for violations from \$100 to \$1,000.

**GEORGIA RIDER'S FAMILY QUESTIONS FATAL PURSUIT:** A young Georgia man was riding his motorcycle to the gym during rush hour when a Richmond County deputy may have broke department policy and gave chase over invalid plates, ending in a fatal crash.

The deputy was also on a motorcycle, a vehicle that - because of the risk involved - is "strongly discouraged" from initiating or participating in chases in Richmond and Columbia counties unless extenuating circumstances exist, policy states.

According to policy, deputies are justified in beginning a chase even when the only information available is that the suspect hasn't stopped as ordered, but after a chase has started, policy states that deputies must continuously evaluate the circumstances, such as the initial reason for the pursuit; traffic and weather conditions; time of day; direction of travel; the possible consequences; and most importantly, the safety of the public, the deputy and other law enforcement personnel.

"Pursuits may continue if there are reasonable grounds to believe the suspect presents a clear and immediate threat to the safety of others or if the suspect has committed or is attempting to commit a forcible felony," policy states.

The family is considering legal options, but a police spokesman stressed that "while it is the deputy who initiates the traffic stop, it is the violator who initiates the pursuit."

Nationally, the U.S. Department of Transportation estimates that 6,000 to 8,000 police chases end in crashes each year, with close to 5,000 people being injured and 500 being killed.

**ROAD CRASHES #1 KILLER OF AMERICANS ABROAD:** Road crashes have been named the leading cause of unnatural death among Americans who travel outside of the country, where they are unfamiliar with local driving rules and customs, and more U.S. citizens die in car or motorcycle accidents than from terrorist events according to a new study from Johns Hopkins University.

Using data from the U.S. State Department that represented 5,417 unnatural deaths between January 2003 and December 2009, the research team calculated the rates of death by dividing the number of unnatural deaths by the number of Americans who visited each country.

"We know that the distribution of road traffic fatalities varies dramatically across different parts of the world," Huseyin Naci, from the London School of Economics and Political Science, told Reuters news service. "While pedestrian deaths are more common in many parts of Africa, motorcycle and bicycle deaths occur more frequently in southeast Asia."

Out of all the countries deemed unsafe for travel, Thailand ranked first among the most traffic-related deaths with 16.5 deaths per one million visits. Vietnam came in second with 15 deaths per one million visits, Morocco third with 12 deaths per one million visits, and South Africa fourth with 11 deaths per one million visits. Researchers also reported that scooter and motorcycle deaths accounted for a large portion of traffic-related deaths.

**MANDATORY HI-VIS REFLECTIVE CLOTHING LEGISLATED:** Effective January 1, 2014, it is mandatory for all motorcyclists and passengers to wear reflective jackets or vests when riding in the Republic of Mauritius, an island country in the south west Indian Ocean off the coast of Africa.

Road Traffic Regulations passed last fall regarding "Use of High Visibility Clothing" states; "No person shall drive (or ride as a pillion rider on) a motorcycle or auto cycle, unless he wears high visibility clothing without any covering being worn over it that may cause obstruction to its visibility."

The regulations even dictate the type of polyester material, size of reflective strips and specific fluorescent colors (lime yellow, red or orange) "intended to provide conspicuity at all times."

Any person who contravenes these regulations shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 1,000 Mauritian Rupees (MUR).

**BAN ON MOTORBIKES IMPOSED IN SCOTTISH WOODLANDS:** Scottish Police say that members of the public visiting Balkello Woods have been left "frustrated and concerned" by the irresponsible and illegal use of motorcycles in the area, both on and off road.

Police Scotland and the Forestry Commission have joined forces in announcing a major crackdown on unauthorized motor vehicles in the woodlands; "Powers granted under Road Traffic and Anti-Social Behaviour legislation allow the police to seize vehicles - including motorcycles and mini-motos - where they have been driven without license or insurance, or, in this scenario, where they are used in an anti-social manner."

A force spokesman said: "Officers have long focused on reducing the anti-social and illegal use of motorcycles and make full use of Anti-Social and Road Traffic legislation to seize motorcycles that are being used illegally. Following enforcement, many of the vehicles seized are ultimately dismantled and crushed."

**DUCK AND COVER:** Like 'em or love 'em, the rift over the redneck Robertson clan from A&E Network's top-rated "Duck Dynasty" showed that America still has a backbone, and Americans can influence change if enough of us stand together. After the network suspended Phil Robertson over anti-gay comments, a grassroots tsunami of people from all walks of life lit up phone lines, email inboxes and fax machines as the surge of incoming communications quickly became so intense, employees of the cable giant reportedly complained that the company was overwhelmed and had all but ground to a halt.

The uproar continued through Christmas until Friday, December 27, when A&E announced it was lifting the suspension and the show will continue.

Millions of citizens - many who had never taken any kind of action before - had successfully sprang to the defense of a man and his right to speak freely, irrespective of PC. If the Duck Dynasty flap proves anything, it's that - when pushed too far - concerned Americans will rise up in response!

**QUOTABLE QUOTE:** "Dissent is the highest form of patriotism." ~ Howard Zinn (1922-2010) American historian & social activist

# The following information is from the CA DMV:

## DMV Reminds Motorists of New 2014 Laws

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is reminding motorists of some of the new laws that will go into effect on January 1, 2014, unless otherwise noted.

**Bicycles: Passing Distance.** AB 1371 (Bradford), known as the Three Feet for Safety Act, will require a motor vehicle driver passing a bicycle that is proceeding in the same direction to pass with no less than 3 feet between any part of the vehicle and any part of the bicycle or driver. When three feet is not possible, the motor vehicle must slow to a reasonable and prudent speed and only pass when no danger is present to the bicyclist. Failing to do so can incur a fine, regardless of a collision or not. This law will take effect September 16, 2014.

**Clean Air Vehicle Decals/HOV Stickers:** AB 266 (Yee) and SB 286 (Blumefield), together extend sunset dates for low emission, zero emission vehicles to operate in high occupancy vehicle lanes (HOV) without meeting occupancy requirements to January 1, 2019.

**Commercial Driver's License:** AB 1047 (Linder) will allow the DMV to conduct the commercial drive test for the holder of an out-of-state commercial learner's permit. The department would electronically transfer the information to the motor vehicle department in the applicant's state of residence. AB 1047 also modifies the license class definitions to require a driver operating a bus weighing more than 26,000 pounds to hold a commercial Class B license and a driver operating a bus weighing 26,000 pounds or less to hold a commercial Class C license.

**DMV Vehicle Registration Pilot Program:** SB 806 (Hueso) authorizes DMV to establish a pilot program to evaluate the use of alternatives to stickers, tabs, license plates, and registration cards, subject to certain requirements. It will also enable the DMV to experiment with electronic license plates, as well as facilitate DMV's ability to explore cost-effective alternatives to California's traditional metal license plate, plastic-coated registration stickers, and paper registration cards.

**Registration and Vehicle Transfers Between Family Members:** AB 443 (Lowenthal) prohibits the transfer of ownership of a vehicle to a relative or a revocable living trust until all parking or toll-violation fines and penalties reported to the DMV are paid by the transferee.

**Teen Drivers:** SB 194 (Galgiani) will prohibit a person who is under 18 years of age from using an electronic wireless communications device to write, send, or read a text-based communication while driving, even if it is equipped with a hands-free device.

**Veterans License Plates:** AB 244 (Bonilla) Requires the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to sponsor a veterans' special interest license plate and requires the DMV to issue the veterans' plate if CalVet meets the current statutory requirements. This law creates, in addition to the current Honoring Veterans design of the Veteran's Organization Plate, a new program to reissue the Veteran design that was issued prior to January 1, 2010. These plates are available to all vehicle owners. The Department of Veterans Affairs must secure 7,500 pre-paid applications in order for the department to implement this plate program.

**Driver's License for Undocumented People:** Additionally, the Department of Motor Vehicles will begin the process of implementing AB 60 (Alejo) - the new law requiring DMV to issue a driver license to an applicant who is unable to submit satisfactory proof that he/she is legally present in the United States - by drafting new regulations and preparing field offices to process new applications. The new law becomes operative by January 1, 2015. The applicant will be required to meet all other driver license qualifications.

For complete information on chaptered bills enacted in 2013, please refer to the Legislative Counsel website at [www.LegInfo.ca.gov](http://www.LegInfo.ca.gov).

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# Sporty's Rides

by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan



Folks I need to apologize here for the contents of this column lately. I know it's beginning to be a column about the status of my broken leg and yes that sucks to high heaven but I have to let you know how things are going with it. Without further ado I'll give it to you in a nutshell.

On November 25<sup>th</sup> my doctor, Doctor T, told me to get a ct scan. That was scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>. It takes about 7 to 10 days to get the results of the test analysis. On December 17<sup>th</sup> I received a call from Doctor T telling me that he was no longer able to fix my leg and he had given the case to a specialist out of the Kaiser medical offices in Lancaster.

On December 18<sup>th</sup> I received a call from the Lancaster office to have an appointment on the 19<sup>th</sup> to see the specialist, Doctor C. He laid out several options on how he was going to attack the problem with my leg. You see at this point in the game the plate on the left side of leg below the knee has completely healed but it had healed crooked. The plate that was on the left side is starting to bend and the screws that are holding it in place are starting to break. Doctor C had me get another ct scan and in the process had clear iodine injected in my veins. The stuff during the procedure got warm all over every part of my body.

January 13<sup>th</sup> I again saw Doctor C in Lancaster. By the way, that's a one hour drive from my house! He laid out the two ways to try and fix my leg and we decided to start over. This means he will take out all the plates and insert new plates which I hope will solve the problem. Recovery time is six months.

I have to see a plastic surgeon on January 21<sup>st</sup>, and then schedule an appointment with my regular doctor, Doctor N for a pre-op. So it looks like the surgery will be the last week in January or the first week in February. The surgery will take 6-8 hours and three days in the hospital. So this is the way it has to be for now. My life is pretty much on hold.

On December 1<sup>st</sup> my friend, Steve B and I drove to Local 19's Toy run in Ontario. He rode his bike and I drove the little truck that could - my 1989 Toyota truck. Saw

friends and had a great time. Bought a nice ring from Bob's Biker's Bits and Things. I had a great time. Thank you Steve for coming along.

The next week was the Fred Jordan Skid Row Toy run. This takes place at Glendale Harley Davidson. We had our Local 1 crew at the Local 1 table. This is a big team effort with all the HOG chapter members and Glendale staff plus the ABATE Local 1 crew all working to make the Toy run a success.

Local 1's part in the game is to make sure we have the participants sign the insurance waiver forms. We have several of our members like Jim Nickla, Glen Cheslock, Wildman, Jeri Alexander, and Dedra Rosales out getting the forms signed and the donation money to reimburse the insurance cost. Steve B was passing out flyers for the Unification Run and the Polar Bear run.

At the sign-in table was the famous threesome Buffy, Gloria, and Sharon Anderson. They are pretty special in my book. I would be remiss if I failed to mention Sarge Mathews. His role at this event is to act as emcee at the end spot, which is the Fred Jordan Mission on Fifth and Towne in LA. He does a great job.

So again the team work between all the Glendale folks and the ABATE Local 1 folks helps make the Toy run an event and day to remember.

For the last couple of months we have been talking about the Unification Rally in Sacramento. The event took place January 11<sup>th</sup>. Since it was at 12 noon on Saturday I had made arrangements to book rooms at the La Quinta Inn in Sacramento because that is usually where we have our Board of Directors meetings and that was the order for this weekend as well. I made reservations for two in my room because I had Steve B, my assistant to the president, help me drive up to Sacramento.

I had given Steve a refresher course on driving the truck December 26<sup>th</sup> when he took me to finally get my 2007 1200l Sporty out of the shop. I owed \$555 on the deductible. I paid \$300 dollars of the bill with \$25 HD reward points checks and the rest on my credit card. I had Steve B ride it home to my house. He was careful with the bike. He was also careful with my truck.

On January 10th Steve arrived at my house at 9 am. We put his bike in my back yard. Loaded up the little truck that could and after stopping at a CVS for Steve to get vitamins we were off. Kinda of windy and Steve needed breakfast so we stopped at a restaurant in Gorman. I had brought part of my collection of CDs so I played various types of music on the ride up there. We stopped at the rest stops for pee breaks etc. When we were about 10 miles from the La Quinta Inn we stopped and I took over driving because I know the goofy way into the motel. If you miss the right way you can end up going round and round on the capital route which is Capital 80.

We arrived there by 6 pm. Ok they gave us a room on the third floor which sucked because the elevator was very slow. Needed to eat so Denny's was the place to eat close by. After our meal Steve wanted to stop by the front desk to see if we could get a small fridge for his diabetic meds. The desk clerk, a pretty chick, had a room with a fridge and micro so we moved to it. TV was not a problem because we like the same crap. I had fun watching the Lakers loose badly to the Clippers.

The next day was the Unification Rally and after a continental breakfast at the motel, we hitched a ride with Carol Cromwell to the capital. However before we left the hotel an emergency arrived - a lady who was riding an evo sporty needed a jump so the little truck was there to save the day. Bike was started and we were off to the Rally. Steve and I were dropped off at the rally while Carol parked the Windstar.

Aw-sum was the word to describe the event. Over 3000 bikers were there. Rally started at 12:00 noon. Issues were discussed and unity was the theme for bikers to work together to solve issues that effect the biking world in California.

We left after the rally to eat. Then to the Presidents' and PAC meetings back at the conference room at the motel. The meetings were the usual stuff. Steve and I ate at a restaurant close by that was ok. Next day we had the Board of Directors meeting and elections of positions for the state. I had

been elected again to the ABATE Board of Directors. Thank you for that Honor.

The meeting was over by noon. Just before we left the motel the little truck that could was asked again to provide battery power and did so nicely that the jump was successful. So were motoring back to San Fernando and the first stop was the Wesley Caltrans rest stop for pee and vending machine coffee - nothing finer. When we got to the outskirts of this travel rest area - the name escapes me at this point - we had a late lunch at a restaurant called the Apricot Inn. My food was not that good, but they had a gift shop where for \$16 I bought a very nice painting of a mother elephant and her baby. For some reason I thought of my mom.

Ok we left there and stopped for gas at the TA truck stop off the 5 fwy in Bakersfield. There was a guy playing a Banjo with his dog so I thought about the song "Played real good for free" by Joni Mitchell. I gave him a couple of bucks. One more pee stop for Steve B at rest stop in Frazier Park, then straight home. We made ok time going home and the little truck that could was running straight and true.

Till next time, keep getting new members and Local presidents retain your renewals. Regards, Sporty.



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## TECH Tips by Craig Griswold

### Wheel Bearings

They've gone through a few changes over the years. Most folks don't give them a second thought. Especially on today's bikes. The modern wheel bearing; a sealed, maintenance free ball bearing has been in use since 2000 on all Harley-Davidson models.



Without the thought of routine maintenance, they are mostly overlooked. When you have your wheel off the bike for any reason, take a few seconds to check them out. They can be inspected in the wheel. Just give them a roll with your fingers. They should roll smoothly. Some are a bit tighter than others. The resistance isn't so much an indicator. If it feels rough, or there is a noticeable amount of play, they should be replaced. Always replace them as a set. The endplay specification is listed in the factory service manual.

Replacement is fairly simple, but there are a few special tools required. The late model wheel bearing remover/installer from JIMS is a must.



There are three sizes in the 2000 and later type: The 0.75", 1.00", and the 25mm. Also, if you're running ABS brakes, the primary disc brake side will use a special bearing that works with the wheel sensor. The procedure is outlined in the factory service manual. Aside from the JIMS tool, the rest are just basic hand tools.

That covers the late bikes, but there are a few other bearing types The Motor Company used over the years. I won't delve into the loose ball bearing used in the bicycle wheel of the very early models. If your tinkering with those, you probably have a handle on wheel bearing maintenance. From 1936 to 1966 H-D used the star hub with a caged roller bearing. These had to be inspected for wear and greased on an as needed basis.



From 1967 to 1999 the straight roller was replaced with the venerable tapered roller bearing made by Timken.



This was a very durable bearing, but like it's predecessors, required periodic inspection and maintenance. As mentioned earlier, a good time to service these is when you have your wheel off of the bike (tire changes, etc.) A combination of shims and a spacer are used to set the proper endplay for these bearings. While the newer sealed unit can run with no endplay, the Timken must have a few thousandths, or it will bind and eventually fail. A failed wheel bearing can result in serious injury, possible death, and most certainly increased alcohol consumption, followed by the requisite change in wardrobe. Check your service manual for the procedure on checking/setting endplay. As a side note, while the good book calls for checking endplay on the bike, it is much easier to use a dummy axle and clamp it up in a vise.



This is especially convenient when replacing bearings and multiple shim changes require several removal and replacements. I use an old axle of the appropriate diameter and weld a piece of steel plate on the end, large enough to fit in the jaws of the vise.

Although the last couple of renditions ran in 30 year increments, I suspect the modern, sealed version of the wheel bearing will be around for much longer. The failure rate is quite low, and the reduced maintenance is a good thing!

Ride safe!

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

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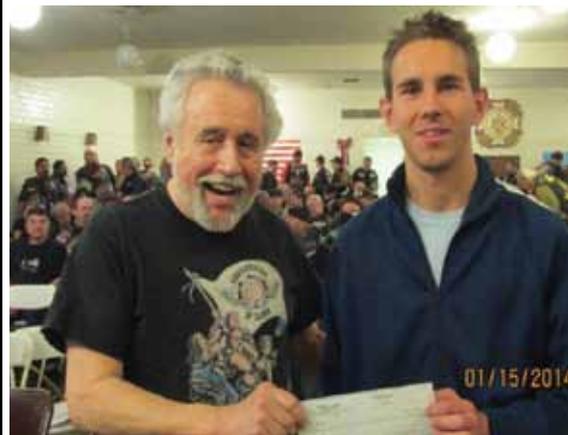
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# Local#1 & Glendale Harley-Davidson-Annual Skid Row Toy Run

Pictures by Glen Cheslock



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A Union of Motorcyclists

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Off-Roaders - Protect Your Rights - Join Us NOW**

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Our Bailing Wire newsletter is available every month online @ abate.org  
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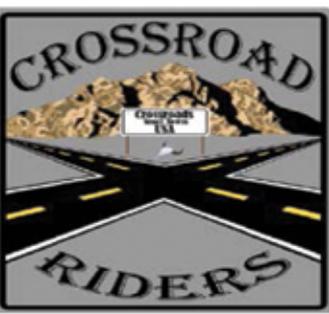
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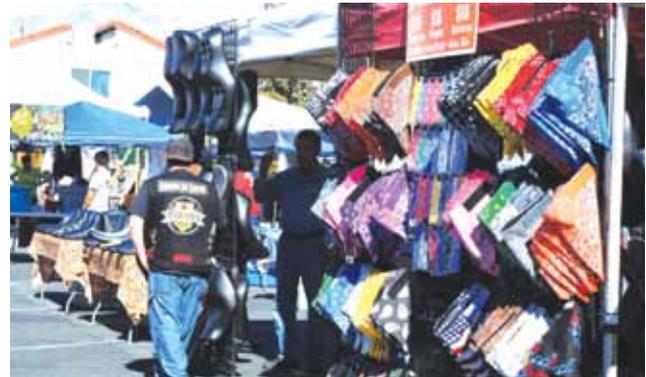
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# Donations... Another WOW

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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](mailto: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 to the **General Fund**:

- Skip Dubrin, Local #00;
- Phylis Geller, Local #00;
- Rick Mullaly, Local #52;
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Thank you to the following for Donations designated to the **Lobbyist Fund**:

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Donations are welcomed at any time ... you can snail mail checks payable to ABATE of CA; 10240 7<sup>th</sup> Ave; Hesperia, CA 92345-2631. In the memo please indicate which fund(s) you want it applied to. Since 2014 is the State Elections – contributions are needed for the PAC fund and Volunteers for campaign workers too – Contact our Legislative Director, Sandra Lubbers, to let her know you can work a campaign and what district you are in [tlubes@dslextreme.com](mailto:tlubes@dslextreme.com).

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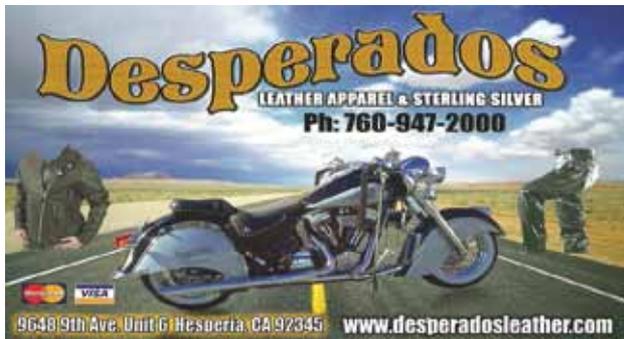
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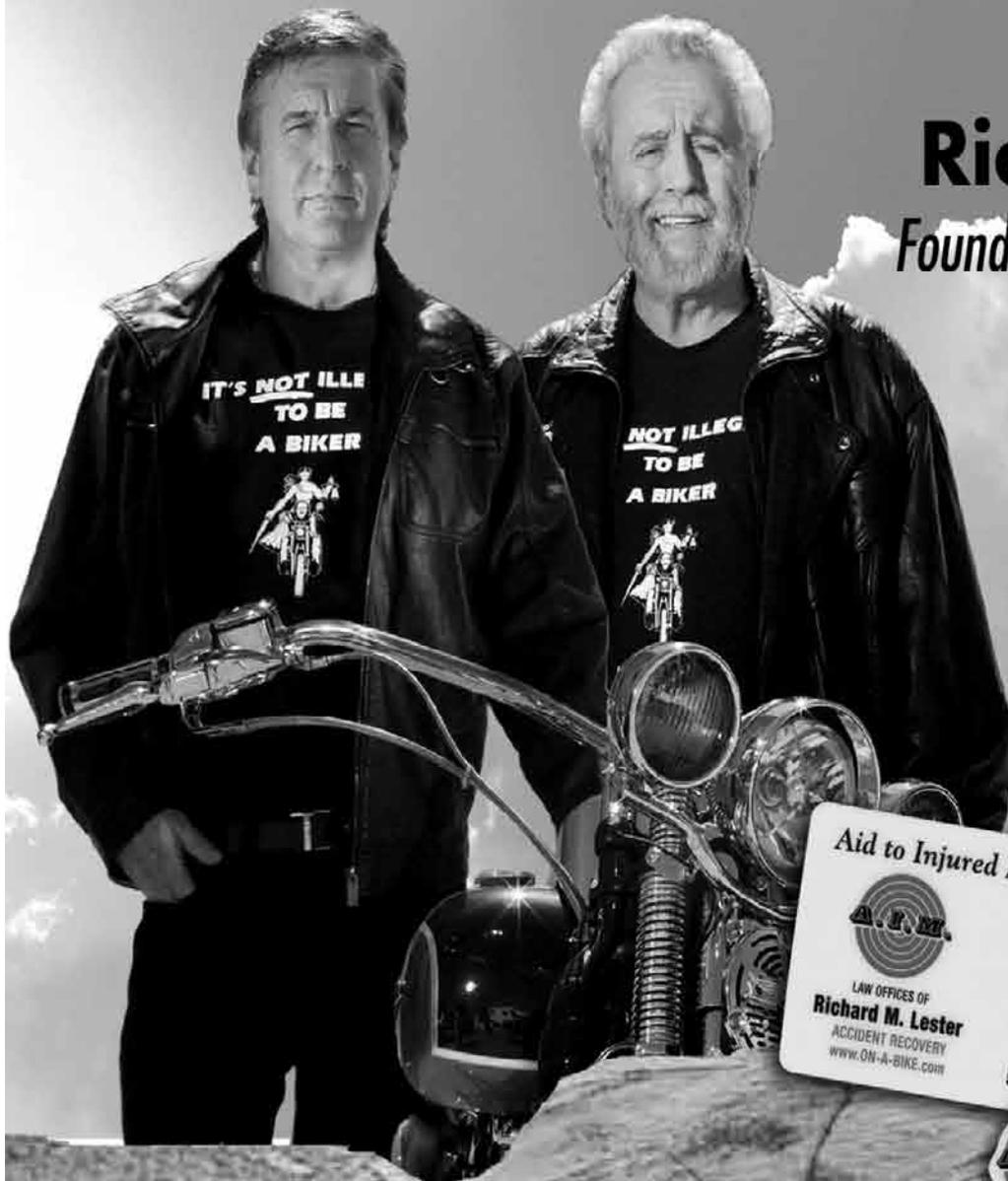
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Clovis 559/308-2309

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Folsom 916/988-7760

27 AJ Barile's Chicago Pizza  
Yucaipa 909/435-5489

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Riverside 951/776-4080

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Moreno Valley www.BikerSpots.com

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Redlands 909/831-0407

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Riverside 951/371-5390

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Chico 530/893-1918

38 Butler's V-Twin & More LLC  
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Hesperia 760/947-2000

47 American Cruisers MC #149  
Hinkley 760/253-9844

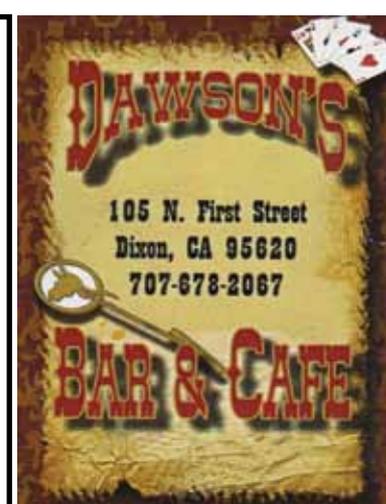
47 Nick's Computer Work  
Barstow 760/253-4736

52 49er Auto & Bike Repair  
Grass Valley 530/272-3242

52 The Willo  
Nevada City 530/265-9902

52 Two Gunners Custom Iron  
Penn Valley 530/263-8071

52 Wild Fire Construction  
North San Juan 530/292-3220



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

Sporty Milligan 3rd Sun-9 AM  
1616 4th St Elk's Lodge #2098  
San Fernando 10137 E. Commerce  
818/ 361-8800 Tujunga, CA 91042

## Simi Valley - Local #02-Reg#8

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

## 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  
714/649-2516 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 American Legion #149  
760/807-7294 230 E Park Ave  
Escondido

## Alameda County Local#14-Reg#3

Houdini 1st Wed 7:30 PM  
510/575-1500 The Florence  
37349 Niles Blvd., Fremont

## Contra Costa, Solano & Napa Counties Local #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 3rd 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 Thurs - 7:30 PM  
310/245-0543 Chowder Barge  
611 N. Henry Ford Ave.  
suzpalmiere@aol.com Wilmington 90744

## 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

Doug Biggerstaff 2nd Tues. 7:00 PM  
559/222-5306 Yosemite Falls Cafe'  
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  
951/359-3562 (in Fairmont Park)  
www.abatelocal27.org Riverside, CA 92513

## Morongo Basin - Local#29-Reg#10

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 3rd Thurs. - 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

V.P. Robert Zamora 3rd Tues. 7:00 PM  
661/330-9366 Rusty's Pizza  
5430 Olive Dr  
Bakersfield 93308

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

Dave Hastings 2nd Sat. 9:30 am  
760/947-4700 Eagles Order #4181  
16195 Main St  
Hesperia 92345

## Barstow - Local #47-Reg#13

Yermo Eddy Meet with L#44  
PO Box 521  
Yermo CA 92398  
760/254-3833 or 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

### Regions With Local info:

Region 2: Director Lil' David Morena  
25, 31, 33 & 52.

Region 3: Bob Blatz 14, & 17.  
Region 6: Director Ed Rogers  
24 & 40.

Region 7: Director - Chuck Pedersen 3/13.  
Region 8: Director Tom Lubbers  
1 & 2.

Region 9: 19, 23, & 27  
Region 10: Director Vacant  
29.

Region 11: Director Gill Mellen  
8, 9, 20 & 22.

Region 13: Director Yermo Eddy  
21, 44, 47 & 58.

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by **Tim Tennimon,**

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