

The Bailing Wire

ABATE of CA. Newsletter for Motorcyclists Volume XXXII ISSUE VI

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

June 2013



Lobbyist's Report

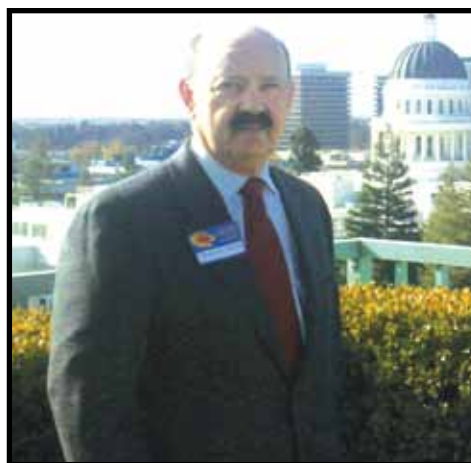
by James Lombardo, Lobbyist

What a **GREAT RALLY** in Sacramento on May 6th — **OVER** 500 bikers showed up to celebrate *May Is Motorcycle Awareness Month* on the East Steps of the Capitol, just outside Governor Brown's office. We had lots of great and inspirational speakers led by fellow rider, Senate Republican Leader Bob Huff, the author of SCR 41 which declares May as Motorcycle Awareness Month.

Fellow co-authors and riders also addressed our crowd. Speakers Senator Jean Fuller from Bakersfield and Assemblyman Brian Jones from San Diego were also resolution co-authors. Other speakers were the Vice Chairman of the Assembly Transportation Committee, Eric Linder, Assemblyman Tim Donnelly from Hesperia, who represents ABATE's headquarters. He also arranged for our podium and his office's American flag to be displayed on the Capitol steps for our rally.

Other speakers were Tom Lubbers, Chairman of ABATE's Board of Directors, Greg Covell, our Executive Director, Ron Givens on behalf of the MMA and myself!

SB 350, the lane sharing bill by Senator Jim Beall has officially become a two year bill and cannot be taken up until next session in 2014. I will be reporting in the *Bailing Wire* of any changes, or proposed changes, to it so stay tuned.



Our two side by side, or Recreational Off Highway Vehicle (ROHV), bills that grandfather in aftermarket seating for pre-2014 models, and allow handholds for occupants in ROHVs are included in not one, but two, bills that are moving through the Legislature. AB 64, by Assemblyman Donnelly, is on the Assembly floor having already passed out of the Transportation and Appropriations Committees. SB 234 by Senator Mimi Walters which also permanently grandfathers in side by side pre-2014 model year non-stock seating, and makes occupant handholds available for legal riding in ROHVs by children has passed the Senate and is awaiting action in the Assembly Transportation Committee. Both are emergency bills which take place immediately upon

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American Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education

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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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Executive Director's Report

by Greg Covell, Executive Director

Greetings: Last month I had the opportunity to go to the NCOM (National Coalition of Motorcyclists) meeting in Reno. Quite impressive. Nowhere else can you meet and talk to so many people from all over the USA that are involved in the political and legal issues confronting motorcyclists. Issues covered profiling, no colors bars, helmet laws, lane sharing, women in motorcycling and sport bike issues. I was able to speak with riders from Texas to Washington, Arizona to New York and Maryland, Florida to Michigan. Not to my surprise many in attendance were members of a diverse litany of motorcycle clubs, riders clubs, MROs (Motorcycle Rights Organizations) and SMROs (State Motorcycle Rights Organizations). From my stand point the many state ABATEs were generously represented and supported.

Over and over I was reminded that the COCs (Confederation of Clubs) and ABATE need to be working together more in the political arena. "We must hang together or we will surely hang separately". Some of our smaller states are making great headway in this effort. Unfortunately in California due to our size, population and directional confusion, working together is still a work in progress, I hear time and again that the past is the past and we must look to the future – easy to say but,



hard to do.

Change is always difficult and requires open minded leaders to make the move and take the first steps toward a "meeting of minds" here in California. With seven COCs, hundreds of M/Cs (Motorcycle Clubs), multiple MROs, uncounted R/Cs (Rider Clubs), and thousands of associations and independent riders, perhaps this "California Meeting of Minds" could become a reality. It could address the issues specific to our state to educate and inform all riders in California and to formulate a coordinated path toward solutions all can get behind and support. Just an idea to consider. "Complacency and apathy is easy and comfortable, but in the long run the cost of doing nothing is fatal." I am ABATE of California - are you? Keep Your Eyes Wide Open.

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.

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 11.**

ABATE OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

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The Bailing Wire newsletter is published bimonthly 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: 5,500 bimonthly.

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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Jim Lombardo, Dave Hastings, & Craig
Griswold

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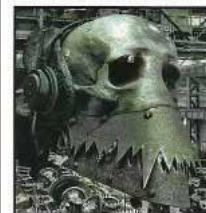
If you have any photos of ABATE motorcycle events please send them to us. They will be returned if you ask. Please include name of event, date, sponsor, etc. Must be received by the 10th of the month. You can email pictures in .jpg file to: bailing.wire@abate.org

Jim from page 1

signing by the Governor to beat a July 1 deadline that prohibits aftermarket seating and child passenger use without handholds.

Finally, the "Share the Road with Motorcycles" freeway signs, that ABATE pushed for and finally got three years ago, are up AGAIN, right now. *So watch for them!* ABATE of California, your motorcyclist rights organization, made them possible.

Thanks to all of you for donating to the **LOBBYIST FUND!** That keeps me in the Capital, doing ABATE's business.

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LOCAL NEWS

Local #01 Los Angeles



Hi all! Due to the fact that some of my members are at the Southern California Regional Rally on Mother's Day weekend and the Elks Lodge is not open the third Sunday this month I decided to cancel the May meeting.

We will resume our usual meetings in June. Hope those who were at the So Cal Regional Rally had a good time. I would have liked to have been there, but you all know by now what happened to me!

So that is all for now. Regards, Sporty.

was held May 10th thru 12th.

We wish a speedy and healthy recovery to our P.R. Coordinator Norm E. Newiger (back surgery), Membership Coordinator Pat Burton (compound fracture of the left arm) and Linda "Moxxie" Wright (hip replacement).

We have our Local 2 meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at V.F.W. Post 10049, 4242 East Los Angeles Ave in Simi Valley. We start off at 6:45 pm with a great meal of grilled burgers and hot dogs along with all the fixins and a side dish of the server's choice. Then promptly at 7:30 pm we start our meeting. Thanks to this month's volunteer cooks Denny & Jim - fine job as usual. The Membership drawing was won by an ABATE Local 2 Life Member, Steve Blevens.

Respectfully Submitted by Jane Warthen, Secretary ABATE Local 2

party. Wow! There was a great turnout by many of the clubs and individual riders. I don't have an exact number but it was fantastic. Since Monica was able to get everything - like in all - donated to ABATE (band, supplies, raffle prizes, etc.) the event cost ZERO dollars. Because of all the donations, we made a nice chunk of change for ABATE Local 6. Big thanks goes to the Saddletramps for donating time, security, raffle tickets, prizes, etc. to ABATE. Major kudos to you all.

The band was excellent and played lots of songs - danced, danced, danced! There was a nice selection of vendors, too. The Flinn did their good hamburgers and fries and everyone seemed to enjoy them. The raffle prizes were plenty and a little something for everyone. A company back east donated a rider/passenger rain jacket - you had to have been there to see the demo! Yikes! The grand prize of two Padre Sky Box tickets (with food and drink) was donated back and was auctioned off. Thank you for that donation!

So we got a few sprinkles, but it didn't dampen the fun or the party one iota. It was one helluva a party!

Again, Monica, THANK YOU!

Local #02 Simi Valley



Our President Steamer started us off with the flag salute, and then discussed our participation in getting the Simi Valley City Council to issue a Proclamation designating May as Motorcycle Awareness Month in the City of Simi Valley.

We then voted to change our Annual Sweaty Buns Run from July to September because participation is scarce in July. So come to the June 11th meeting to get more information, offer some suggestions, sign-up to help etc.

Next up our Secretary Jane, read the minutes from April's meeting. Our Run Coordinator Guy brought our attention to some upcoming runs. Next our Treasurer Stephanie said we sent checks to the General Fund, the Lobbyist Fund and for Trophies at the Southern California Regional Rally that

Local #06 San Diego



Yesterday (May 5) at our meeting, Mayor Filner and his First Lady stopped by to visit. Red had invited them to Barry and Carol Sandberg's Memorial at Soledad, but they showed up early and ended up at the park instead. He basically confirmed that he's a friend of ABATE Local 6 and is always there to help us.

Barry and Carol's Memorial at Soledad was well attended although the media didn't show up. The murders still have not been solved, and JD would really like everyone to not let this go away. He's going to prepare an email list where we can all send messages to the police, etc., to ask them to continue to try and find out who killed our friends. Stay tuned!

Motorcycle Awareness party - Thank you Monica! I hope a lot of you made it to the

Local #19 Pomona Valley

Nearly half-way through the year and for Local 19 we have had some ups and downs. The biggest down is our own Diane Davis was injured on her bike, she has had a few surgeries and spent time in the hospital but she is back with us and that is a definite big up. The other upside is we are getting new faces and members at our monthly meeting which takes place on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 7:00 pm, at Round Table Pizzeria, 1020 Mountain Avenue, Ontario.

One of the Local events we are looking forward to is the Tri-Local picnic on June 29, 2013 at Fairmont Park, Riverside. It was a success last year. The three Locals that are participating are Local 19, Local 23 San Bernardino and Local 27 Riverside. We had participation from some of the local riding groups such as the Geezers MC, HOG and Heart-N-Soul.

We are also looking forward to Local 23's Burger Burn up at the Screamin Chicken in Devore. Be safe and enjoy the rides. Donald Kline, Run Coordinator Local 19.

LOCAL NEWS

Local #20 Orange County



39 people attended tonight's meeting, four of them were guests. We ate some really good baked chicken with veggies and scalloped potatoes. This will be the same meal for every meeting at \$7.00 per plate and the kitchen will close at 7:30 pm each meeting night.

Spike updated us on other changes coming to the Bailing Wire. One of the changes will be that our meeting minutes will no longer be published which will allow more room for coupons thanking our business members.

Gill said that the rally in Sacramento went well, but overall it was a low turnout, and he appreciated everyone that was able to make it. He said he was grateful for the parking

donation of \$500.00 from our local COC and he would like to see other COC locations make donations for further rallies. He also read off a long list of others that donated and attended the rally.

Gill also told us that California will not be pushing E15 gasoline for now as it is known to eat through seals, rubber and fuel lines.

Spike said that recording audio when stopped by a cop can be considered illegal wiretapping and only video recordings are admissible in court.

Kelly O'Gorman's name was drawn for the dollar draw but wasn't at the meeting so we roll over the money to next month. ~Leenie~



Local #21 Antelope Valley

Hi! Here's Bucks for the funds from Local 21.

Daryl & Mark

Local #25 Sacramento



ABATE Local 25 had no visitors at the April, 2013 meeting but we had two new memberships included in the Treasurer's report. We also donated another \$25 for a parking spot for the Capitol Rally.

Gary updated us with information about the bills the Off-Road Division is tracking plus the lane splitting/sharing bill.

We will have a booth at the upcoming Renegade swap meet and Linda is coordinating a bake sale fund raiser next month. David.

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ABATE ~ MMA Freedom Rally by Ruby, MMA Liaison Officer

The Rally in Sacramento on May 6th, went fairly well considering all the difficulties we were faced with and the turn out that was not as large as we had hoped for. A greater impact would be made if we could get increased participation and support on the Capitol steps. If you ride on two-wheels, you have an obligation to share in the struggle to preserve your ability to do so.

It is understandable that participants were pretty disgruntled about the bump to East side and mostly the street blocks and parking situation. Riders got caught in the arriving police memorial group and were turned

away to other streets; then had a heck of a time getting to our reserved locations due to one way streets.

Apologies for the confusion and inconvenience this caused. However, the fault and blame lies on those in the permits office, not on those that worked hard to organize the Rally. Despite all the interference put in our path, kudos to them for their perseverance.

For those that donated to the meter fund, your "courtesy of" sign with your name on it, will be given to you through your ABATE meetings or personal contact. THANK YOU! to those that donated \$\$, and to those

able to participate in the Rally.

Remember that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Don't despair or give up. Keep in mind that "out-a sight, out-a mind" saying. We are not going to just disappear and we need to keep them reminded of that with our Rallies, a forum that brings us to their attention.

Hang in there my friends and hopefully we'll all be able to gather and show our unity again in January 2014. And also with less stress and aggravation!

Warm Regards, Your ABATE/MMA Liaison Officer, Ruby.



Freedom Rally Pictures

Pics by Gill Mellen

Below pictured is;
New Junior ABATE Member Wade &
Grandfather Don Dickerman



May ABATE Board of Directors Meeting

by Carol Cromwell (More pictures on page 19)

Discussion at the ABATE Board of Directors May meeting was to eliminate the Local Reports from printing in the Bailing Wire. This is a Board decision, not the Newsletter Editor. Even though the past couple of issues have been pretty light of Local Reports, we have printed what we received. The Board's suggestion on Local Reports is to have them emailed to the Presidents' E list and they in turn can inform their Locals of what other Locals are doing or have done.

The Executive Director also spoke of eliminating the Regional Director's positions due to lack of communication from most of the R.D's. Whether that's a done deal - or not? Maybe you should attend the July Board meeting to find out.

The Northern Regional Rally that was to take place in August had to be cancelled for two reasons: 1. There were not enough pre-registrations received to even pay for the campground and 2. The Run Chairman, Bob Blatz, who is also an ABATE Board member, said he would be moving out of California in a couple of weeks. So ABATE lost a Board Member.

Bob was also a Regional Director, had served as the Local 15 President and Bob wrote the California reports that would be sent to the Motorcycle Riders Foundation to be printed in their bi-monthly magazine.

Then in this issue of the Bailing Wire ABATE's Safety Officer, Steve Guderian, who is also a Board Member, has resigned from both of those positions.

It was also learned that long time (21 years!) Member, Scott McCool from Ventura Local 13 and who served as Local 13's President for a lot of those years too, would be moving out of state. There is someone stepping up to be President of Local 13.

We would like to thank Bob Blatz and Steve Guderian and Scott, too, for all that they have done and tried to do for ABATE. As you can see, some wore a lot of "hats" to strengthen ABATE.

We are going to need someone to be the ABATE State Safety Officer, to submit articles for the Bailing Wire and there are some additional requirements of a Safety Officer. Contact a Board member IF you are interested.

As for losing two Board Members: Ed Mathis aka "Iceman" would be the alternate for replacing Bob if Ed agrees to it. The Board, of course, needs to do the motion and acceptance to be "proper". Also the Board can choose to assign a Member to complete a Board term, or they can leave a vacancy for the rest of the year, as long as they still have a quorum at a Board meeting.

ABATE Board Elections are not that far off - September 15 is when we need to receive the Nominations for the next term (2014 & 2015, a two-year term). Think about it! We need at least 6 to be nominated for the even year.

The next ABATE Quarterly Board of Directors meeting will be held in JULY somewhere in the Southern California area. Locals 8 and 20 have offered, but had to check with their meeting places to see if it was available and what date we could use their facilities.

The July Board meeting will also be the day that the Membership Raffle Drawing will be held - someone will win \$250.00!! Please turn in the raffle tickets by the 1st of July to the ABATE State Office.



Pac/Lobbyist Report

by Dave Hastings, *Treasurer*

The ABATE Board of Directors meeting held in conjunction with the 2013 Motorcycle Awareness & Freedom Rally in Sacramento is now in the books and we are all looking forward to the summer riding season. If you have not attended the Freedom Rally, I strongly advise you to put this event on your calendar for next year. First off, the capitol building in Sacramento is spectacular and I promise you it is worth visiting any time the opportunity arises. Second, on Freedom Rally day you will have the pleasure of listening to many of our best motorcycle friendly and brutally honest legislative members speak to the riders assembled from all over California. Hopefully you will leave the building with a renewed interest in your own personal freedom and a strong desire to make changes in motorcycling that will benefit every rider in our state. Everyone needs their internal battery recharged from time to time and this event always seems to do the trick for me. Put it on your agenda for next year and come experience the excitement first hand.

Many items were discussed and approved at our Board of Directors meeting and I would like to mention a couple of them. First we have decided to put a "Thank You"



card page on our web site and in our Bailing Wire magazine so you can print or clip and then hand out a "Thank You" card to businesses that support motorcycling in California. Too often we patronize businesses without them ever knowing we are ABATE members who truly appreciate their support. Now you will be able to leave a small card with one of the business employee's that simply states "Thank you for supporting ABATE of California". Please use these cards and help ABATE show our appreciation to the businesses that keep motorcycling and our lifestyle alive and well in

California. The second item I would like to bring up is a format change to our Bailing Wire concerning the Local news items. We are attempting to give our printed magazine a more polished and professional appearance and have decided to remove the Local Reports section from the printed Bailing Wire and instead place those articles in an "e-mail blast" to the President's for distribution to their Local. This will free up needed space in our Bailing Wire and hopefully at the same time, lower our printing costs.

Finally, I'm sure by now you have received our "Appeal Letter" asking for an individual donation from you for ABATE of California. I realize that many of our members are still struggling to supply their families with the basic necessities of life and will not be able to respond at this time. Please, if you can, and haven't done so already, respond with whatever amount you can comfortably give. If an ABATE donation is simply not possible at this time, hang on to our letter and respond when you can. We are all in this organization because we love motorcycles and the lifestyle that goes with them, so help ABATE protect and nourish that dream. By the way, don't forget to bring a friend to your Local meetings, always mention ABATE to every rider you meet, and sign up a new member every chance you get. ABATE is many different things to many different people and that diversity is what keeps ABATE as unique and beautiful as the motorcycles we ride.

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

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EDIE 
 **JIM**

Why Did ABATE of California Start an Off-Road Division?

by Nick Benson Sr.

Recently I was asked why ABATE of California would want to start an Off-Road division and basically what is the correlation between the two forms of motorcycling. My first thought was that it seems very obvious that both are one and the same as ABATE is supposed to protect the rights of ALL motorcyclists. But then I thought to myself, well, a lot of our ABATE locals are in areas that simply do not support Off-Roading so they may not see the correlation or the potential to help our organization grow. What I have done here is try to put together a piece that will hopefully answer a lot of questions.

Recently, Assemblyman Paul Cook (now Congressman) decided to reincarnate Dick Floyd by using a "gut and amend" bill to sneak in under the radar AB 1595 that mandated that all drivers and passengers of Side X Sides would be required to wear helmets and also, they would be severely restricted from modifying their rides. If that sounds familiar, it should, because Dick Floyd also passed a helmet law on us that is still in place to this day. Other freedom hating politicians have been trying to limit our rights to modify our rides.

Having lived in a big Off-Roading area for the past 40 years, I knew immediately that Off-Roaders were going to need some help with this. But many on road riders did not even know what a Side X Side was. A Side X Side is really the next step from a two wheeled off-road motorcycle for people that are aging or have had surgeries or other issues that still want to enjoy the wind in their face and the great outdoors in the same manner as a lot of us "On-Roaders" that have switched from two wheels to trikes. Although I am using Side X Sides for this article, the same concerns are shared by the hundreds of thousands of two wheeled Off-Road bikes.



Remember, the purpose of our fight is not what type of motorcycle you ride, it is about the FREEDOM to ride, dress yourself, and modify your ride without being hassled. I have also shown a "starter" motorcycle with training wheels! It is Off-Road where most children first learn to ride. Of course we want to attract the kids while they are young to teach them the right way to ride and fight for their rights.

I have pictured a stock 2008 Yamaha Rhino Side X Side here and my 2008 Rhino that has been modified with many of the common sense safety features that many Off-Roaders have done to their Side X Sides.



Some of these features include full length stronger roll cages, reinforced steel roofs, strategic grab bars, spare tire holders, etc.

The issues facing Off-Roaders and On-Roaders are really one and the same. Freedom to ride a ride that is set up to our own personal taste, freedom to ride where we want to without being hassled and the freedom to dress ourselves for that ride.

Speaking of riding where we want to. An issue recently came up when I was pulled

over by two truckloads of gun packing San Bernardino County Code Enforcement Agents. They informed me of where I could or could not ride and how many people I could have in my staging area! It seems that they do not want large groups of Off-Road vehicles in one area without a permit! Sound familiar? It seems that the powers that be do not allow us to ride in certain areas. The entire city of Hesperia is off limits to off-roaders!



The areas that Off-Roaders are "allowed" to ride can be very confusing as shown in this picture that is halfway between Barstow and Victorville.

So how many new members can we potentially get from an Off-Road division? The answer is to go out on any given weekend and see the families gathered for a weekend of Off-Roading as in this picture! Imagine the possibilities for ABATE if we had even a percentage of the over 1 million Off-Roaders in California as members!



Do legislators care about Off-Road issues? Here is a picture of Senator Jean Fuller with my wife and I. Senator Fuller used to ride street and now has a Rhino of her own! She shares the love of Off-Roading with many other legislators and her staff. She has had her staff working with me on chipping away at Paul Cook's AB 1595. She wrote SB 334 that would delay implementation of AB 1595 until 2015 to give us time to write a bill that would eliminate Paul Cook's insanity. The answer is YES, legislators want to help

Continued on next page



us with this battle. Right now Senator Mimi Walters' bill – SB 234 – that will once again allow modifications to Side X Sides has cleared both the Senate and the Assembly unanimously! There is no opposition in either house from either side of the aisle! With bi-partisan support in both houses, the possibilities are endless!



Space limitations forbid me from listing every reason for this venture, but more details can be seen on website presentations that I created that many legislators have looked at and used to make more informed decisions. These presentations can be seen at www.nickscomputerworks.com/HiddenFile and at www.nickscomputerworks.com/RestrictedArea. (These are case sensitive files) I have also included a link that shows law enforcement banging an Off-Roader's head against the ground. http://www.examiner.com/article/video-shows-yucca-valley-sheriff-s-captain-allegedly-using-excessive-force?cid=db_articles For many years, On-Road riders had their heads slammed onto the hoods of patrol cars, etc. Although I have not heard of this happening for some time, it is not to say it doesn't, and this is just another parallel that On-Roaders share with Off-Roaders.

In conclusion, it all boils down to the fact that Off-Roaders share the same concerns as On-Roaders. If we all join

together, there can be no stopping us. If we all stand divided, we will all fail. Locals that are unfamiliar with Off-Road issues can have one or more of the millions of Off-Roaders attend your meeting and share their concerns. Enlist them and create an "Off-Road Rep" as an officer position to educate and keep your members informed while simultaneously keeping them apprised of On-Road issues.

Still need more help? Contact me at nick@abate.org or call me: 760.447.4004. I will be glad to help you any way I can to better understand this venture. If you are in SoCal, I will make every effort to come to your meeting and help you understand the Off-Road concerns and show you how to help. If you are in NorCal, I will also help in any way I can, but making all those meeting could be challenging. But if we all work together, we can make this happen and make ABATE a powerhouse of people that truly represents ALL motorcycling interests!



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MEMBERSHIP FORM

A Union of Motorcyclists

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

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

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

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

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

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

Off-Roaders - Protect Your Rights - Join Us NOW

Single	\$ 40.00
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Our Bailing Wire newsletter is available every month online @ abate.org

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COAST TO COAST BIKER NEWS

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish NCOM CONVENTION HITS JACKPOT

IN RENO: Freedom is an ongoing gamble, with bikers' rights activists wagering to win against an often stacked deck, always in favor of the House, but everyone came away a winner at this year's 28th annual NCOM Convention over Mother's Day weekend, May 9-12, 2013 at the posh Silver Legacy Resort-Casino in Reno, Nevada.

But it was work, not play, on the agenda for hundreds of attendees from across the country there to discuss topics of concern to all riders; such as biker profiling and discrimination, motorcycle-only roadblocks, knowing your rights, and mobilizing motorcyclists to advocate motorcycle-friendly legislation and defeat anti-biking bills.

The traditional "Ringing of the Bell" ceremony paid homage to those freedom fighters who have gone before us, while for the first time a Veterans' Rights seminar was conducted by NCOM's newly-formed Veteran Affairs Special Committee in an effort to reach out to true defenders of Freedom.

The National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) is solely sponsored by the Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (AIM) nationwide legal services program and serves as an umbrella organization for more than 2,000 NCOM Member clubs, organizations and associations worldwide, representing well over a quarter of a million politically active motorcyclists. NCOM has successfully outreached to numerous segments of the motorcycling community in an effort to unite for our rights, both legal and legislatively, and has become a unifying voice amongst North America's motorcycle rights organizations (MROs), motorcycle clubs, women riders, religious riding organizations, touring groups, trikers, sportbikers, and minority motorcyclists.

This year's NCOM Convention was hosted by the Northern Nevada Confederation of Clubs, and all motorcyclists were welcomed and encouraged to participate in the many meetings, seminars and group discussions that focused on legislative efforts and litigation techniques to protect our riders' rights and preserve Freedom of the Road.

During the Silver Spoke Awards Banquet on Saturday evening, several honorees were recognized for their contributions to "Improving The Image of Motorcycling", including; **GOVERNMENT:** Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker; **MEDIA:** Becky Cakes – Classic Parts Hotline; **COMMERCE:** Chris McIntyre – Eagle Rider Motorcycle Rentals; **LEGAL:** Boyd Spencer – AIM Attorney for



Pennsylvania & New Jersey; **ENTERTAINMENT:** Max "Pitstop" Martini – Actor/Boozefighters MC; **SPECIAL RECOGNITION:** Christine Paige – Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall of Fame, and Suzanne "Baglady Sue" Austin – Comedian; and NCOM's highest honor, the Ron Roloff Lifetime Achievement Award, was presented to Frank Ernst of ABATE of Minnesota and a member of the NCOM Board of Directors.

Next year's 29th Annual NCOM Convention will be held May 8-11, 2014 at The Intercontinental Hotel in Dallas, Texas. For further information, contact NCOM at (800) ON-A-BIKE or visit www.ON-A-BIKE.com.

"STOP MOTORCYCLE CHECKPOINT FUNDING ACT" INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS: Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) has introduced "a bill to prohibit the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) from providing funds to state and local authorities for the purpose of creating motorcycle only checkpoints."

Filed on May 7, the Stop Motorcycle Checkpoint Funding Act, H.R. 1861, "also contains language to force the DOT to focus motorcycle safety efforts on crash prevention programs, not national helmet mandates," according to Rep. Sensenbrenner. "This will stop the DOT from manipulating State policies with federal money."

Contact your federal representatives and request they support H.R. 1861, and that they sign on as a co-sponsor of Sensenbrenner's bill. You can call members of Congress through the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

NTSB RECOMMENDS LOWERING DRUNK-DRIVING LIMIT TO 0.05: The National Transportation Safety Board has issued a recommendation that states lower their drunk-driving thresholds from a 0.08 blood-alcohol content to 0.05 BAC. The recommendation is one of several the NTSB made to curtail drunk driving, which the federal investigative agency claims is involved in a third of America's 34,000 traffic deaths each year. The agency acknowledged in its report there is no one "silver bullet," but estimated that 500 to 800 lives per year could be saved with the proposed lower limit.

Chairman Deborah Hersman admitted the NTSB is aiming even higher; "Reaching zero deaths from alcohol-impaired driving."

Not everyone agrees. "This recommendation is ludicrous," said Sarah Longwell, managing director of the American Beverage Institute. "Moving from 0.08 to 0.05 would criminalize perfectly responsible behavior."

Currently, all 50 states have set a BAC level of 0.08, though most countries in Europe including Russia, most of South America and Australia, have set BAC levels at 0.05 to constitute drunken driving.

The NTSB only makes recommendations on transportation safety issues, and has little actual regulatory power. It will be up to federal agencies, Congress and state lawmakers to take action. The last move from 0.10 to 0.08 BAC levels took 21 years for each state to implement.

WEATHER & ECONOMY DRIVE UP TRAFFIC FATALITIES: For the first time in nearly a decade, the number of traffic deaths went up last year according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which cited warmer weather and an improving economy for the 5.3% increase in fatalities to 34,080, the highest since 2008.

The rise follows a steady decline in fatal accidents since 2005 when 43,510 people died, culminating in a 60-year-low of 32,367 in 2011, but NHTSA Administrator David Strickland said, "With a rebounding economy there's increased discretionary driving, which is clearly always the leader in terms of dangerous driving scenarios."

U.S. motorcyclist deaths outpaced the overall national numbers with a projected 9% more fatalities in 2012, up to more than 5,000, and in addition to climatic and economic factors the agency also blames a long-term decline in helmet laws with only 19 states requiring usage, down from 26 states in 1997.

Continued on Page 13

Coast from page 12

"The most notable thing was the warm weather," said Dr. James Hedlund, a former NHTSA official and the author of the report by the Governors Highway Safety Association, as thirty-four states east of the Rocky Mountains notched record average temperatures from March to May 2012, and forty-eight states recorded their warmest average temperatures on record.

The report also cited two economic factors that may have contributed to an increase in the number of miles traveled via motorcycle in 2012 and thus a higher probability of accidents: a better economy and high gas prices. "An improving economy produces more discretionary income with which to buy and ride motorcycles," said the study. Several states reported an increase in the number of registrations in 2012, and Hedlund has found that over the past three decades, the number of registrations tracks closely with the number of deaths.

GHSA's recommendations for cutting motorcyclist deaths included reducing alcohol impairment, reducing speeding, increasing driver awareness, and ensuring that motorcyclists are licensed. According to GHSA, NHTSA data shows that in 2010, nearly a quarter of riders involved in fatal accidents did not have valid licenses.

CONNECTICUT RIDERS DECRY PROPOSAL TO REGULATE EXHAUST SYSTEMS: An unexpected effort in the General Assembly to crack down on noisy motorcycles is being met by opposition from the motorcycle industry. Under language added last week to a bill involving off-road ATVs, the sale, registration or operation of a street motorcycle having non-stock pipes would become a fineable offense. Most after-market exhaust systems are not EPA-certified.

The new provisions, if approved, would require federal Environmental Protection Agency noise emission control labels to be displayed on all motorcycles, and would institute fines of up to \$250 per offense for non-compliance.

OHIO LAWMAKERS CALL FOR BAN ON TRAFFIC CAMERAS: Following a biting ruling by a judge who called traffic cameras a scam, legislation was introduced on

February 20th in Columbus, Ohio by Representative Ron Maag (R-Lebanon) to eliminate the use of photo monitoring devices to detect speed and traffic signal violations. He and Rep. Dale Mallory (D-Cincinnati), one of many bipartisan co-sponsors, believe the removal of "speed-trap" cameras is necessary and must be addressed immediately since there is no existing state law regulating traffic enforcement cameras, so communities operate their programs under local ordinances.

Their hard-line stance against the cameras comes on the heels of Hamilton County Common Pleas Court Judge Robert Ruehlman's permanent injunction, which prohibits the further use of speed cameras in Elmwood Place, a Cincinnati suburb. Ruehlman granted the injunction citing there was a lack of due process for alleged violators.

Judge Ruehlman's decision was unequivocal. He made national news headlines when he called the speed camera system in Elmwood Place "a high-tech game of Three-card Monty.... It is a scam the motorist cannot win." Between the camera enforcement, the lack of proper signage, and the fees for administrative hearings, Ruehlman declared that the town of Elmwood Place had violated drivers' due-process rights, and may be the first case in the U.S. that specifically addresses the constitutionality of traffic cams.

In Ohio, there are at least 16 municipalities that use some kind of red light or speed camera, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. In the United States, there are more than 650 municipalities operating either red-light or speed cameras.

Nine states have passed laws prohibiting the use of red-light cameras, and 12 outlaw speed cameras, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association, while 29 states have no law on the books. Some Ohio legislators hope to make the Buckeye State the Lucky 13th state, and House Bill 69 has been assigned to the House's Transportation, Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee for further discussion and vote.

POKER RUN LEGALIZATION BILL IN ILLINOIS: Companion bills SB 1960 and HB 2520; the "Poker Run Act," have been introduced in Illinois to legalize poker runs for the charities that bikers do and for Not For

Profit organizations.

"No segment in our society raises more money for charities and local citizens that are down and out on their luck than bikers," said Bob Myers, State Legislative Coordinator for ABATE of Illinois, who went on to explain; "Since 'Land Based Gaming' has become law, the Illinois liquor and Gaming agents have been tearing down our fliers in restaurants and bars claiming they are illegal as they use poker cards, spinners, dice, and marble spinners to complete the run."

ABATE intends to use the legislation to correct problems with "poker" runs and other events that the Gaming commission and Liquor Control Board are treating as gambling. Poker runs shall include "dice runs", "marble runs" or other events where the object is to build or obtain some matter of a score with which the participants use in a competition. Poker runs shall not constitute a game of chance under the Illinois Gaming Act or Liquor controls Act and shall not be regulated under those Acts.

THREE-WHEELERS MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM LOUISIANA HELMET LAW: Louisiana was the most recent state to (re)impose a mandatory helmet law for all motorcyclists back in 2004, but the House Transportation committee recently advanced legislation that would exempt a new concept vehicle from the legal category that requires drivers to wear helmets.

HB 218's exemption would apply to the three-wheeled Elio Motors vehicle, which is preparing for production at the Shreveport plant that once made pickups for General Motors. Because the Elio has three wheels, it's considered a motorcycle under federal and state safety regulations.

"It definitely affects our sales because a lot of people don't want to order the car if it requires wearing helmets," said Joel Sheltrown, vice president for governmental affairs at Elio Motors, adding that "We're not bound by automotive standards, but that is our goal."

QUOTABLE QUOTE: "It's a world with 20,000 television channels...get as far away from it as you can." ~ Honda ad ~



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Donations...Another WOW

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

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

We will do our best to recognize your generosity by thanking you here, if we leave you off – please contact carol@abate.org or Dave Hastings 760/947-4700 and we'll get you on next month's list. YOU ALL deserve a pat on the back and to be thanked!!!

Thank you for the terrific response to our fund raising letter that was mailed to you too – our Members response is Awesome – THANK YOU!!! There were 5 levels of suggested donations, and the top 4 were used the most (Friend of ABATE; Bronze, Silver & Gold Donors). Thank YOU!! You all are the BEST!!

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Thank you to one and all; donations are welcomed anytime – you can snail mail (payable to) ABATE of California, 10240 7th Ave; Hesperia, CA 92345-2631. In the memo write which fund(s) you want it applied to.

Thank you to our Motorcycle Awareness & Freedom Rally Sponsors!!! Although there were some last minute changes, from the South Steps to the East Steps of the State Capitol (the Governor's side with "special permission") and the blocked meters for us being changed from N Street to the 11th & 12th Streets; The ABATE & MMA May Rally wasn't postponed or cancelled because of these changes. Thank you to the CHP per-

mits office and the City of Sacramento Parking Services Dept. for working with ABATE and helping us through the changes! Both of these Departments could have cancelled our reservations due to conflicting events on May the 6th, but they didn't! Even the CHP Permit Office had to get permission from the Governor's Office for ABATE to be on the East steps, and ABATE was only the 2nd group that had been given the "special" permission! Thanks to Lil' David for getting the Reserved parking signs printed and laminated and putting them up the day of the Event!

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Ruby Weber
Locals: 1, 9, 17, 20 & 27.

The signs that were not picked up were brought back to the State office and will be sent to you or the Local – whichever is applicable, and even though some of you sponsored more than one sign, some signs just manage to "walk away" so we do not get all of them back. We thank you All for helping to pay for the Rally!!! And thank you to those who attended too in spite of the changes and inconveniences!!! It was an uplifting Rally!

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THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

by Ratchet Ron, Southern
California Regional Rally Run
Chairman



I want to make sure that you know that your support of ABATE and the Southern California Regional Rally is appreciated. It is only through your support that we are able to continue as an organization. Thank you to our Locals and the Vendors for Raffle prizes too. Thank you again for coming out to support the Rally.



Next year is our 20th anniversary of the run. We hope to see many new faces and lots of old faces that have faded away. If you haven't been to the Rally in a few years you are missing lots of fun. Just check out all those people having fun in the photos. If that doesn't set you wondering about all the excitement, seek out someone who was there and ask them about the fun.



The people games, once again were something to see. We had quite a few people participating in the bag toss. I'm not sure what attracted them more, a chance to cool off a little or winning \$5 if you got Ronda with a headshot. And I think that was even upped to \$10, but alas no one won the pot. Either way a lot of fun was had. The excitement continued on through, "Oh Crap! The Cops Are Here" and the Team Skis. Congratulation to the winners!



Ok, I just wanted to peek your interest if you weren't there. And to let you know that the amusement continued all weekend with a live band, The Pack, a Poker Walk, an Observation Run, Horseshoes, Raffle, DJ, and Bike Games.



Hope to see everyone back again next year, with many new friends and some old ones too. Thank you all for your support.

If you have any photos and/or stories that you would like to share about the past rallies please send them to lizzandron@verizon.net or mail to: Regional Rally 20, 12226 Chinaberry St, Yucaipa CA 92399. Thank you.

Southern Regional Rally Raffle Booth

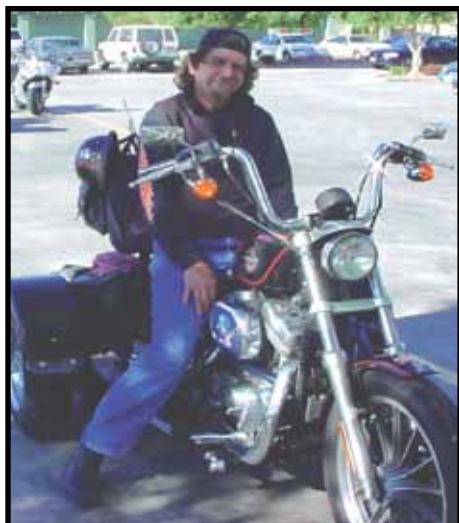
by Ed Mathis aka Iceman

I stepped in for Sporty because he was laid up with a broken leg. I would like to take this time to thank the people that helped me in the raffle booth and made things happen! The people from ABATE Local 1- Jim Nickla, Steve B, Kathleen Edwards, and Sheila Lindsey; ABATE Local 25, Lil' David; the folks from The High Desert Trikers, Rusty Farmer, Rich & Sherry Wilhelm, and Becky Brown. Thank you for your great help.

Thanks to the following for donating raffle prizes: Fred & Patty Cammack, High Desert Trikers, ABATE Locals 00, 1, 6, 11, 13, 21, 23, 25, 27, 38, and 44. Our Vendors – Old Town Dogs, Pete's Motorcycles, Touch of Purple, Spencil Art, Scentsy, Damsels in Distress, A.I.M., Dan McCarthy, Russ Brown, L & D Supply, Eagle Riders.



Sporty's Rides



by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan

Hi again! It has been some time since I have spoken to you all via the Internet. Unfortunately on April 13th I had a mishap on my 1200 Sporty L coming back from doing a gig at an off road store in Canoga Park. My co-member Steve B and myself were at the parking lot sale getting signatures for the off road bill, SB234 and AB64. These bills, as you know, are being pushed through the legislature to correct another already passed bill (AB1595). We had gotten 34 signatures and figured that was all we were going to push out of that crowd.

We stopped at McCloskey's shop in Canoga Park to drop off Bailing Wires. From there Steve and I parted. I decided to go home get the fax address for our lobbyists and then go to Office Depot to fax the signature sheet to him. I never made it there. Going on Brand Ave going towards San Fernando Road I misjudged the signal light and

hit a little white car when I went through the intersection. I broke my ankle and my leg.

I have an external fixator that is being used to hold my ankle and lower leg together. It's been a nightmare. My leg has a tingling sensation that I feel quite often. The doctor said that's normal. Nevertheless it's painful at times. So at this point the bike is at Old Road HD in Santa Clarita. It is going to be fixed and I am at home recovering from my injuries.

You're probably wondering how long I am going to be laid up. The Kaiser doctor said at least until September! I will still do my monthly ABATE Local 1 meetings at the Elks Lodge - Renee, my wife, will be taking me.

I want to thank everyone who has expressed wishes for my recovery. So Sporty what the heck are you going to do while you are laid up? Well for starters I am going to try and maintain my sanity. I have good folks in my Local that pitched in and are helping me out with the May So Cal Regional Rally in Victorville. I am going to try and work out some ideas to help out the Locals that might have just a few members showing up for meetings. I could use ideas for stuff and if you want to give me suggestions, email me at sportymilligan@yahoo.com.

Ok. So, again, at this point I am going to try and have a sane recovery. Having been a county employee for over 32 years overall, I have enough time to cover on the books.

I guess Sporty's Rides will be thoughts on stuff and a progress report on my recovery. Till next time, thanks for your support. Regards, Sporty

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan,
Membership Chairman

Hi all! As you know we are conducting a membership drive. This drive started January 1st and is slated to end December 31st. Since April 1st we have been conducting our annual membership special raffle funding ticket drive. For only \$1 per ticket you can purchase a ticket from your Local officers or me for that matter, and get a chance to win \$250 at the July Board meeting. Winner need not be present to win. By participating in this raffle you once again enable us to do this drive cost free. So please support this fund raising effort with your support.

Ok. So now for the membership stuff. The weather is getting warmer and with that comes your ability to do a membership booth at the local bike nights or, if possible, places like the Rock Store. It is also good if you could branch out to other areas of the bike groups such as sport bikes and our off road boys. Try to see if you can be invited to the HOG chapters as well or the Gold Wing chapters. Just remember to be respectable to these groups. Plus if there are clubs in your area, try to go to their meetings to get their members to join as well.

As you know we have some all star member getters who have been getting members over the years and soon I would like them to step up to the plate and submit their ideas on how they get and retain their members. This might help the smaller Locals keep and slowly grow their membership. I have often wondered why we lose members. Now I am asking for your help on why you think this happens. My co-chair, Skinz, can assist me in this area as well, so please try to help us to devise a game plan to build up our membership numbers.

Remember to communicate with your members to determine where they stand in your Local and don't forget to use my trinket program for your renewals. The membership funding tickets work well as a reward for renewing. Giving them a couple of ticket chances and a simple note of thanks for renewing goes a long way to getting them to renew every year. If we work together to keep building up our numbers we can accomplish good things for the organization.

There is unity and strength in numbers of members.

Regards, a recovering Membership Chairman Sporty Milligan and Co-chair Skinz.

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ABATE 2013 Events

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Winner of the 2013 Motorcycle will be (drawn) & Announced

July 20 – ABATE 3rd Quarterly Meeting; American Legion; 5646 Corporate Ave; Cypress 9:00am to 3:00 pm

August 2-4 – CANCELLED – ABATE NORTHERN Regional Rally, Belden Town, CA

August 17 – ABATE Local 44 – Hot August Night with ABATE Local 44

September 13 – 15 – ABATE ANNUAL State Run – Kernville, CA. (see flyer page 4)

October 6 – ABATE Local 17 – Fallen Riders

October 13 – ABATE Local 17 – Annual Fall Run

November 23 – ABATE Local 38 – Annual Turkey Run

December 8 – ABATE Local 17 – Annual Toy Run

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.

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

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Board pics from page 11



From Grass Valley ABATE Local 52

The majestic beauty of the Sierra foothills combined with perfect weather set the stage for the 8th Annual Gold Country Lions Poker Run. The 85 mile ride through the heart of Gold Country started off in Grass Valley and finished at the Greenhorn Campground at Rollins Lake. The Lions outdid themselves on this one with live music and great food in a location that accommodated a respectable turnout of over 200 bikes. Local 52 was invited by the Lions to set up our booth and get the word out. A good time had by all!



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For their "Sustaining Membership"

– and anyone else who signs up as a Sustaining VIP Member will receive an individual copy of the Bailing Wire snail mailed to them (the month it is physically printed); a Certificate of Appreciation (suitable for framing); their individual Membership card with their name and V.I.P. printed on it; And their names printed in the Bailing Wire under Sustaining ABATE Members.

A Special thanks to our Sustaining Members for the extra support!!!

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SAFETY ARTICLE

by Steve Guderian

Take Me To Your Leader

(There is an important announcement coming right after I cover this topic.)

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

So, here is a really important question for everyone to think about: Who is the leader in motorcycle rider safety? Or asked another way, who is the leader in looking out for motorcycle riders?

For me, a leader in motorcycles is the place or person any rider, well, any person for that matter, can go to in order to get any information they want about motorcycling. It is also the place where any rider or other person can go to voice or talk about any concerns, issues or problems and expect a reasonable answer in a reasonable amount of time.

So, I ask you again, who is the leader in motorcycling here in California? If you know the answer to this question, would you please email it to me, because I don't know who it is and I really would like to.

Some of you may be wondering why this is important; I will give you a couple of reasons. First, if you were to do a search on it, you would be directed to the California Motorcycle Safety Program (CMSP) website for rider training in California. In fact the top sites all have to do with the CMSP. But, isn't "California Motorcycle Safety" a bit bigger than just rider training in California? I believe so, but let's continue on. When you look at the training associated with CMSP you see that the only training listed is that which is done by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF). Specifically, the only motorcycle rider training list is the training done by the MSF.

I know for a fact that there is some outstanding advanced rider training offered in CA. I also know that there are many who believe that advanced rider training creates a better and safer rider. So here are two valid questions that need answers; why isn't any other training listed on the CMSP



rider training site, and why isn't somebody looking into the benefits of secondary or advanced rider training? It seems to me that a leader would be involved with providing reasonable answers to these questions for motorcycle riders in CA. If the CMSP rider training site is for all riders in the state, then shouldn't all riders have the opportunity to learn about other available rider training? What good is it for any rider trying to learn about "California Motorcycle Safety" to only get information about training from a single source of rider training? These are not only important questions; they are valid questions to ask, so how do we get an answer? Maybe if we had a leader.

The second thing is a pretty big one. Today is May 15, 2013 and May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness month. CA has the most registered motorcycles in the nation and is always in the top 3 states of rider fatalities. This is the month for state motorcycle safety people and agencies to try and make a difference for riders in this state. So, what have all of you seen so far? Anything? Anywhere? Myself and a couple of friends are keeping track of what is going on. So far we have seen the "move over for workers" message on the message board, and less than 5 press announcements. So, as of right now in motorcycle rider safety awareness month we have 14 days of nothing; virtually no press coverage and empty message boards. Maybe the big push is coming at the end of the month. But, since the entire month of May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness, it seems to me that a little something at the beginning of the month might be a bit more effective?

Again I ask, "Take Me To Your Motorcycle Leader!"

As for the announcement, this safety piece will be my last one because with this safety piece my resignation from the ABATE Board of Directors and as the ABATE Safety officer will be effective. Without going into a lot of detail, I am going to help out some other riders looking to form a motorcyclist action group and it is not fair to ABATE and its members for me to split my attention.

Although I will be away from ABATE of CA I am not gone and I will always be around to help out any rider, any time with any safety issue or question. My email address will be the same it has always been.


I wrote of many things, probably in too many words, over the months for ABATE on rider safety. What I would like to leave everyone with is a few things I look at as concepts for rider safety:

1. In order to make the right decisions, motorcycle riders need the right information.
2. The most basic fundamental right of all motorcyclists is the right to the safest riding environment possible.
3. Motorcyclists have the right to contact the state agencies and representatives responsible for motorcycle rider safety, and they have the right to a reasonable and timely answer.
4. Motorcycle rider safety is every ones responsibility.
5. Always question anything anybody tells you is the best or safest way to ride or do something on a motorcycle. Make them prove what they are saying is right with facts, not just words.
6. Riding rules are never absolute and will not universally apply to all riding environments. Let where you are riding tell you how you should ride. Don't change the riding environment to fit the rule, let the environment tell you the best form of a riding rule.

I would like to wish all of ABATE of CA members good luck, safe riding and safe journeys where ever they may be. It has been a pleasure to be part of this great organization and to have had the opportunity to work with all of its members.

Respectfully, Steve Guderian.

Email: Galileo-g@sbcglobal.net



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The following letter was re-formatted for printing:

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May 10, 2013

ABATE of California
10240 7th Ave.
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To Whom It May Concern:

We are attaching a check to your organization for \$250 from the Southern California Harley Riders Association, Inc. (SCHRA) in appreciation for all the good work you accomplish. We wanted you to know that all the members of our Club have agreed to this contribution in recognition of your efforts to protect all motorcyclists from the constant government intrusion into our freedom.

Without your efforts we would certainly have fared far less at the attempts of all those non-riders who feel the necessity to protect us from ourselves. Thank you for all your efforts.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jack Launius
President, SCHRA

Things you as an ABATE Member should know about our Website & Discussion Group

by Carol Cromwell

WEBSITE: Since the Bailing Wire is now printed every other month, it seems to me that Members may not be getting online and finding out what is going on in ABATE in between printing times. And if you or your Local President didn't attend the May Board meeting in Sacramento you missed some information there too.


One thing that really sticks out is Sporty Milligan's absence from the Board meeting and the Capitol Rally. He never missed those even before he was elected to the ABATE Board! On behalf of the Bailing Wire staff, we want to wish Sporty a speedy recovery. Read "Sporty's Rides" column for the details.

We recently heard that some of you with laptop computers cannot see our complete website for some reason. You can see the ABATE Banner, but not the topics in the gray bar with the drop down menu. So you are missing a lot of information that is posted on the website. At the moment we do not know whether the real problem is the search program a person is using or something else. But we are working on the solution, so keep checking the website.

DISCUSSION GROUP: You (current) ABATE Members with computers and internet access this is how you can sign up for ABATE's Discussion Group: At abate_ca@googlegroups.com you will get a message that "you can't post". Click on contact the "Owner". That will notify us that you want to sign up. If your ABATE membership is current, you will be approved and you will be emailed a message of "approved". BUT you will need to confirm that YOU are the person who made the request and reply to that email. After that you will receive the ABATE information that is posted on that group and you can reply to the posts IF you want. Sounds complicated, but it really isn't.

ABATE's Discussion Group is NOT the same as the ABATE Facebook. Similar things are discussed, but on Facebook you do not necessarily need to be an ABATE member.

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TECH TIPS

by Craig Griswold

The Great Oil Debate (Part I)

Few things generate more debate in the automotive/motorcycle world than the subject of oil. In this series, we'll clear up some of the bad information floating around, break down oil in technical terms, and talk about maintenance.

Many moons ago, oil selection with regards to quality, varied greatly. Anything from real cheap non-detergent oil to the more expensive synthetics and everything in between made selection a little more complicated. These days, there's no shortage of choices, but most name brand oils are of excellent quality. As long as you are using the right oil for the application, you'll be in good shape.

Let's start by clarifying some of the "facts" and "rumors". First, there's the synthetic vs. fossil oil argument. Here's my



take: Synthetic is superior, hands down. It's also twice the cost, give or take. So is it worth the extra cost for the better oil? I tell folks that if they follow their recommended factory drain intervals, and ride in mostly average riding conditions (mainly speaking to extreme temperatures), a good fossil oil will do just fine. Have a tendency to overshoot that 5,000 mile service? Live in Phoenix? Wrestling with heat management issues like so many new Harley Twin Cam owners (thanks EPA)? Try switching to a synthetic. In most cases, synthetic will drop your oil temps 10-15 degrees. If you're not on a real tight budget and just want to run the top of the line stuff, that's OK too.

There are many to choose from. Some of the most well known in the V-Twin world are AMSOIL, Mobile-1, and Harley's SYN3 to name a few.

This is a good merge into some of the industry's best hum dingers. Synthetic IS NOT TOO SLIPPERY! Your bearings WILL NOT SKID. This was a favorite back before Harley started selling synthetic oil. Slippery oil is good. It's what oil does. Nuff said! My other favorite is "once you start running synthetic, you can't go back." I don't know what chemistry major came up with that one, but here's the deal. You can go back and forth all day long. Not only that, there is no analysis that we have seen that indicates the two can't be mixed. Synthetic oil is designed to chemically duplicate fossil oil. Would I recommend mixing fossil with synthetic? Not as a routine, just because there's no reason to. In a pinch, however, it's not going to hurt your bike to run what's available to get you off the side of the road and back home.

In conclusion, today's modern oils are excellent. If you're brand loyal, run with it. Shopping for the best price, go for it! Get the right oil for the application and you'll do just fine. Next month we'll dive into that (applications) and explain some of the other technical aspects (viscosity, additive packages, etc.). 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@twogunners-customiron.com, or call 530-263-8071. Additional information can be found on the web at: twogunnerscustomiron.com. See us on Facebook).

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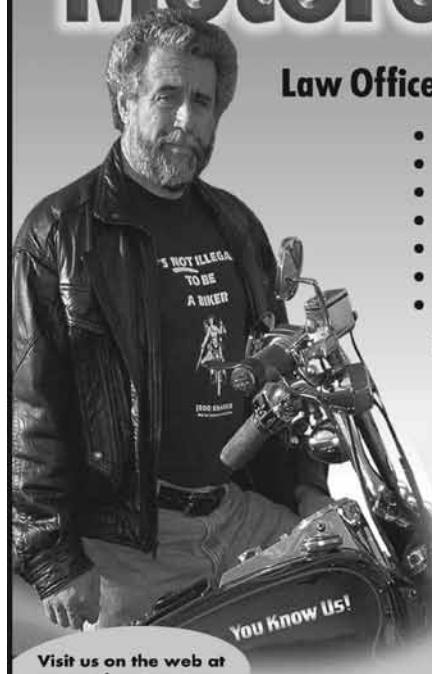
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Bella Monterey Custom Bikes
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Ken Armani British Motorcycles
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Los Angeles County - Local #01-Reg#8
Sporty Milligan 3rd Sun-9 AM
1616 4th St Elk's Lodge #2098
San Fernando 10137 E. Commerce
818/ 361-8800 Tujunga, CA 91042

Simi Valley - Local #02-Reg#8
Steamer Arsnow 2nd Tues 7:30 PM
661/251-8360 VFW Post#10049
4242 E Los Angeles Ave.
Simi Valley

Thousand Oaks-Local#03-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
Buena Park
714/649-2516

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
busel3@cox.net American Legion #149
760/807-7294 230 E Park Ave
Escondido

Ventura County - Local #13-Reg#7
David Blackburn 2nd Thurs. - 7:30 PM
VFW #3935
300 Surfside Dr.
Pt. Hueneme CA 93041
805/482-3943

Alameda County Local#14-Reg#3
Houdini 1st Wed 7:30 PM
510/575-1500 The Florence
37349 Niles Blvd., Fremont

Contra Costa County - Local #15-Reg#3
Dennis Seace 1st Wed - 7:00 PM
P.O. Box 269 Fuddruckers
Concord CA 94522 1975 Diamond Bl.
925/827-9973 E260 Concord

Solano & Napa Counties - Local #17-Reg#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
Chris Stowers 4th Wed - 7:00 PM
POB 2033 Round Table Pizza
Rancho Cucamonga 1020 N Mountain
91729 Ontario, CA
909/525-6950



ABATE MEETINGS

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

Antelope Valley - Local #21-Reg#13
Ron Sundquist 2nd Thurs - 7:00 PM
37230 52nd St. East Moose Lodge
Palmdale 93552 44545 Division St
661/586-5555 Lancaster 93535
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
Greg Covell 1st Tues - 7:00 PM
P.O. Box 7070 American Legion
Riverside CA 92513 2979 Dexter Dr
951/522-3434 (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
Call Marty for Location
29 Palms CA 92277
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. - 7PM
530/749-1003 American Legion
5477 Feather River Blvd.
Olivehurst

Imperial Valley - Local#38-Reg#12
Bob Brown Last Thurs - 7:00 PM
616 Tangerine Dr Puerto Nuevo Restaurant
El Centro, CA 92243 201 N Imperial Ave
760/352-7995 El Centro

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
George Butterfield 2nd Sat. 9:30 am
P.O. Box 3094 Victor Valley Moose Lodge
Victorville CA 92392 10230 "E" Ave
760/954-1227 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 3rd Sat 10:00 AM
760/447-4342 Call for meeting place

Regions With Local Info:
Region 2: Director Lil' David Morena
25, 31, 33 & 52.
Region 3: 14, 15 & 17.
Region 6: Director Ed Rogers
24 & 40.
Region 7: Director - Vacant
3 & 13.
Region 8: Director Tom Lubbers
1 & 2.
Region 9: 19, 23, & 23
Region 10: Director Vacant
29.
Region 11: Director Gill Mellen
8, 9, 20 & 22.
Region 12: Director Dave Connors
6, 11 & 38.
Region 13: Director Yermo Eddy
21, 44, 47 & 58.