The Bailing Wire

Newsletter for Motorcyclists

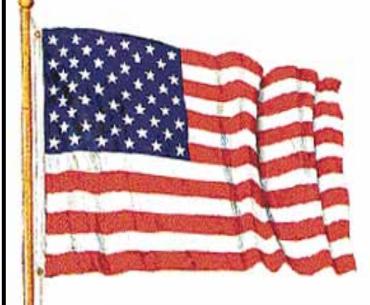
Volume XXXI

ISSUE IV

APRIL 2012

A Union of Motorcyclists Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

American Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education



Lobbyist's Legislative Report

by James Lombardo, Lobbyist

Three ABATE bills, AB 1047, AB 1535 and AB 1890 are currently making their way through this year's legislative process. The deadline for candidates to file for the June 5 primary elections, and Initiatives to bail out the schools that raise taxes on millionaires, are all going on in Sacramento.

We had another good month at the Capitol. AB 1535, by Assemblywoman Linda Halderman, requiring Caltrans to reinstall *MOTORCYCLES OK IN HOV LANES* signs passed out of the Assembly Transportation Committee on March 19, and now goes before the Assembly Appropriations Committee. If passed there, it then goes to the Assembly Floor for another vote.

Last month, we were able to move AB 1047 by Transportation Committee Vice-Chairman, Kevin Jeffries, out of the Assembly, which *WILL BAN MOTORCYCLE ONLY CHECKPOINTS*, as New Hampshire, South Carolina and Virginia have already done. This should help the MRF in their efforts to pass a ban on NHTSA funding motorcycle-only checkpoints in any state.

Please join others by signing support forms and sending them and letters and e-mails to the Senate Transportation & Housing Committee, Room 2209, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 651-4121. AB 1047 will be heard there this month or in early May, so don't wait!

ABATE has sponsored another bill, AB 1890, by Assemblyman Jose Solorio, to help motorcyclists who use toll roads or toll bridges. Some of



the toll authorities are requiring motorcycle riders to have their transponders out and visible, creating a safety problem for riders. ABATE's Gill Mellon has been in various meetings with Assemblyman Solorio and local toll authorities who will not agree to allow us to just have our transponders on the bike, rather than displayed. Assemblyman Solorio said *enough!* He agreed that this is a problem, and introduced our legislation to fix it.

AB 1890 will allow riders to just have them on bikes, displayed or not. Again, we need letters, e-mails and calls to the Assembly Transportation Committee, 1020 N Street, Room 112, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 319-2093.

Finally, the deadline for the final filling of Candidates for the June Primary election was

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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 ioning aside from an interest in promoting joining aside from an interest in promoting motorcyclists' rights and safety with payment of the appropriate fees.

ABATE Info or Message Line 1-760/956-1669

Fax 760/956-6519 http://www.abate.org E-mail: info@abate.org 2012 State Officers Executive Director Greg Covel 951/522-3434 Asst. Exec. Director- Vacant

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Region 6: Ed Rogers 559/264-2891

Region 7: Vacant

Region 8: Tom Lubbers 626/335-6508

Region 9: Vacant

Region 12: Dave Connors 760/975-5953

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Executive Director's Report

by Greg Covel

Welcome all new and returning members! Our Board of Directors meeting for April is to be online via an online conference service. Testing how this will work has begun and details still to follow.

We have talked about motorcycle parking and it was determined that we should start at the Local level. I currently have my Safety Officer working on wording to present to businesses and legislators to convince them of the importance of this issue.



A move to replace the" Motorcycles OK" signs on our HOV lanes is being initiated. However funding may be an issue. Hence, they may be replaced when the "old signs" need replacing during regular maintenance.

It was also brought to our attention in January that a bill may be proposed to stop lane sharing in California. Apparently, the deadline was missed to get the bill on the docket. I fully expect it to

show up quietly, possibly as a rider on another bill. California is the only state currently allowing lane sharing; let's not lose this issue which would affect all riders, but mostly daily commuters in high traffic areas throughout California.

There is so much to do to protect the rights and privileges of motorcyclists. Every day in every state the battle is carried on by small, dedicated groups and individuals. Government rules and legislation for "safety" economics, and convenience have led the automotive industry to a level of mediocrity that makes it nearly impossible to tell a Ford from a Chevy, Toyota, Nissan, Lexus or Chrysler. Individuality used to be a respected quality in this country.

Over the past few decades "group think" and compromise have become the norm and the rugged individualism and the responsibility for one's own actions, that this country was founded upon, seems to be on the wane. I find this sad, somewhat depressing, and the more I think about it, it really makes me angry that so many people in this country seem set on mediocrity and the desire to have someone tell them how to live their lives. It makes me grateful for groups like ABATE who continue to struggle against an overly controlling govern-

Motorcycle Safety Month is coming up - any ideas? I believe we have the ability and the need to share ideas and plans from individuals as well as Locals. Local Presidents, let's share ideas as soon as possible, that way others might be able to implement them also.

Keep Your Eyes Wide Open.



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.

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.



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 and any other motorcycle rights organization that strengthens our lobby on legislative issues and on motorcycle safety.



ABATE OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

American Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education 10240 7th Ave Hesperia, CA 92345-2631 1-760/956-1669 Fax 760/956-6519 http://www.abate.org info@abate.org

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

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Jim from page 1

ABATE OF CALIFORNIA

March 15, so Carol has already spent many hours going over the lists of Candidates for *ALL* 80 Assembly Districts, 20 State Senate Districts and 53 Congressional Districts and is e-mailing and snail mailing our questionnaires to candidates. We will review their responses and develop recommendations for our Leg/PAC Committee to consider, and then send them out for a vote.

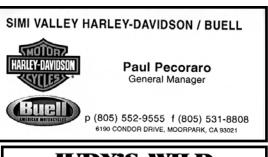
After the vote, we will send a voter guide - RECOMMENDATIONS ON MOTORCYCLIST-FRIENDLY CANDIDATES - to ALL LOCALS so that you can print them and pass them out to all of our members and to other interested motorcyclists and non-motorcyclists.

Thanks again to all of our Locals and individuals who continue to contribute to the Lobbyist fund. I have been paid on time.

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LOCAL NEWS

Local #01 Los Angeles



Hi all! Local 1 thanks all that attended the Polar Bear run on February 26.

Our meeting is on March 18 and as usual this report is due by the 15th. So I will future tense this report.

President's remarks are about how to fund the various funds, lobbyists, Pac and general, with the money we made from the Polar Bear run.

you hospitality!!!

We had plent ed to Local 2, an

We also discussed AB1047, which is going to be heard soon, and the other bills. Glen will discuss membership and other assorted tidbits. Jim Nickla will expound on publicity related issues, and I will encourage participation in other folks' runs and ask all to attend the Southern California Regional Rally in May.

Questions from the members will take up the rest of the meeting and then breakfast. Thanks for reading. Regards, Sporty.

Local #02 Simi Valley



As I pulled up to VFW Post 10049 I could see smoke coming from the BBQ, Thanks to our volunteer cooks, VP Scott and Frank who did a fabulous job cooking hamburgers and hotdogs with all the fixin's! We serve a great \$5.00 meal! We here at Local 2 meet on the second Tuesday of the month. We start serving at 6:45 pm and our meeting starts at 7:30. We meet at VFW Post 10049 at 4242 East Los Angeles Ave in Simi Valley.

Pres Ray got us going with the Pledge of Allegiance and got the meeting going discussing many things that our Local does. You have to be here, it's all good stuff. VP Scott talked about the perils of lane splitting and advantages - one of the great accomplishments of ABATE! Our secretary, Jane, read the minutes, a big thanks to her and Frank for

all they do for Local 2! If you are/were here, you'd

know what I'm talking about - faithful volunteers that work hard for all!

Our treasurer, Stephanie, gave us a report and said we doing real good. She's another dedicated volunteer as well. Pat, our membership officer, talked about some missing people, but to our delight, about four of our members showed up whom we haven't seen in months! It is really good to see you guys!

AMA person, Shirley, talked about the *Run for the Wall* and a few other rides as well. Guy, our run coordinator, discussed future runs.

A big thanks to all our officers at Local 2! They work hard to keep our Local in business! It's time consuming and it's all volunteer work.

Big thanks also to VFW Post 10049 for letting us conduct our meetings at your place, you are very gracious to us and we really appreciate you hospitality!!!

We had plenty of raffle prizes that are donated to Local 2, and then donated in money form to ABATE. Thanks to all who donate them, and please, all who come please bring raffle prizes, this creates fun at the end of our meetings! Shirley was the BIG winner of the 50/50 drawing.

Our winner of the membership drawing was Bob Tanger who posthumously donated it back to ABATE - it was agreed upon by us all to do this. ABATE Local 2 lost our beloved member, Bob Tanger, this year. RIP Panhead Bob! 1940 – 2012, he leaves behind two sons, one daughter and many grandkids. You will be missed. We are planning to do an honorary ride soon and will let all know.

Ride Safe PTL!!! norm e. new

Local #06 San Diego



Must start out with reiterating how much Local 6 misses John Del Santo! He was such an integral part of Local 6 for so many years. His are some big shoes (actually and figuratively) to fill, but we will try. He left us a good foundation and legacy with which to carry on.

January there was no meeting because it fell on New Year's Day and we figured not too many folks would show up...duh! Some members went up to Local 11's meeting the next week, I believe. Local 11 members/officers come to our meetings and we'd like to encourage everyone to go to their

meeting the second Sunday each month, 11:00 am, Oakvale County Store, in Escondido.

In February, Steve Martin conducted the meeting and we started nominations for the 2012 officers, reviewed the political and legislative scene, announced upcoming events and heard a little about past events, along with other subjects of the day.

The March meeting was started with elections and here's how it played out: (1) Snowman, President, (2) Nancy Nemecek, Vice President; (3) Patty Wilber, Secretary; (4) Michael Decker, Treasurer; (5) Douglas Findlay, PAC and Legislative Officer; (6) Doc Robinson, Membership, (7) Maureen Giacalone, Activities and Merchandise; (8) Monica Smith, PR; (9) Steve Anderson, Distribution; (10) Fran Del Santo, Sergeant-at-Arms and Photographer; (11) Steve Martin, Safety Officer; (12) Kim Blackhurst, Medical Info Officer; and (13) Joe Tatro, Webmaster. A big Local 6 thanks goes to everyone for volunteering to be a new or returning officer.

Snowman has a few ideas to try to reach out to the members of Local 6 who we rarely see and we'll keep you posted as things progress. Some kind of event is probably in order. Monica Smith, our new PR Officer, volunteered to set up an ABATE table at the upcoming Wolfpack M/C Swap Meet at the Flinn Springs Inn at the end of the month - hopefully we can enlighten a few folks, and pick up some new memberships.

I've been working on updating the ABATE email list. On March 6 an email was sent to everyone on the list asking for a response with their actual name and whether they would like to have the list reverted back to a two-way communication. I've received a lot of them back, but not all. If you didn't respond, please do ASAP. The phone tree will continue also.

We certainly appreciate everyone who comes to meetings and takes the time to read the Bailing Wire and the email blasts. If you have any ideas, concerns, etc., please feel free to get in touch with Snowman (619) 855-9981 (text is good, too), or with me at (858) 569-7370.

Ride safe, we will ride free again! Nancy Nemecek

Local #11 North San Diego



Hi! I am Gary Elliott the new scribe for Local 11. We would like to send our best to brother, James Fillo, who had to step down for personal

assume those duties.

ABATE OF CALIFORNIA

reasons. I understand he is up in Oxnard for a March meeting we have a date of June 23 for Calwhile, so you all at Local 13 might run into him. lous Cheeks. Mark your calendars! Thanks for all of your hard work Jim.

cal. Our PAC representative Dan Buse has been kickstands up at 10am! elected president. The PAC Rep position is open, will be doing double duty in the interim. Vice Pres- all the info as it sounds like a TON of fun! ident Dave Caldwell will continue in his role as VP and will continue to keep us up to date on all of the \$262, when we pulled Kit Sauer's name out - too Ed state and local runs and events. Cheryl Clark has bad he wasn't present to win! In March, Phil Ver-

ver (also a Moose Lodge member) talked about a insurance. Both are still in the hospital. The mem- Local 13 business. bers voted to donate \$20 to help start a fund to help with her medical bills. Another member matched that and then the wallets opened up.

Todd Whitehead won the 50/50 and donated half back to the Local and half to the fund. Thanks Todd. We collected a little over \$100. I am proud to be a Local 11 member. Ride safe.

Local #13 Ventura County



vote was taken and passed to change the date of miles from the campgrounds. the monthly meeting to the 2ND THURSDAY of the month.

access!

Remember, it's a Local Run, so the Local members if you can. need to work, as well as enjoy the Run! As of the

On the rest of the election front, Tim Clark LVMC Vung Tau Run scheduled for April 1. Lo- group voted to pay the funds needed to get their decided not to run for president after several years cal 13 will be meeting at the Top Deck, 100 W. logo on our T-shirt this year. Hope to see you at our of dedicated hard work and leadership for the Lo- Pleasant Valley Rd, Point Hueneme, at 9am with next meeting. Meetings are still being held on the

but there are no takers at the current time, so Dan garding an overnighter in May. Make sure you get with a 7:00pm start time. Come out and join us!

decided to step down as treasurer. Tim Clark will coutere could have picked himself up \$275 -but he wasn't present to win, either! That's right; we pay On another serious note, member Dale Pul- you (possibly) to come to meetings!

Our next meeting is April 12, 2012 at tragic accident that most of us were aware of that 7:30pm. If you want the latest info, check out our happened on a local highway. A man, a Moose ABATE of Ventura County FACEBOOK page, or Lodge member and woman were hit head on by a send an email with your name and membership DUI driver. Both lost a leg. The rider is recovering number to abate.L13@gmail.com and we'll put but, the passenger is not fairing as well. She has no you on the list! No jokes, no SPAM, nothing but

Ride Safe, Scott, President Local 13

Local #19 Pomona Valley

The first quarter of 2012 is gone and so is Winter. It's time for the Spring showers and some warmer weather. Don't put away the foul weather before you hit the road.

The work on the ABATE Regional Rally goes good music and will make Friday evening a good money for this program. one. Of course, there will be more fun on Saturday

The 2012 Toy Run preparations have already begun. Robert is going to Chair this event on Lo- the unconstitutional motorcycle only check points. For now, we are still meeting at the VFW in cal 19's behalf and Kevin will Chair on behalf of He believes that the funds that have been given Point Hueneme, but are always looking for a bet- PV HOG. The various committees will start form- to cities would be better spent on real motorcycle ter location - maybe closer to a freeway for better ing and volunteers are needed from both groups. safety issues like riding classes. The first meeting was in March and the attendance

I would like to thank Pomona Valley HOG for donating money to help sponsor our Regional For rides coming up, we have the VNV/ Rally. Diane attended their March meeting and the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Round Ta-We are talking with our friends in Local 3 re- ble Pizza on 4th and Mountain (Southeast corner)

I look forward to seeing you out there on the Our Membership can in February was up to road. In the mean time ... keep the shiny side UP!

Local #20 Orange County



The regular meeting of the ABATE Local 20 gear just yet. It never hurts to spend a rainy day was called to order at 7:00 pm on March 13, 2012 in the garage making sure your bike is ready to in Costa Mesa, CA by Gill. Thirty six people atgo when it's clear out and you want to ride. Rid-tended, three of them guests. Also we had three ing has been a bit challenging lately with the rain new members join this week: Alex Darrah, Shane we have gotten. Take a minute to check your bike Valdez and junior member Johnny Ybara – welcome!

Gill said that Richard Lester stepped up for on. Local 19 is working the sign-in booth again the Junior Scholarship Program in ABATE. The this year. If you are interested in spending a few scholarship program will pay for motorcycle hours there, please let Robert or Diane know, safety classes for our junior members as they be-There is always a need for help and the weekend come old enough to get their learner's permit and is a lot of fun. The band playing Friday night is become full fledge ABATE members. Lester must The Pack and, I have seen them before. They play really care about motorcycle rights to use his own

Assemblyman Jose Solorio is still working on as well. The Shady Oasis Campground (just north AB1890 Updating Toll Road Transponder Regu-It's TWO reports in one! As I mentioned in the of Victorville) is a great place to camp for the lations for Motorcyclists, changing the wording last report, the Local had decided to vote on chang- weekend. If you prefer a hotel, there are several in from "visible" to "accessible" because the way it ing the meeting date of the monthly meeting. The and around Victorville and you will be about five is currently worded is unreasonable for motorcycle riders.

Assemblyman Solorio is also pushing to end

Many events are in the works in the upcom-In February we formed a committee to over- was a bit low. Hopefully, this will change as the ing months in our area and one of these is Bysee the Callous Cheeks Run. There are a few sur- ball starts rolling for this year's event. After all, all ron Madewell's Annual Blood and Bone Marrow prises in store for everyone this year, so please the efforts are for kids that aren't expecting much Drive on April 28. Spike commented that last year make plans on HELPING with this important Run. of a Christmas. Try to make it to the next meeting there was a great turnout. Not only did every person that called to make an appointment show up, but many others that didn't even have an appoint-

save many lives.

shall's name was drawn, but he was not present so luz answered our questions about bills that are put strong statewide voice for ABATE in California. the money rolls over to next month.

April 10 in Costa Mesa. ~~Leenie~~

Local #21 Antelope Valley



Five people at the meeting with a pitch of \$100 and live music at the Road House with the bad-to-the-bone Niel from the Bull Frog Blues band from my own home town.

Company biz is done between sets and conducted quickly. Tina from the main ABATE Office called me one fine night about the State run and Southern California Regional Rally. That girl sure does her job!

Mark C came by on Tuesday to give me the lobby bucks for three months. He just bought a house - yah Mark!

So have a great month and see you at the Rally in May. Local 21

Local #25 Sacramento



March 15 was the best meeting ever this year. We finally filled the whole dining room that we use at Denny's. Of course our guest speakers had something to do with that.

Assemblyman Bill Berryhill's Senate Campaign staff member, Justine Dodds, brought information on his campaign and spoke about his attributes. Assemblyman Berryhill is now running for the Senate. He is from the Stockton area, PRO-BIKER, farmer, and believes in the right to bear arms. He wants to give back to the communities, not take from them.

Craig Deluz, Capitol Director for Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries, was also at our meeting and

man Jeffries, what he is doing and how we can We are working to make our Local strong. This The dollar draw netted \$35.00, Robert Mar- help with more signature of support forms. Mr De- Local strength will then, in turn, help support a on the consent calendar and how they are passed. bikers rights is ABATE.

We got one renewal with a new spouse added to that renewal. We may be receiving four to six bers if only to say "Hi". new members, as these bikers have shown an interest in our organization.

ern Locals to participate in a tour of the Capitol 15, ABATE Southern California Regional Rally building. So let me know what is a great weekend May 11th - 13th, ABATE Local 23's run May 19, for you to visit the Capitol. We need to get our ABATE Local 27 is assisting with the Riverside dates to mesh and make sure no other events are Chili Cook- off/ Car & Bike Show on May 26, and going on at the same time.

visiting Local 17's monthly meeting to discuss the possibility of putting together a Northern Califor- Check our website www.abatelocal27.org. Keep nia Regional Rally. Many of us northerners can't your Eyes Wide Open, Greg Covel, President Lomake it south for the Southern California Regional cal 27, gmcvl@yahoo.com

However, Lil Dave, Lenny (my husband) and I are all planning on riding down and camping out at the Southern Rally so that Local 25 is represented by more than one person, who is also a state Board member. I really think that all Locals should participate, if they are able to. But not everyone can afford to go. I have friends in Hesperia I am going to get to join us there as well.

We went to the State Capitol on March 14 to bring in another stack of letters and signatures of support for AB 1047 to the Senate Transportation & Housing Committee. ABATE of CA is really very awesome because I was told they are being inundated with mostly ABATE letters. I give praise to all from ABATE of CA, and to my own Local 25 members for their continued letter writing campaigns. Rebel Ruthi, President, Local 25, Sacramento

Local #27 Riverside



in a while.

ings and are slowly gaining members and support are still turned down, with no appeal process and

ment showed up. This event has the potential to spoke about AB 1047. He spoke about Assembly- there as well. Strength and support begin at home.

Legislative bills were discussed, calendar of Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm by Gill. He made it a point to tell us that the best MRO events was presented and new and returning mem-The next monthly meeting will be at 7:00 pm on they like working with who does the best job for bers were greeted. Plans are being consolidated for our Bare Necessities Run in April.

A reminder to all to visit our business mem-

Come out and show your support for ABATE first, and then plan your other rides. Coming up We are planning on talking with other north- locally: ABATE Local 27's Bare Necessities April ABATE Local 27 has a booth at West Coast Thun-This Sunday, March 18, several of us will be der (Soboba location) on May 28.

Want to know what's happening here locally?

Local #44 High Desert



Local 44's March meeting was well attended and we had the opportunity to meet Paul Schrader, a candidate for Sheriff of San Bernardino County. Mr Schrader addressed our members and answered questions from the floor and assured us of his strong belief in the Constitution of the United States and how important that document is for every citizen of this county. He is a firm believer Local 27's March meeting was somewhat of a law abiding citizen's right to "keep and bear sparsely attended by about 20 members. Those arms" and believes California should be a "shall that attended were involved and connected. It is issue" concealed carry weapon (CCW) state and always fun to connect with people we haven't seen promised that if elected, he would immediately institute that policy in San Bernardino County. The Geezers and Heart N Soul are regularly Currently this county does issue CCW permits to represented and have become strong supporters of it's citizen's, but because they are at the personal ABATE. Their input and help are tremendously ap- discretion of the Sheriff's Department, many of preciated. We are still working the I.E.HOG meet- our law abiding citizen's requesting a CCW permit

no recourse from the Sheriff's Department. Mr. thanks to our members for allowing him to address change, we instituted a new group activity for the Schrader believes every law abiding citizen that our meeting! applies should be granted a CCW permit as long

as they can pass the routine background checks, ride out to the T-Bird for our annual Saint Patrick's some of the patrons enthusiastically adorned the are not mentally ill, or a convicted felon. This is Day party. This will be our last event at this loca- wall with bright green Saint Patrick's Day autothe same criteria all other "shall issue" states use tion because the building will be demolished for graphs! and would bring San Bernardino County citizens a new construction project shortly. No problem a fair and equitable application and approval pro- though, Jim & Debbie, the owners of the T-Bird using for not attending our meetings, and come cess for the CCW permit. Again, speaking one on and Local 44 members are working hard on their on out and join us. Local 44 always has an inforone with a candidate is always more informative new location and will be re-opening soon! May- mative meeting and we do our best to guarantee than listening to a prepared campaign statement be a Local 44 grand opening ride/visit should be we have a great group of people to ride and party at an event. Thank you Mr Schrader for express- planned after they are finished with the new build- with! Dave H. ing your beliefs and answering our questions and ing. This year, because of the upcoming location

end of the party. We had an autograph session on After our meeting adjourned we took a group the interior wall of the T-Bird. Our members and

So put aside whatever excuse you have been



Pac/Lobbyist Report

by Dave Hastings, Treasurer

Over the last few months we have been discussing the critical importance of the upcoming primary elections in California. On June 5 California's new voter approved Open Primary Act will do away with the traditional nomination process by party. This means we the voters, not the established political parties, will place the two top vote-getters on the November ballot.

In a district such as mine, where we have thirteen candidates running for an open, uncontested, congressional seat we have a distinct possibility of utter party chaos on the November ballot. My district is comprised of 42% registered Republicans and of those thirteen candidates, ten are registered with the GOP. We could very well end up with two Republicans in a direct run-off on the November ballot. On the flip side of that coin, with that many GOP candidates, they may split the vote so decisively that we end up placing the two Democrats or the one independent candidate on the November ballot instead. Remember, the top two total vote-getters-regardless of their party affiliation, advance to the November election. This will set up some new and dynamic election strategies statewide.

My district is an anomaly because candidates and voters in this area are notorious for ignoring established party protocol. High Desert voters and candidates are fiercely independent and most of us moved here to get away from the "estab-



lishment", hence the large number of candidates thumbing their nose at their party protocol and running against their fellow party members, even though ultimately, it may have disastrous results for their own party's election success. Whatever the outcome, we are definitely going to participate in an old fashioned "wild west shoot-out" during the June primary election. So, NOW is the time to get informed, get involved, and help get YOUR candidate elected.

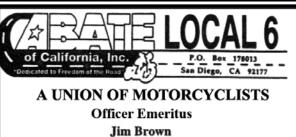
Your area may not be as volatile as mine, but someone running for office needs your help on election day, and ABATE will ultimately benefit from that help. Don't let someone else make that November decision for you in the June primary, make your difference now. We, the registered voters of ABATE of California, have an enormous opportunity to control the outcome of the November ballot. This year's primary election results and our November ballot choices will be determined by the voters, not by partisan political party affiliation. So, pick your favorites, volunteer to help them now, and always let them know you are a member of ABATE of California and how important motorcycle rights are to you.

Lastly, remember the single most important contribution you can give is your VOTE!

Please, attend and support all ABATE events statewide, keep your PAC, Lobbyist, and ABATE of California contributions coming and "THANKS TO ALL THAT DO, AND TO THOSE THAT DON'T, PLEASE TRY TO!"

















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by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan
Greetings all! Sporty here, hopeful that my

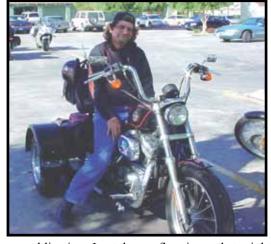
prose will be slightly more entertaining then the scribe of last month. I will begin by saying that it's been a pleasure writing all these years. I guess you must like my whimsical insightful column as my Board members have stated in the past. So here

The early part of this month was filled with preparations for Local 1's Polar Bear run. At the COC fund raiser that was staged at the Elks Lodge in Tujunga where Local 1 stages its monthly meeting, I was able to pass out flyers for the Polar Bear run. Sweet deal; I have come to find out that if you support events, then when you need folks to support your runs the troops will come for your stuff. With that said and times financially tough, it was and is a special deal when they show up at your event.

My good Local 1 member, Bob Warren, and I made a prerun of the Polar Bear route. On the first leg check point one, Auto Sports, was no longer able to be used as a check point. Flash - all was not lost, as we were able to use a small restaurant, which I guess puts on hot rod nights through out the year, called TROYS as check point one. It's off Foothill Blvd in Tujunga. They have a nice break-

We continued on and were also pleasantly February. When we got to the end spot, the Big a good rapport with the owner, Dee, and she is back after the problems she had with the potential buyer. So I said good-bye to Bob as he had business in Santa Clarita and went home.

Ok, now during the course of the month prior to the event I visited the Rock Store where I passed from folks inquiring about the run from the vari- with the weather.



ous publications I put the run flyer in, so that might up to the 25th annual Polar Bear run; the folks at have helped things out. At this point in the month I Locals 3, 5, 8, 19, 22, 23 and Local 1, thanks to the had made 122 run sheets with the route and poker Clubs that showed up, thanks guys. And if I left marker sheet attached. Glen C assured me that was anyone out, my apologies and thank you! Great

Now for the run: February 26 was a foggy day and I had all the stuff loaded in my wife's write up in this column. Honda Ridgeline. I had purchased two tables from Lowe's. I am getting enough stuff assembled so I commute to work and going to the dentist (he says don't have to borrow Peter's stuff as much - that's if you don't brush and floss, all he can do is yank a good thing both ways. Everyone who was to be and fill!), is the ride to Simi Valley to say Happy at the run was there. Anyway the sign-up ladies Retirement to ABATE Local 3 officer, Clean Dean. were there and that is a big plus. I personally want You may know of him as the editor of Biker Magasurprised as the weather was reasonably good for to THANK BUFFY AND HER SISTER AND zine. The party was at the Moose Lodge in Simi ALSO THANK SHARON ANDERSON AND Valley and we came to toast his retirement and Oaks Lodge, it was not open just yet. We have had HER FRIEND, GLORIA, FOR DOING A what he meant as an ABATE member as well. I **GREAT JOB AT SIGN-UP** and selling the raffle had my usual good time. and 50/50 tickets. Yes, we did run out of run sheets and I had to send Local 1 member, Jim Nickla, out Regional Rally committee meeting in San Berto make more copies. All was not lost as he pre- nardino and it was a business bike ride. Hope to vailed by getting the sheets.

out flyers and got folks to sign support sheets for everything was in order. We had two vendors sell- California Regional Rally. See flyer in this Bailing our bill AB 1047 motorcycle only check points ing their wares. Our main music was handled by Wire (the bill will prevent this from happening in CA, the DJ and it was good. Sarge was great with the if passed.) Note: I must have gotten several calls job of MC and the raffle drawings. We got lucky EVENTS, Regards, Sporty

Again, I want to thank the following folks for their help in making this work out: Buffy and her sister at sign-in at Big Jim's restaurant, Sharon A and Gloria as the sign-in Ladies for the selling of 50/50 and raffle tickets, Steve B and his girlfriend for helping with the traffic control, Jim Nickla for traffic control and purchase of emergency run sheets and tallying the poker hands at the Oaks, Sarge for helping set up and being MC at the Oaks, Bob Warren and Yodie for checkpoint one work, Steve and Linda Kerr for selling raffle tickets and 50/50/ at the end and Iceman aka Ed Mathis and Buzy for working the second check point.

Finally a big debt of thanks goes to Glen C for doing the AMA wrap up stuff and helping keep things in perspective through out the day. Also a big debt of thanks for those of you who showed stuff, everyone!

We had a special day and it bears the extra

OK the last thing, other then using the bike to

Sunday, March 11, was a Southern California see you all Mothers' Day weekend at the Shady At the end, which was the Big Oaks Lodge, Oasis Kampground in Victorville for the Southern

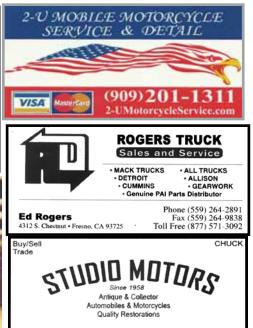
That is all for now, ATTEND ABATE

KIMBERLY HUDSON

JODY CONLEY

side, CA. 9250







COAST TO COAST BIKER NEWS

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish

FEDERAL HIGHWAY BILL PROGRESS-

ES: The U.S. Senate has approved its version of a federal highway appropriations measure (S.1813, "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century" or MAP-21) by a vote of 74-22 on March 14, and the \$109 billion highway bill includes motorcycle safety funding for states and would bar federal funds from being used to conduct motorcycle-only checkpoints.

The measure now goes to the House of Representatives for further action, where a similar measure is also being considered (H.R. 7, the "American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012").

Both bills contain motorcycle safety program funding and both would prohibit motorcycle-exclusive roadblocks, and neither version has any anti-motorcycle provisions, but it's unclear if the House will take up the Senate bill or advance their own legislation.

MORE STATES MOVE TO BAN MO-TORCYCLE-ONLY CHECKPOINTS: While

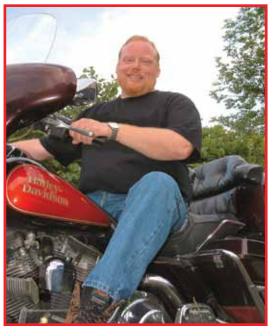
Congress continues to consider passing a prohibition on motorcycle-only roadside "safety checkpoints" by halting federal funding, several states are moving forward with their own laws to ban the practice.

New Hampshire and North Carolina have both passed such legislation, and Virginia has become the latest state to pass a bill to bar law enforcement agencies from setting up safety checks that only stop motorcycles for inspection. Following a motorcycle-only checkpoint set up during last year's Rolling Thunder POW/MIA rally en route to Washington, D.C. over Memorial Day weekend, Delegate C. Todd Gilbert (R-Shenandoah) introduced H.B.187, which passed and was signed into law on February 28 by Governor Bob McDonnell.

Most recently, New Jersey introduced companion bills in the Senate (S-1685) and the Assembly (A-508) to prohibit police from establishing checkpoints limited to certain types of vehicles and would require that all checkpoints include all types of vehicles.

inatory and unconstitutional ABATE of California als. is likewise pushing a bill (AB-1047) that would ban state and federal funding of biker barricades. According to ABATE Lobbyist Jim Lombardo, "We passed out of the Assembly and are awaiting a hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee. and then on to Governor Brown."

Meanwhile on the legal front, New York A.I.M. (Aid to Injured Motorcyclists) Attorney Mitch Proner told the Associated Press that he is preparing to appeal a federal court decision upholding the constitutionality of motorcycle roadblocks in N.Y., and the issue may eventually be heard before the U.S. Supreme Court.



BIKER ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILL **HEARD IN COLORADO:** Colorado legislation to ban discrimination against people wearing motorcyclist gear failed to pass its first committee hearing, but the bill's sponsor told the AP that he was glad he proposed the bill because it raised guard certificate under which a person can stop awareness. He said bikers are unfairly judged to be criminals.

State Rep. Joe Miklosi (D-Denver) says he didn't propose the measure to get attention but to help constituents who belong to motorcycle clubs and say they are being singled out unfairly. "I'm motivated by doing the right thing," Miklosi said. "They're being discriminated against."

Bikers say they're unfairly refused service at hotels, restaurants and stores because of how they dress, and Miklosi's bill (HB-1128) would have great start," said Backlund. banned businesses from discriminating against motorcyclists based on their style of dress.

But his bid to add "unconventional attire" to the state law that bars discrimination in public accommodations and put biker attire alongside such protected classes as race, gender and religious affiliation, fell short in the GOP-controlled House State, Veterans and Military Affairs committee Calling motorcycle-only checkpoints discrim- which is known for rejecting Democratic propos-

GREEN MOUNTAIN SENATORS LEARN GANG DESIGNATION INCLUDES

VETS: Members of the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club may be surprised to find themselves on a list of "security threat groups" recently offered Senate Judiciary Committee in Montpelier, VT.

According to information offered to the committee, a definition from the Department of Justice says a gang designation is appropriate for a group of three or more people with a common identifying sign, symbol or name who, individually or col-

lectively, engage in criminal activity which creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation.

Senator Alice Nitka (D-Windsor) wasn't so sure that the aging vets of the motorcycle club back in Windsor are a menace to society and warrant being "lumped in" with street gangs like "the Bloods and the Crips," reported vtdigger.org.

If all it takes for a "gang" to make the list is for a few members of a group to commit a crime, Senator Jeanette White (D-Windham) asked, "... will the Boys and Girls Club be next?"

MINNESOTA ROAD GUARDING BILLS

ADVANCE: Two companion bills to allow trained and certified motorcyclists to road guard during motorcycle runs (SF1719 and HF2008) were approved by the Minnesota Senate and House Transportation Committees, respectively.

Mack Backlund, State Coordinator for ABATE of Minnesota, testified in favor before both committees and answered questions from the committee members. While there were questions and concerns brought up during discussion, in the end both bills passed by unanimous voice vote with no amendments.

The legislation creates a motorcycle road and hold traffic during a motorcycle group ride: "Permit holders of a motorcycle road guard certificate who are acting as a flagger for a motorcycle ride to stop and hold traffic, and override traffic control devices to direct motorcycle operators or other vehicles. Requires drivers to remain stopped until directed to proceed."

"This language has a long way to go in the process before becoming law, but passage in the Senate and House Transportation Committees is a

YOU CAN HELP MOTORCYCLE SAFE-

TY STUDY: Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) is working in conjunction with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation to conduct a long term, comprehensive Naturalistic Motorcyclist Study of everyday riding in a wide variety of environments and conditions -- and they need participants.

If selected, you will answer questions about your age, training and riding experience to determine where you fit in the study. To gather information, several small cameras, radar, GPS and a recording unit will be attached to your motorcycle for one year. Once the equipment is attached, your job is to ignore it and ride like you normally by the Department of Corrections to the Vermont would. The data is encrypted as it is collected and kept confidential.

> They have selected a number of motorcycles representing a cross section of riders and types of riding: beginners, sport bikes, cruisers and touring, and designed their equipment and mounting

Continued on Next Page

Continued from Page 12

system to work with several specific models, and participants must live in or near the targeted study areas that cover different terrain and traffic patterns; Blacksburg, Virginia, Orlando, Florida and Irvine, California. For more details, contact VTTI at www.motorcycle.vtti.vt.edu.

FEDS PROPOSE DISTRACTED DRIV-ING GUIDELINES FOR AUTOMAKERS:

U.S. Department of Transportation chief Ray LaHood has announced a new set of proposed distracted driving guidelines for automakers that would limit the use of in-car tech solutions that are "not directly relevant to safely operating the vehicle, or cause undue distraction by engaging the driver's eyes or hands for more than a very limited duration while driving."

From cell phones to GPS screens, distracted driving is an ever-present road hazard in today's techo-centric world, especially for vulnerable travelers like motorcyclists, but soon video games and Facebook friends could be within arm's reach as drivers hurtle down the highway in the next generation of cars from Detroit.

Coming dashboard devices would deliver a whole new level of eye candy and brain entrapment, as more than 90% of cars debuting in the next five years are expected to be equipped with Internet-connected screens and other cutting-edge wonders. Automakers are responding to surveys that show 75% of young adults want touch-screen technology in their cars.

But, not if the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration can hit the "Hold" button. The agency's proposed guidelines -- which do not carry the weight of law -- call for automobile manufacturers to make some dashboard electronic devices automatically shut down once a car starts moving, unless they're for passengers and cannot be seen by the driver.

The guidelines cite six activities that should not occur while driving: text messaging, Internet browsing, using social media, entering addresses in navigation systems, dialing phones and reading display screens with more than 30 characters of

JERRY'S Larry McCray

BETTER LIVING CHIROPRACTIC

DR. CHRISTOPHER W. PEDRETTI

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a crash if they take their eyes off the road for pear to have moved well outside the scope of the more than two seconds, yet 41 states still allow Commission's original proposal." using a cell phone hand-set while driving and fifteen allow texting behind the wheel.

ally feel the throbbing.

ics Show in Las Vegas, Artificial Muscle Inc. demonstrated how it can make mobile devices shake and rattle with great realism, employing a technology that uses plastics that function like muscles, allowing you to feel the rumble of a Harley or the reverberation of a shotgun blast.

The company showed off an iPhone it had modified by placing one of its Vivitouch "motors" inside that shook a modified Xbox controller to allow the user to feel what it's like to hold a beating heart. In another instance, it let the user experience the signature rumble of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle starting up.

CHOPPERS FACE EURO-SION OF

RIGHTS: They're long and lean, and Europe is looking to ban them. Custom motorcycles are coming under fire across the pond, according to Motorcycles.about.com. Along with proposals to limit motorcycle emissions, force anti-lock brake systems on all bikes, and prohibit engine tuning for increased power; European Parliament is considering a ban on extended forks. The issue will be voted on in April and the limits on modifications could take effect by 2014; ABS rulings and stricter emissions could be enforced by 2016.

"The proposed EU Regulation on Type Approval and Market Surveillance of two and three-wheeled vehicles passed its first reading, Committee stage, on 5th December even though an impact assessment on many elements of the proposal was ongoing," writes MAG-UK (Motor-





Studies show that drivers double the risk of cycle Action Group), "and the Delegated Acts ap-

2012 NCOM CONVENTION IN INDI-ANAPOLIS: The 27th annual NCOM Con-

WEIRD NEWS: FEELING THE WIND vention will be held Mother's Day weekend, IN YOUR EAR: Today's phones can deliver May 10-13, 2012 at the J W Marriot located the sound of a heartbeat, but soon you'll actu- at 10 S. West St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. This annual gathering will draw bikers' rights At the International Consumer Electron- activists from across the country to discuss topics of concern to all riders, so reserve your room now for the special NCOM rate of \$99.00 by calling (800) 266-9432 or (317) 860-5800.

Registration fees for the NCOM Convention are \$80 including the Silver Spoke Awards Banquet on Saturday night, or \$45 for the Convention only. All motorcyclists are welcome and encouraged to attend. Meetings, seminars and group discussions will focus on legislative efforts and litigation techniques to benefit our right to ride and Freedom of the Road.

To pre-register, call the National Coalition of Motorcyclists at (800) 525-5355 or visit www.ON-A-BIKE.com.

The National Coalition of Motorcyclists is requesting that MROs, motorcycle clubs, and riding associations submit the names of those members and supporters who have died since May 2011, so that we may honor their memories during the traditional "Ringing of the Bell" tribute to fallen riders during the opening ceremonies. Dedications can be e-mailed to NCOMBish@aol.com.

QUOTABLE QUOTE: "The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools." ~ Herbert Spencer, English Philosopher (1820-1903)





GREGG OHLHAVER

Owner

2129 Harbor Blvd.

Costa Mesa, CA 92627



by Steve Guderian, Safety Officer

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

Maybe another way to ask "How far do you look ahead?" is "How far ahead should you look?" Various information about driving and riding has said that you should look or scan up to 12-15 seconds ahead in order to prepare yourself for things that you will be approaching. But I have two questions about this:

First, how do you know how far 12-15 seconds is ahead of you? When you are riding down the road how can you possibly judge time and/or distance to know how far ahead 12-15 seconds is in front of you when you are simply scanning? 12-15 seconds worth of distance in front of you is based on how fast you are traveling at the time, so again the question is how do you judge how far ahead to look or scan?

The second question I have is a little more straight forward, if I can stop my motorcycle in 5 seconds, why should I be concerned with what is 12-15 seconds in front of me? Bring this in one step closer, if I can stop my motorcycle in 5 seconds, why should I be concerned with what is 6 seconds in front of me? If I have brought my motorcycle to a complete stop in 5 seconds how is something 6 seconds, or longer, away from me going to affect me?

I have asked this second question to a lot of people and to be perfectly honest with you, I have not received what I would consider to be a reasonable answer to it. And, when we are talking about look ahead distance, this really is a reasonable question to ask and it does deserve an answer. Since an answer is important and I can't provide you with a reasonable answer to this question, I would say that you really don't need to look further ahead than the distance you can stop in. I will also say that it is a reasonable presumption that your driving and riding experience has given you some idea on how far you need to stop given the speed that you are traveling at. In other words, your own experiences on the roadway in a car, truck, bus or even on a motorcycle can provide you an idea as to how far ahead you need to look in order to stop for something.

is what you are doing anyway. It kind of goes you are riding southbound on San Antonio Ave. along with keeping things simple so that you are not distracted thinking about how far ahead you need to look based on the speed, conditions and the roadway environment you are in. Speaking of which, it kind of seems reasonable that the roadway environment plays a part in your look ahead distance. For example, it is much easier to look 12-15 seconds ahead when you are riding on a 4 lane freeway with very light traffic. But, if you are riding on the very same freeway at the very same location as before but in bumper to bumper traffic and you are lane sharing do you really want to take the time to look or scan ahead 12-15 seconds?

safest thing to do.

they have few or no exceptions.

There is also another very important factor to cerned with. consider about how far you look ahead; there is only so much information that you can input and process at any given moment in time. Think of it like a pipeline of info going to your brain. All pipelines can fill up and they can get stopped up. So, if you can stop in 5 seconds, but you are looking say 10 seconds ahead and the information pipeline gets full or stopped up. Is it possible that you might miss something hazardous within the 5 seconds ahead of you that you really need to be aware of? Yes it is possible, which means there is a potential for disaster. Cutting back on the visual information you are trying to process through scanning helps bound on San Antonio Ave from the start of the keep the pipeline clear so that you have an oppor- yellow line in the above photo toward Mission tunity to see or catch what you need to.

words, so in order to make this piece about four- were riding down San Antonio Ave, as well as just Google Earth.



Background info, the area in this overview picture is South San Antonio Ave starting just north of Sunkist Street. in Ontario, CA. The big street at the top of the picture is Mission Blvd. The speed the distance you would need to bring your motorlimit on San Antonio Ave is 35 mph or a little more cycle to a stop traveling at 35 mph.

I suspect that the odds are very good that this than 51 fps (feet per-second). Let's presume that



At 35 mph the look ahead distance for 12 Given this set of roadway and traffic conditions do seconds is 616 feet, which is shown as the yellow you really need to? As I have previously written, line in this picture, the line starts from a spot just it is my position that rules or suggestions for what below or south of Sunkist Street. From this picwe as riders need to do for our safety are best if ture you can see that looking 12 seconds means that you would have to look almost all of the way Just in case you were wondering, I have not down to Mission Blvd, which as you can imagine found any studies or actual testing that say or con- is a signal controlled intersection. This picture also firm looking 12-15 seconds ahead is the best or shows you this is a residential area and that there are multiple cross streets that you have to be con-



This photo is a street view looking south-Blvd. This picture gives you a little better idea of They say that a picture is worth a thousand just how far ahead you would be looking if you thousand words shorter, how about some pictures. exactly what the roadway environment around you As noted in the pictures, they were obtained from is. That first intersection that you see is not actually another roadway, but rather an alley and it has limited cross traffic visibility. There is a driveway on the left. Since this is a residential area there is a potential for pedestrians, bicycles and children. Also, isn't it reasonable to expect differing traffic patterns depending on the day of the week and/or the time of day that you are riding down this street? Weekends would be different traffic patterns from a weekday, and during the week daytime traffic can depend on children going or coming from school. If you were to look/scan12 seconds ahead you would be trying to gather information almost all of the way down to where you can see the cars near the top of the picture.

In this next picture the yellow line represents

Continued page 15

Continued from page 14



The yellow line in this picture is about 170 feet long. It represents a travel distance for 2 sec-

onds of perception and reaction time and a stopping distance using 0.6g, which is what studies are indicating represents what riders generally do for heavy braking. The total stopping time for this 170 foot distance is about 5 seconds. You can see in the above picture that this distance takes you just past the alley, and if you look at it from the

Keith Bertram 559.908.9729



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manageable area to look over and scan.

that you have in front of you at the moment. From me? The answer is yes. your speed, to your experience to the roadway enyou and it starts with you.

have one more piece of information for you to conbest for me. sider, the roadway is a dynamic place. Pretty much everybody and everything using the roadway and where I will be available to meet with anybody sidewalks is moving in some manner or another. will be Thursday, April 5, through Sunday, April 8, This means that everything in that roadway envi- 2012, which I know is Easter weekend. I will also ronment around you is changing at each and every be around at the Southern Regional Rally, Friday, moment in time. This can represent a lot of visual May 11, and Saturday, May 12, 2012. information that has to be processed. And, look at the different cross streets and alleys in the pic- bate please feel free to contact me any time.

street view you can see that you have a much more tures. When do you think your first opportunity to see any traffic on one of these cross streets will be, Let me take a moment to be clear, I am not 12-15 seconds away, or maybe closer to 4 or 5 secsaying not to look ahead; I am not saying this at onds away? Remember, that traffic on cross streets all. It is important that you get your head and your is moving too. If I am riding down San Antonio eyes up and that you do look ahead on the road- Ave at 35 mph and I am trying to scan or look at way for potential hazards. What I am saying is that one of the cross streets 8 or 9 seconds ahead, could how far you look ahead depends on all the factors I miss something in the alley right there in front of

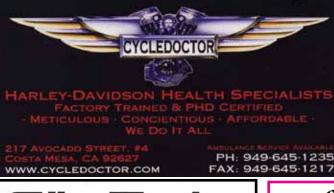
This is part of the title of my pieces; "In order vironment you are in at the moment. Remember to make the right decisions, motorcycle riders need rider safety, your safety while riding is all about the right information." So "How Far Do You Look Ahead?" The information is presented for you to If you have developed a habit where you decide what is safest and best for you. As for me, I know what 12-15 seconds of look ahead distances am worried about the closer in potential hazards so is for whatever speed you are traveling at, and this I am generally not looking or scanning much beworks for you, by all means don't change. But I yond my stopping distance. But this is what works

Remember, my next trip to Irvine in So Cal

As always, any questions, comments or de-

Email Galileo-g@sbcglobal.net





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Carburetors (Part III)

In Part II we discussed the tuning procedure for the S&S Super E/G carburetors. This month, we'll cover the tuning of the Mikuni HSR series carburetors. Since the procedure in its entirety is quite lengthy, we'll edit as needed to save space while still covering all the bases. A complete copy of the tuning manual, including illustrations and parts listing can be downloaded from the Mikuni website, or shoot me a note and I'll attach a copy.

Different manufacturers use different terminology and procedures. While S&S uses engine RPM for reference, Mikuni uses throttle position. To start, stick masking tape to the throttle grip and housing for "witness marks." Mark positions on the tape in ¼ throttle increments from idle to full open.

The Mikuni has four independent circuits: Choke, idle, main, and accelerator pump. The choke is not a tunable circuit, and its name is somewhat of a misnomer. A choke, found on older carbs, actually restricts air flow and as a

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result, increases fuel delivery (rich air/fuel ratio). The choke on the Mikuni and other modern carburetors is actually an enrichening device. It has its own circuit and delivers a metered flow of air/fuel mixture without restricting air flow. It probably goes without explanation that this device is used for cold starts. To what extent can vary depending on how the carb is tuned and other variables.

The second circuit is idle. This one can be tuned and covers the throttle position from idle to 1/8. There are two tunable components; the pilot air screw and the pilot jet. Back when we discussed tuning the S&S carb I mentioned that some carbs use an air screw rather than a fuel screw. The Mikuni is one of them. The default setting for the air screw is two turns out. If best idle is achieved with less than one turn out, the pilot jet is too small (lean). If more than two and a half turns out, the jet is too large (rich). As a side note, if you are turning the mixture screw in to fully closed on any carburetor (to check position or baseline the setting before tuning), most product literature will state somewhere in bold letters "GENTLY SEATED." They're not kidding. Over-tightening will ruin the seat which is integral to the carb body. There's no repair or fix, its junk.

Next is the main circuit. Hang in there, this one's a doozy. The first component is the jet needle. This alone affects two different throttle positions. The straight portion of the needle controls just off idle to ½ throttle, the tapered portion ¼ - ¾. If adjustment is required in the former, the needle must be changed. Mikuni jet kits contain different size needles to accommodate these changes. They can also be purchased from your local shop and other parts

sources. If adjustment is needed from ¼ - ¾ throttle, the needle can be raised and lowered accordingly. To lean the mixture, lower the needle, to go richer, raise the needle. A clip holds the needle in position.

The last component of the main circuit is the main jet. It affects throttle from ³/₄ to WFO. This is relatively cut and dried. A simple jet change up or down handles this area. I do like to make changes no less than two sizes. One size at a time sometimes makes the performance change less remarkable and harder to detect.

The final circuit of the Mik is the accelerator pump. Unlike most carbs that use one screw, the Mikuni uses two. One screw determines when the pump activates, the other affects deactivation. In other words, between the two screws, timing and duration are set for the pump. The horizontal screw determines activation. To bring it in sooner, turn the screw out. Later, turn it in. The vertical screw controls when the pump stops. Adjust this so pump duration ends somewhere between 2/3 and 3/4 throttle. In the end, you want the least amount of accelerator pump that will allow a quick snap of the throttle without the engine cutting out or coughing. Any more than that and you're wasting fuel (indicative of a puff of black smoke when you whack the throttle).

That's the basics for the Mikuni carburetor. This info is all good but how do we know when the tuning is too lean or too rich? Next time we'll highlight the tuning diagnostics and procedures so you can tell. After that, we'll dive into some of the other carburetors.

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

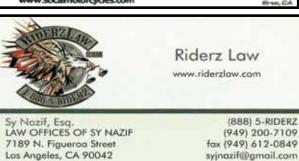




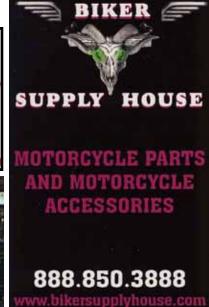












2012 ABATE Events

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

April 12 – 16 – ABATE Local 24, Fresno – AMMO Run

April 15 – ABATE Local 27 – Annual Bare Necessities Run (See flyer this issue)

April 29 - ABATE Local 17 SPRING BINGO FUN RUN

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

May 19 – ABATE Local 23, San Bernardino – Biker Rights Poker Run (see flyer this issue) June 2 – ABATE Local 44, High Desert – Annual Poker Run – Details TBA

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

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

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

September 14, 15 & 16 –

Annual Golden State Rendezvous (aka ABATE State Run), Kernville, Frandy Campground & an ABATE Business Member.



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Chapter 3

"THE ORIGINAL WILD ONES"

October 13 – ABATE Local 17, Solano & Napa Counties – Fall Bingo 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 **Run insurance** – contact the ABATE State office for the information.





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The following information is from the CA DMV:

Buying "Lemons" and Out of Business and scour for that great deal and everyone wants a great deal when purchasing a vehicle. However

With the current state of the economy, many businesses have been struggling to keep their doors open. Car dealerships have also been affected, and many have gone out of business. The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has tips and services that can assist you in finding the answers you need to tie up any loose ends with an out-of-business dealership from which you have just purchased a car.

Car owners are finding that after they have finished their payments, often times, dealers are not sending the vehicles title to the owner. If this happens to you, you can send a completed Application for Title and Registration (REF 343) along with the appropriate paperwork to: Department of Motor Vehicles; Registration Operations; PO Box 942869; Sacramento, California 94269-0001.

If you were making payments to the dealer for a vehicle but are unable locate them to finish payment, you can verify the dealer's business license and owner information with the DMV's Occupational Licensing Unit. If you are unsatisfied with what you find, you may also file a complaint against the dealer through the unit. While no action will be taken immediately since the dealer is out of business, the complaints are kept on file and will be taken into consideration if the dealer decides to apply for another business license. Contact the Occupational Licensing Unit for specific information on how to continue payment to obtain the vehicle's title.

When businesses are struggling, so are consumers. People start to pinch their pennies

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and scour for that great deal and everyone wants a great deal when purchasing a vehicle. However, something that looks too good to be true usually comes with a catch, so be sure to read the fine print before finalizing your purchase. Familiarize yourself with the history of the vehicle and to check if it is a "lemon."

A "lemon" is a type of vehicle that has been reacquired by a vehicle manufacturer because it has had one or more specified warranty defects. The Lemon Law applies to new vehicles up until the 18th month or 18,000 miles are logged on the vehicle's odometer, whichever is reached first. If the manufacturer or dealer can't repair a serious warranty defect in your vehicle after a "reasonable" number of attempts, the manufacturer must either replace the vehicle or refund its purchase price (whichever you prefer). There is no set number for a "reasonable" amount of attempts, but the California Lemon Law Presumption provides these guidelines: 1] After four or more attempts, the same problem has not been fixed. 2] After two unsuccessful attempts at fixing a problem that could cause death or serious bodily injury. 3] The vehicle has been in the shop for more than 30 days (not necessarily in a row) for repair of any problems covered by warranty

If a vehicle is a "lemon" it is required that that information is disclosed, so beware of

fraudulent sales. Prior to resale, the vehicle is registered in the manufacturer's name. You will know the vehicle is a "lemon" if there is a decal affixed to the left door frame, or the frame of the major entry into the vehicle such as the front right door frame of a motorhome, or the left side of a vehicle without doors, such as a motorcycle.

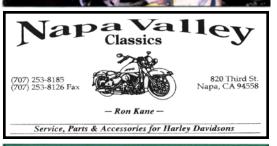
You can also find out by looking at the vehicle's Certificate of Title and Registration Certificate to see if it says "Lemon Law Buyback" or ask the dealer/seller; they are required by law to disclose this information.

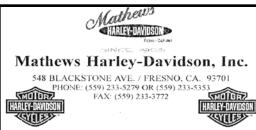
If you decide to purchase a "lemon," under California's Lemon Law, a new vehicle which is leased or sold with a manufacturer's written warranty may be returned to the manufacturer for a refund or a replacement if it cannot be repaired.

Whether it's hunting down your old dealership or remedying the purchase of a defective car, the DMV is a great resource to help resolve your problem. The DMV aims to provide the public with useful information that will assist in making vehicle transactions easier. For information on dealers out of business, contact the DMV's Occupational Licensing Unit, at www.DMV.ca.gov/vehindustry/ol/dealer.htm or call (916) 229-3126. For more information on Lemon Laws, please visit https://www.dca.ca.gov/acp/pdf_files/englemn.pdf.



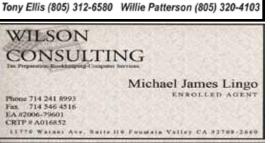




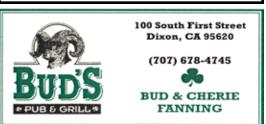








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The following information is from the CA DMV:

Distracted Driving Means Dangerous Driving

We have all experienced that terrifying -"oh-no-they're-going-to-hit-me" - moment, when we see another driver swerving dangerously in front of or alongside our own vehicle. Often times when we look over at the other driver and see them chatting away, we think to ourselves "oh, of course, they're on the phone!" We are a world of multitaskers and while many of us also engage in the same distracted driving behavior, we often don't consider ourselves as a risk to others in a similar situation. The reality is, once our attention is diverted from driving, even for a split second, the likelihood of causing a car crash increases tremendously.

According to studies done by Virginia Tech and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the number one source of driver inattention is the use of a wireless device. While it's no surprise that these advanced technological devices are

widespread, the potential outcome of people using these devices while driving is cause for concern. Driving while using a cell phone, whether hand-held or wireless, reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37 percent (Carnegie Mellon), and delays a driver's reactions as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of 0.08 percent (University of Utah). This decreased reaction time means that you are four times more likely to get into a car crash (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety) and cause injury to yourself or someone else.

In California in 2011, the Department of Motor Vehicles reported that there were 460,487 hand-held cell phone convictions - up 22 percent from 361,260 convictions in 2010 and 52 percent from 301,833 in 2009. The cost of a ticket for a first offense is a minimum of \$159, and \$279 for subsequent offenses. While those costs may seem high, it's really nothing when you consider that the offender could have easily hurt or killed someone through their inability to pay full attention to the road ahead.

Although wireless devices are the leading sources of distracted driving, anything that takes your focus away from driving can be incredibly dangerous and may just as easily lead to a wreck. Grooming,

putting on makeup, eating or drinking, and adjusting music players are just a few common behaviors that cause drivers to be inattentive and more susceptible to crashes. While many of us find these habits to be routine and convenient while driving from one place to the next, when we stop and consider that the outcome may be injury or death, we need to realize that they are never worth the risk or even the potential cost of a traffic violation.

In an effort to bring awareness to the dangers of distracted driving, the California Office of Traffic Safety recently launched its annual campaign in April, as a part of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The campaign's goal is to stress the importance of staying focused while driving and minimizing all distractions. Drivers should be aware that crashes happen in the blink of an eye and any time spent focusing on something other than the road could lead to a crash or a traffic violation.

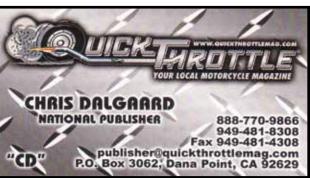
Make it a point to set aside your distractions, and encourage those you know to do the same. Having a trip result in a car crash due to daily, yet avoidable, distractions is never an actual belief for most of us, but it is a likely result. For more information regarding distracted driving facts, please visit www.DMV.ca.gov.





















Timeless Classics

March 14, 2012 ~ For Immediate Release

Media contact: James Holter E-mail: jholter@ama-cycle.org

AMA AWARD

The American Motorcyclist Association Board of Directors bestows the AMA Bessie Stringfield Award, which recognizes individuals who have introduced motorcycling to emerging markets, to U. S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords

Until her recent retirement announcement, Rep. Giffords was the co-chair of the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus. As a rider for more than 20 years, and as a member of the U.S. House and the caucus, she worked with the AMA and the motorcycling community on a number of issues to protect and promote motorcycling.

Arguably, Giffords is the most visible woman motorcyclist ever elected at the national level, and her embrace of motorcycling encouraged many other women to take up riding.

"This is a great honor from the AMA," said Giffords' husband, astronaut Mark E. Kelly, on her behalf. "Gabby and I have been motorcyclists for many years, and I can tell you that motorcycling, and motorcyclists, have been important in our lives. She has been able to inspire so many others to take up riding, particularly women."

Kelly added that Giffords is progressing in her recovery from the failed assassination attempt on her life in January 2011, and that the couple hopes to ride together again one day in the future.







14 March 2012 MRF News for Immediate Release Contact: Jeff Hennie, Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs

Senate Highway Bill Passes

The United States Senate passed its version of a federal highway bill today. The measure (S 1813) provides \$109 billion over two years for highway projects. The final vote was 74-22. The bill moved quite quickly, considering the speed of the Senate these days. There was some discussion over amendments, the bulk of which were rejected.

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) (www.mrf.org) is pleased to report that no federal helmet mandates are attached to this bill, which in the past has been the case. Even the last version of the bill that was voted on in 2005 had a full floor vote on an amendment that would have required every state to have a full mandatory helmet law, or have millions of dollars of their highway funds withheld.

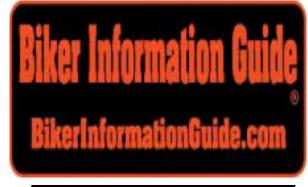
"This year the mandatory helmet law issue was only a small part of the very early

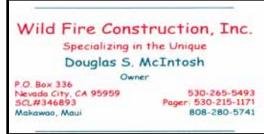
discussion of the Senate bill," said Jeff Hennie, MRF Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs. "Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) filed a few motorcycle amendments during the committee phase, but he did not bring them up for a vote," he added.

The future is blurry for the Senate bill, as the House of Representatives has been flip-flopping on supporting it. Right now the House is supporting its own five-year bill, but it has not been brought for a floor vote.

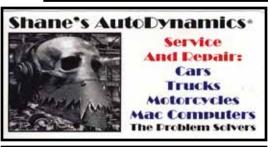
While the MRF supports the House bill because it contains the language that would ban federal funding of mandatory motorcycle roadside checkpoints, it's not likely to see the return of the 2010 funds. Both the House and Senate bills send all safety money in one pot back to the states to give them flexibility.

The MRF will keep you updated on this and every other issue affecting motorcyclists in the Nation's capital.





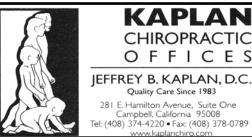




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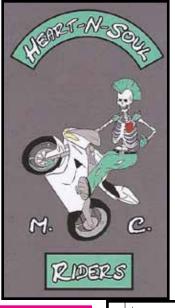
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The words "thank you" just seems so minimal, but until some other words can convey our gratitude for your donations, it will have to do.

So "Thank You" to one and all! And please, if you haven't donated yet, you can mail your donation to: ABATE of CA; 10240 7th Ave; Hesperia, CA 92345-2631. Write in the memo which fund you would like to support.







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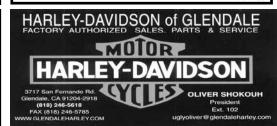












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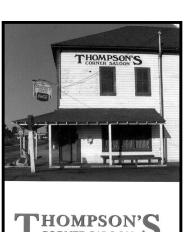


















Letter to the Editor from Peter Daniels

Just read an article in the March 2012 issue of the American Motorcyclist Association's (AMA) magazine. The title of the article is "Joining Forces". I encourage everyone to read it. If you are not an AMA member you can go on their web site and view the magazine.

It is basically about ABATE of Indiana becoming involved with off-road and ATV riders, which results in all motorcyclists becoming involved with all motorcycle issues in the state of Indiana. It also results in a formable group with political clout, and an increase in membership for all the groups.

Gee, isn't that exactly what ABATE of California wants? More members, more political clout, and unification of all motorcyclists in California!

It is this member's opinion that this is the direction ABATE of California should take in 2012. I recall when representatives from AMA, MMA, and other groups attended every ABATE of California Board of Directors meetings.

It is time to 'Join Forces' here on the left coast.





Local #27 Bike Night







Membership Report

by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan, Membership Chairman

Greetings all! March is the month Carol sends me the quarterly report on how many members we have gotten so far from the membership drive. Getting new members is the core to keeping this organization alive. We need new members and the renewals to keep our organization strong. Thanks to those members who have gathered new

members for the first quarter.

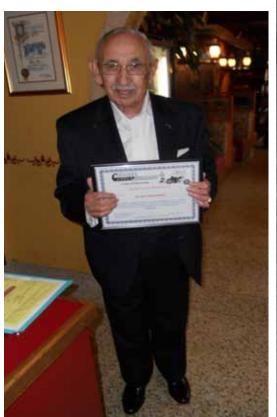
OK, THIS IS WHAT I AM ASKING OF YOU: NOW THE REST OF YOU NEED TO GET BUSY AND DO YOUR BEST TO GET MEMBERS AND RETAIN YOUR RENEWALS. Kind of like the almond commercial, one can a week - that's all we ask. Now what is easier than that? Also keep in mind that we welcome new business members, too!

Look for the special membership raffle funding tickets to arrive shortly. The winning ticket of the drawing will be drawn at the July Board of Directors meeting.

I think I have made my point, but, again, you know what is needed - new members and retaining the renewals. I have faith we can all pull this off. Finally, remember there is strength in numbers of members.

Regards, Sporty Milligan, Membership Chairman.

Local #1 Polar Bear Run Pics by Glenn Cheslock





























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North Valley - Local #31-Reg#2

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

<u> Yuba City - Local #33-Reg#2</u> Steve Katen 3rd Thurs. - 7:PM

530/749-1003 American Legion 5477 Feather River Blvd.

Olivehurst

Palm Springs - Local #36-Reg#10 Closed

Imperial Valley - Local#38-Reg#12

Bob Brown Last Thurs - 7:00 PM 606 Tangerine Dr SOBE's El Centro CA 1151 S 4th St.

760/352-7995 El Centro

> Bakersfield - Local#40-Reg#6 3rd Tues. 7:00 PM

Omar Macias 661/832-5240 Rustv's Pizza 661/900-8690 5430 Olive Dr Bakersfield 93308

High Desert - Local#44-Reg#13

George Butterfield 2nd Sat - 9:00 AM P.O. Box 3094 Eagles Fraternal Order Victorville CA 92392 16195 Main St. 760/954-1227 Hesperia

Barstow - Local #47-Reg#13

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

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

3rd Wed - 6:30 PM

P.O. Box 356 Larry & Lena's Pizza & Grill' Chicago Park 95712 15690 Johnson Place 530/798-0001 Hwy#49 Grass Valley

Ridgecrest - Local #58-Reg#13

Rob Vanderpool 3rd Sat 10:00 AM P.O. Box 853 Mickey's Pub 3131 N. Cedar, Fresno Red Mountain CA 1661 W. Triangle Dr. 760/382-4713 Ridgecrest

Colfax - Local #60-Reg#2

Larry Burch 2nd Thurs 7:00 PM 530/613-0912

Grand Father's Club house 301 Railroad St.

Colfax



4387 W. Santa Ana # 103 Cont. Lic. No. 366483

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Scott Loeffler



INWAY

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