

The Bailing Wire

ABATE of CA. Newsletter for Motorcyclists Volume XXXIII ISSUE III

A Union of Motorcyclists
Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

March 2014

ABATE Member Glen Cheslock



American
Brotherhood
Aimed
Towards
Education



Lobbyist's Report

by James Lombardo, Lobbyist

In the state Capitol, March brings new bill introductions for the last year of the current biennial session! As I am writing this article, I'm reading *hundreds* of new bills being introduced **DAILY**. Rumors of bills that might be introduced, which could affect motorcycle riders are: the use of fluorescent vests for **ALL RIDERS**, the re-introduction of the ban on lane splitting and many others.

All of the bills introduced will number *almost 2,000* for this year's session. There will be many **"SPOT BILLS,"** introduced legislation that will be gutted, later on when other bill language is amended in. So I am watching lots of those, as well.

Our safety net is that none of these bills can be heard, in policy committees, any sooner than March 21st. So, we will have time to send out **ALERTS** to **ALL** riders to oppose any potential anti-motorcyclist legislation should it get introduced, or amended!

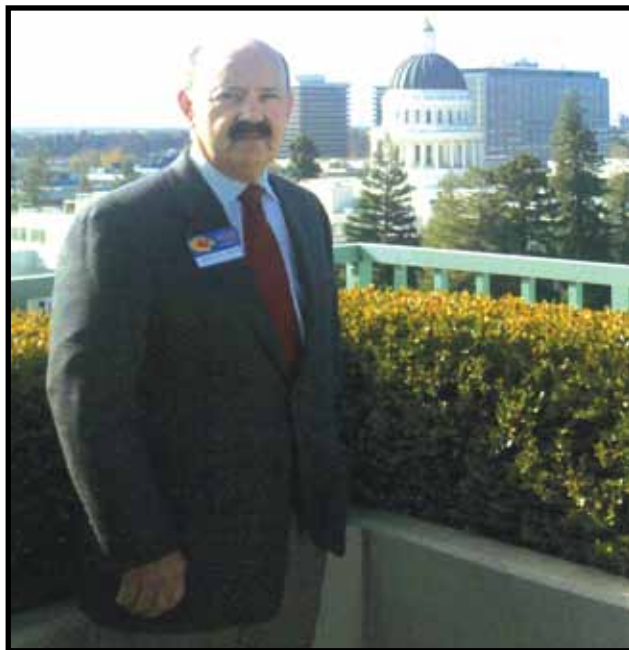
On February 5th, I attended the California Motorcyclist Safety Program (CMSP) new Advisory Committee biannual meeting, as your ABATE representative, at the CHP Headquarters in Sacramento.

The main topic for consideration was for the Committee Members to suggest and consider worthwhile and effective projects paid for by the quite healthy state Motorcyclist Safety Fund.

We discussed more promotion of *May Is Motorcycle Awareness Month* and the need for more electronic billboard displays during May and at other times of the year. Also, there was much support for continuing and expanding the motorcyclist safety public service announcements that were aired last year.

I also encouraged the CHP to develop new public awareness ads pushing to make auto and truck drivers much more aware of the need for motorists to share lanes with motorcyclists.

Please send me any ideas that you have to make motorcycling safer in California, and I will bring them up with the CHP at our next CMSP Advisory Committee Meeting, *or sooner!* I am deeply appreciative, as always, to all of you who contribute to ABATE of California's Lobbyist fund to keep me in the Capital protecting **OUR** riding rights!



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THAT'S THE TICKET! Robert Newman
I Stand With You For a Better CALIFORNIA

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What is ABATE?

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

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

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Ed Rogers 559/264-2891

Jim Schlachter 707/430-2316

Executive Director's Report

by Dave Hastings, Executive Director

Your ABATE Board of Directors and our ever helpful volunteers have been very busy since our January Board of Directors meeting in Sacramento. We've been researching and comparing our ABATE Officer's insurance policy and also examining bids for the Event policy that covers our Regional Rally and the State Run. You, our members, approved the By-Law changes that were on the ballot and we are incorporating the approved changes into a new, updated, By-Laws & Policy and Procedures Manual which will be distributed soon. The Board of Directors has approved a new web master (Mike Probst) for our ABATE State website and he is currently looking into needed revisions and up-dates to the site. In addition to this we have a brand new Local 63 opening in Santa Monica! Spring is in the air and ABATE of California is blooming along with the flowers and trees.

Things have been happening quickly and this Board is working hard to ensure that every project is completed in a timely manner. I have appointed a Regional Representative for every Region in our state and they will be in contact with your Local Officers soon. One of the items still on my list is to realign the Regions in California to better serve our members and improve the efficiency of my Regional Representatives. We will be addressing this issue shortly and I will probably make some geographical changes to a few of the Regions. I will have more on this issue later.

Another upcoming item is an officer and member training session at our next Board of Directors meeting. Again, more to come as we work out the details, but make sure you have someone in attendance at the May Board of Directors meeting in Fresno (May 3rd)!

Am I excited about the goal's we have set for 2014? Hell Yes I am! ABATE of California is on the move and we are going to make some noise this year. Come on back and join in the fun, help us reach our goals and more importantly, let us know what we need to borrow from your list and add to ours. My only demand is that you be prepared to help us help you.



ABATE is a grass roots organization and if the grass is to grow the roots must be nourished. Freedom is the soil that holds all of us together and gives us our strength. California may be crying drought, but her "nanny tears" will ensure that ABATE grows stronger every day. Freedom doesn't require as much water when the soil is good. California is the bread basket of our nation and ABATE is here to sow freedom. Whether it's a crack in the sidewalk or a granite mountain top, ABATE and the freedom it represents, will continue to grow. Join us, come back to us, nurture us and everyone including you, will benefit from a few more freedoms in 2014!

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Mission Statement

ABATE of California is committed to protect and promote the interests of the motorcycle community. ABATE exists to preserve and safeguard the individual rights and liberties of all riders thru political and legislative action. ABATE promotes motorcycle safety through education, training and public awareness.

ABATE of California now has their off road division up and running!

Join on Page 16.

ABATE OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

American Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education

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

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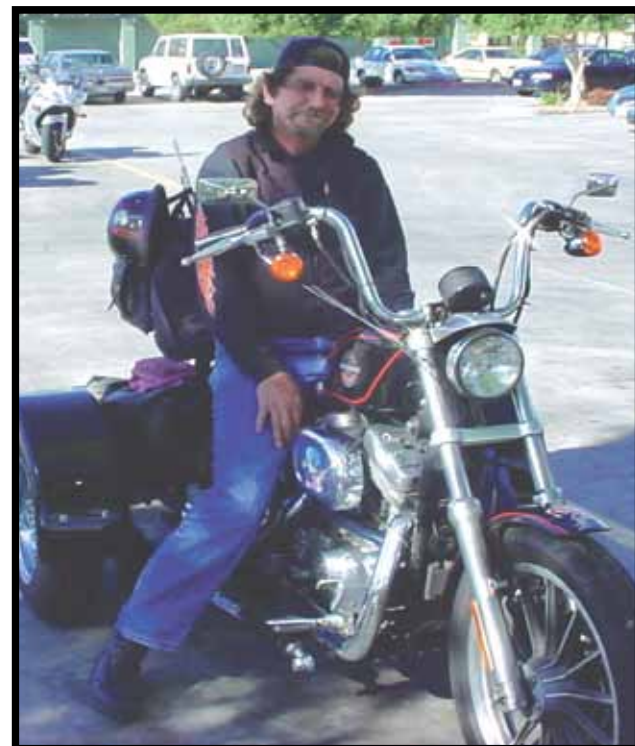
If you have any photos of ABATE motorcycle events please send them to us. They will be returned if you ask. Please include name of event, date, sponsor, etc. Must be received by the 10th of the month. You can email pictures in .jpg file to: bailing.wire@abate.org

by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan, Membership Chairman

Greetings all ABATE Freedom Fighters! Once again we're having a year long membership drive. The membership drive contest starts on January 1st and goes to December 31st. It is open to all ABATE members. The membership drive contest will be funded with our special membership funding tickets. The procedure is tickets are given to all the Locals to sell around April 1st through July 1st. The drawing for the \$250 prize will be done at the Board of Directors meeting in July. The selling of these tickets helps fund the membership drive from start to finish.

How do you get members is a question that some of you may ponder. Well first off it helps to be armed with your membership cards and you have just met ABATE member (add your name) card that gives your meeting location. It also helps to be armed with our accomplishments list. These are some of the tools you can have when you're trying to get members. If you're going to do a day of membership attempts it would be a good idea to know where a particular group congregates on the weekend. An example: Sport bike riders where and when do they hang out on the weekends? An example: In my neck of the woods it's the Rock Store. Go there with a purpose. Have your membership stuff with you and go after new members. This can work just as well with other motorcycle groups. To make this membership I guess what I am saying is that you have to have a method and a plan to achieve and be successful in getting new members.


Remember all of last year in my columns I asked you to keep your renewals. When you get new members invite them to your meetings. Make them feel a part of the group. It does no good to get members and to then have them not renew their memberships because they felt that you did not care about them. To keep your renewals you have to have a plan worked out with your Local membership chair and




the president as to keep the members informed either by emails or snail mail. I have sent out Local 1 email blasts and to my members that don't have email, snail mail blasts when something is important. So Local presidents and Local membership chairs come up with a plan that is workable within the confines of your Local. Keep in close contact with your members. The rewards you get from this will be found in your getting an annual renewal from your members.

Till next time remember there is unity and strength in numbers of members. Your Membership Chairman, Sporty Lee Milligan.

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LOCAL NEWS

Local #01 Los Angeles



Hi all! Our February 16th meeting will mainly consist of final preparations for the 27th annual Polar Bear run. In order to have a successful run you need good weather, a good crowd and good preparations. Our meeting hopefully we will accomplish the good preparations. Regards, Sporty.

Local #02 Simi Valley



Happy March ALL! Because of our great weather this awesome night started out really great! First off was the really good BBQ by our volunteer cooks Scott and Norm - sizzling burgers and hotdogs with all the great fixin's you could want. For 5 bucks you get a great meal and our gracious host VFW Post 10049 has an open bar for all your thirst needs, which makes our meeting place awesome! We had the Super Bowl Denver fans crying! I guess it's as an American pastime as riding yer Harley! Not the crying, but the Super Bowl.

We here at Local 2 meet on the second Tuesday of the month at VFW Post 10049, 4242 East Los Angeles Street in Simi Valley. We start serving our delicious meal at 6:45 pm and our meeting starts promptly at 7:30. So there is ample time eating and talking amongst us all - it equals to great camaraderie!

Our Pres, Guy, started our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Our faithful Secretary Jane read the minutes; Pattibock gave us our treasurer report and stated our vital information. PR man Norm talked about reading the Bailing Wire on line; it's there for All and is a great way to tell others what ABATE is all about. Membership maestro Frank talked about our members and business members. Scott our merchandize rep talked about what we had in stock and talked about upcoming clothing for our next Sweaty Buns run. Pres Guy, also our Ride guy, talked about our last ride and that we had a good turn out on the scenic route in the back hills. He also discussed Local 1's up-coming Polar Bear run. It's great to support other Locals' runs - what a concept!

Pres Guy also talked in depth about our Sweaty Buns run and the preparation needed. All who want to volunteer and make this work, need to be at these meetings. Your input and help is very valuable not only to Local 2, but all of ABATE!

In closing I, and I know all of us, would like to thank VFW Post 10049 for letting us use their place to conduct our meetings. Tonight was especially fun and informative. We miss all who couldn't make it here and hope to see you at the next meeting. Bring a friend and dinner is on us!

Always ride safe and set a good example because you never know who will be our next NEW member! PTL norm e.

Local #11 North San Diego



Hey from Local 11 North San Diego County. Hope everyone has been enjoying the SoCal weather. We are fortunate to be able to ride year round. Our mid-west and east coast brothers and sisters have been having a tough time it appears - some really nasty weather.

Sunday we had our 2nd meeting of the New Year. We had some new people come by and see what Local 11 is all about. Chuck (C4) came by as well as Andy from ABATE of Michigan Region 18, the daughter of our new transfer from ABATE of Michigan Liz.

President Dan Buse mentioned a letter he received from the American Legion Post on the issue of starting to charge us for use of the facilities even though many of our members are Legion members. There was much discussion on this. Dan and Region Rep. Dave Connors will meet with the Post Commander on a possible compromise. Dan went on to let us know of the upcoming Republican and Democrat events.

Vice President Dave Caldwell gave us the run down on some of the upcoming rides and events. A couple of the bigger ones coming up, the Yuma Prison Run, Laughlin River Run and of course the ABATE Regional Rally in Victorville, May 9th-11th.

Treasurer Tim Clark gave us the financial report. The "Opportunity Drawing" was won by Cheryl Clark, Hmmm... On that note, stay safe, rubber side always down. See ya next month. Gary

Local #17 Contra Costa, Solano & Napa Counties



Ride, Play and Ride some more. ABATE Local 17's Spring Bingo Fun Run is on Saturday, April 26. Sign-in is at 9 am at STR8 Shooters, 1072 E Monte Vista in Vacaville.

\$5 Donation per card per stop; no limit. Donations help preserve our freedom to ride. Join ABATE day of the event and get 1 card free at each stop.

Contact Glenn at glennphillips01@comcast.net or (707) 624-6310.

Local #20 Orange County



Teri San Roman became a new member - Welcome! And Lorri Brentnall renewed her membership at the meeting tonight - Thank you!

The anti-profiling bill is still in the works and, if passed, it will restrict stopping bikers without probable cause. That leads me to the next reminder; Gill handed out more "Bitch Cards" and reminded us to be sure to fill them out as soon as possible after being pulled over and that is not just if you are ticketed, locked up or have your bike towed. It is important to do it even if none of those things happen because being pulled over without cause is harassment. When you are pulled over and the officer tries to intimidate you or make false claims about your driving or your bike but see you won't be intimidated and just lets you go, it's a big waste of time and money for both you and the agency that he works for. So fill out that card and turn it in to Gill or Spike.

If you hear anything about any new lane sharing laws/bills, be sure to let Gill or Spike know. Spike read off a list of fines that have greatly increased this year for driving violations, you can email Gill for the complete list if you're interested.

Pirate of BWSP won tonight's dollar draw and went home with \$33.00 dollars. ~Leenie~

Local #24 Fresno

Just about 50 members gathered at Yosemite Falls Café for our Local 24 monthly meeting. President Doug opened the meeting with the Pledge to the Flag. He announced we have a brand new website. Check it out for our events schedule, photos, and general news at www.ABATELocal24.org. It is really special. A big THANKS to Mike Probst our new website officer for doing this work.

Looking ahead the Fresno Blessing of the Bikes will be April 5th at St Helen's Church on Belmont. Be there by 12:00 pm sharp!

Our next event is the AMMO run to Cayucos on April 12th and 13th. See website for details and get your motel reservations made soon.

Another event to be sure to attend is the May 3rd ABATE State Board Meeting in Fresno at the Airport Piccadilly Inn.

In the far future we plan to do a Fireworks booth again this year. We will need sign-ups to help run the booth. Sign-up for what ever job and hours you can help out.

Ursula reported our bank account is OK. Phil said we have 106 members and 18 Business members. Membership renewals are coming in with reminders being sent.

Last, but not least, lots of good raffle prizes were donated. Thanks to all that help make our meetings a fun time with their donations. The ABATE Good Luck award was \$141.00 and the membership drawing amounted to \$70.00. Greg took the membership prize, and Bruce Garlock was the Good Luck winner. See you all next month. Bruce W.

Local #25 Sacramento



Lil' David called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. We had 14 members present.

Joe reported that our treasury is ok. We have one new membership and we had two membership renewals tonight. Ron says we have only 2 or 3 t-shirts left in merchandise.

Gary H attended the quarterly PAC meeting this last Saturday. The author of SB 350 will no longer pursue the lane splitting effort. Due to limits on the number of bills an author can introduce the author of SB350 will not kill the bill outright, but gut and amend the bill for some other purpose. It is expected that 30 assembly seats could be up for grabs this year. It is up to us to elect motorcycle friendly representatives. It was announced that Ruby was voted Freedom Fighter of the year for 2013.

The CHP estimated that 7,500 people attended the Unification Rally, but that probably included Easyrider numbers. 1,400 riders came from the Bay area and 180 plus clubs were counted.

Coming Events: Local 17 is having their annual Freeze Your Ass Off run on March 1st. May 3rd is the next ABATE Board of Directors meeting in Fresno. May 9th-11th is the Southern Region Rally in Victorville. No Northern Rally is being held this year. The State Run will be in September 12-14 in Kernville. --David Smart--

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Motorcycle Safety Report

by Norm e. Newiger, Safety Officer

Potpourri of Life

Item number 1: Why are the other people trying to tell me how to live? The thought of them telling me about how I need to be safe even though our paths don't cross or even have the same interests. So do opposites attract? Why do some people think that they can help any of us because they are concerned with our safety? In essence they are putting the blame on us (motorcyclists) because they may think we don't care about safety or we are just a bunch of wild enthusiasts with disregard of living a safe life at the expense of others. Wrong! Who is not for safety?

It seems we are all groping for what's tolerable, and then either side starts with this thought, "I'm more right than you are." Who gives you the right to tell me what to do, how to live? This nascent attitude towards each other has been going on since day 1 or day 8 - I don't know, I wasn't there.

I don't want to wear glow green suits or have to wear more body armor more than a Robo cop or be lit up more than a 747 Jumbo jet at night. I want to be free, to be selective on my own accord using my good judgment as to my fate. I want my education in safety to guide me daily in all that I do. Pretty much what we all want whether it's a motorcyclist or lawmaker/politician.

We develop this feeling as we get older; maybe I should say when we thought we were smarter than our parents! There was a time when I was a kid where I thought I knew it all. I didn't need any advice, and you all know, especially from my parents. They would let me succumb to my own mistakes and, thank God, most of them were minor. As I am in their shoes now I see how stupid I was when I thought I was smarter than they were. Whew!

But seriously, as for our safety we need to know what laws they are trying to impose on us and the validity of those laws. What's in it for them is one of my thoughts. As I think about our safety it's not just about us, it's about anybody on the road no matter what you drive/ride or how many wheels you have. I see these tiny two seat cars that look scarier to drive than a twin turbo moped! If one of them hit my 85 pound dog it would be totaled, and my dog would walk away! Do they have any type of safety testing on these cars? Are they really a car? I think we are getting sucked into another trend and because it has four wheels it's classified as a car, but I think when they find out the mortality rate and injuries these oversized shoe boxes produce, then they will classify it between a car and a motorcycle, just our luck!

So should the emphasis of safety be to enforce laws to hypothetically save us from death in the advent of an accident "OR" should the emphasis be on education for all drivers and riders about preventing accidents. Actually I would really like to see a push in continuous motorcycle safety directed at all drivers of the road and would hope to see it in continuous TV commercials, which would be a major battle won.

Item number 2: I am Norm Newiger and I wear a motorcycle helmet! I have been wearing one for more years than I can remember. Has it saved my life? No. But it has given



me a severe case of helmet hair and I've been riding since the late '60s. I personally will wear one, a good one. In fact I have two helmets, a full face one and a regular one. I choose to wear either one depending on how I feel because it's my choice! It is a very limited choice, but the harassing laws keep me from my freedoms. Yes it would be nice to go out and ride without one, but in California the law says NO! So choice turns into chance, choices are FREE, and chance can COST you!

I am not mixed on this issue because of my preference, I am more concerned about our freedoms and rights and safety. I haven't seen any justifiable - to me - statistics that proves helmets saves lives exclusively. Or that a helmet could have saved their life, or that the helmet didn't play in any part that caused their death i.e. death by blunt force trauma. I don't know where they draw the line in these accidents that say the helmet saved your life, when they could be saying it didn't matter if they wore a helmet or not as well. Who believes this, is it an opinion?

I believe a helmet can help save you from minor to serious injury, but it has a lot of what ifs ... what about the speed in which you travel? I think a helmet becomes useless at certain speeds as far as saving your life. How about what type of impact? This is the meat and potatoes of accidental death, like I said earlier blunt force trauma of all types is more prevalent than serious head injuries. I do have several friends that did wear helmets in accidents they were in and the one thing I remember is that lucky for them they didn't get road rash on their heads.

The way I see it in America is that we have mixed emotions/laws regarding the regulation of helmet laws. I also see it broken down into 3 categories as far as state to state. First is the Universal law which means mandatory, approximately 20 states in America have this law in effect. Second is the Partial law, this law has minimum age requirements for riding without a helmet, the approximate 25 plus states that have these laws have different age require-

ments. The third one is NO law! Very few states have this non law but it does exist! I cannot explain why some states have these laws while others have modified laws; I guess ABATE is successful here and there? I always think that helmets should be an individual choice rather than government instituted.

Item number 3: I love the smell of leather in the morning. The cow has three uses for me, meat, leather and fertilizer. I don't care to go any further on that. I have learned to ride dirt bikes at an early age and did it more as I grew up. One of the most important things I learned outside of riding safety was dressing properly. I was taught to wear protective clothing because dirt will eat you up as well as break your bones. From the head to the toes, full face helmet, shoulder pads, rib vests, padded pants down to the boots from hell, all made from the finest plastic and rubber foam money could buy (we are talking '60s, '70s and up). We were the starship troopers of the dirt bike world, but it did its job. I have kissed the dirt quite a few times but it wasn't anything like street riding. I got the goods! You bet! I have the vest, the jacket, the chaps, the gloves and really good boots! Some of these items I wear all the time and some depends on a lot of things, but the bottom line is that I do believe that good riding gear has a definite job as far as safety is concerned.

I have seen the before and after effects that has happened to a couple of my friends. The first one was a tumbler on the 101 freeway in Ventura. He had more asphalt hickies on his arms and face than a 15 year old kid with raging hormones. He just wore a tee shirt and an open face helmet. He was down for 6 weeks with slight head trauma as well. My other friend had a full face helmet with leather jacket and gloves. His accident required him to fly thru the air and land on his head, the helmet took the full brunt of the collision with the ground and probably saved his life or the life of being brain damaged. The metal plate in his head does not stop him riding till this day! He was down for over 6 months and says the helmet did in fact save his life.

For me, being a musician (bad ass bass player), I think that gloves are my favorite safety item that I could wear. I always over value my fingers and the thought of them getting mangled up scares the manure out of me - I value those gloves dearly.

With all that has been said it's still your choice. It's a small personal freedom. If you think about it, the chance factor is that all the safety gear you use can reduce the loss of a lot of types of injuries, if not your life. One of the most important safety items you can have is riding glasses, be it prescription or regular sunglasses. These low cost to really expensive eye protectors do their job, but they do have certain limitations. Such as if a rock is flying at your eyes at 60 mph, you're kind of S.O.L. But the advantages of no air pressure and small bugs and grit are easily deflected and you don't get temporarily blinded.

One more with all said is this: Don't be pressured or misguided on what you wear or your beliefs on any type of protection when riding. It's still your choice! Freedom is based on your own beliefs of what's right or wrong. It's just a chance or choice! You make the call, always ride safely and encourage safety.

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NCOM Biker Newsbytes

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

FARM BILL DETERS E15: Opponents of E15, such as motorcyclists whose vehicles are not approved to use fuel containing higher levels of ethanol, won a major victory on February 7, 2014 when President Barack Obama signed the Agricultural Act of 2014, with a provision removing subsidies for biofuel blending pumps.

The provision, tucked into page 735 of the 949-page farm bill, could make it more difficult for gasoline blended with higher concentrations of ethanol to find its way to rural areas, where demand for the fuel is greatest.

Blender pumps mix gasoline and ethanol for sale at gas stations, so restricting the grant money to purchase the pumps necessary to dispense E15 would greatly deter its distribution. That, in turn, could make it more difficult for the United States to implement a program known as the Renewable Fuel Standard, or RFS, which mandates increasing amounts of biofuels like corn-based ethanol be blended into the nation's fuel supply.

The Obama administration previously set a goal of installing 10,000 blender pumps to promote consumption of higher-ethanol gasoline, but currently only 59 stations across 12 states sell E15, compared with 125,000 U.S. gasoline stations.

The win for motorcycle and ATV owners, who risk damaging their machines and invalidating warranties by even inadvertently putting E15 in their tanks, follows a November move by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce for the first time the amount of ethanol required to be blended into U.S. gasoline supplies. Ironically, the EPA proposed the cuts in part due to concerns over the lack of infrastructure, such as blender pumps needed to sell gasoline with greater concentrations of ethanol.

MOTORCYCLE SALES INCREASE: The Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC) has reported that annual motorcycle sales grew 1.4% in 2013. The 465,783 unit total represents a 6,485 increase from 2012.

The dual-purpose and off-road segments enjoyed the greatest percentage annual growth, with scooter sales declining in 2013.

On-Highway motorcycles sales tallied 324,691 for the year, a 2% increase from 2012. The On-Highway segment is by far the largest tracked by the MIC, and it includes all street-legal bikes excepting dual-sports and scooters. It recorded a 6,485 unit year-over-year (YOY) increase.

The smallest volume segment, Dual, reported the largest YOY percentage increase at 7.8%. The Dual category includes small street-legal dual-sports as well as popular Adventure bikes. The yearly total for this market was 32,979 for a 2,387 unit increase in 2013.

Off-Highway motorcycle sales grew 5.7% for the year. The annual total of 73,371 represents a 3,976 unit boost from last year. The near 4,000-unit gain comes despite a slow finish in 2013, recording a YOY decrease of 1,025 units in December.

Scooter sales, which are traditionally more volatile than bike sales, struggled to match 2012 totals. The annual tally of 34,742 was 6,363 units short of the 2012 total – a 15.5% decline.

ATV sales for 2013 posted a nearly identical tally of 228,305 – a mere 0.5% increase over 2012. The quad market benefited from a strong December to push the annual tally into the black, with a 1,799 unit increase YOY for the month. Notably, the MIC does not track sales for UTV and side-by-side units, which have reportedly eclipsed ATV sales in recent years.

STATES RANKED BY MOTORCYCLE OWNERSHIP: With 8,410,255 motorcycles registered to 311,800,000 U.S. citizens, according to the most recent DOT and Census data that means that out of every 37 Americans you meet, one of them probably owns a motorcycle. But in some states your odds are better than others, and when you compare statewide motorcycle registrations with population figures, you might be surprised where some states stand in the rankings.

For example, Iowa comes in third with 18 people for every motorcycle, more than double the national average. In 2011 the state had 173,929 motorcycles registered, and a population of just over three million.

The second highest ratio of bike ownership is in New Hampshire, whose 1.3 million population shares 79,266 motorcycles, equaling 17 people per motorcycle.

First on the list is South Dakota with 12 people for each motorcycle, over three times the national average. In 2011 the state had 69,284 motorcycles registered, representing



just 0.82% of all motorcycles in America, but its sparse population of 816,598 gives it the highest concentration of motorcycling in the country.

Rounding out the Top Ten are; Wisconsin (4th with 18 people per bike); Wyoming (5th/19); North Dakota (6th/21); Vermont (7th/21); Montana (8th/21); Minnesota (9th/22) and Alaska (10th/23).

The Ten Lowest ranked states are; South Carolina (40th/43 people per bike); Kentucky (41st/44); Hawaii (42nd/45); California (43rd/47); Utah (44th/47); Maryland (45th/48); Georgia (46th/49); New York (47th/56); Texas (48th/58); Louisiana (49th/67); and lastly Mississippi (50th/106).

It's interesting to note that due to large populations, some of the states with the largest numbers of motorcycles finished low on the rider density list; California is number one in motorcycles owned with 801,803, representing 9.5% of all motorcycles in the U.S., but with a population of over 37 million it comes in a lackluster 43rd place! Likewise, New York with 345,816 motorcycles, and Texas with 438,551, came in near the bottom of the rankings.

It is also worth noting that only one of the Top Ten motorcycling states has a helmet law, while 6 of the 10 least bike-friendly states requires riders to wear them.

MISSOURI PUSHES TO CHANGE BAN ON SUNDAY MOTORCYCLE SALES: Like many states, it is against the law in Missouri for dealers to sell cars, trucks or motorcycles on Sunday. Due to archaic "Blue Laws" influenced by religion during the Colonial Period, sales are prohibited on the Sabbath, but there is a trend brewing and some states are removing this outdated ban.

The latest state to allow Sunday motorcycle sales was Indiana last July, when Hoosiers joined Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Maryland in removing their Sunday sales ban.

Now Missouri's Blue Law is being challenged, and lawmakers are proposing three bills that would allow for motorcycles to be sold in Platte and Jackson Counties on Sundays. The reason is because some Kansas City metro dealers feel it is not fair that they can't sell on Sundays when just across the border in the neighboring state of Kansas, dealers can.

Other states that currently prohibit the Sunday sales of motorcycles and automobiles are Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Oklahoma, North Dakota and Wisconsin. In Missouri, dealers are not even allowed to discuss a sale on Sunday, or face a \$300 fine and possible jail time.

NY LAWMAKER SAYS BIKES SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED IN HIS DISTRICT: Legislator Thomas F. Barraga (R-11th District) says people should not ride bikes at all in his district because "Suffolk County is a suburban automobile community -- drivers expect to see other drivers on the road, not bicyclists and motorcyclists."

The anti-motorcycle/bicycle lawmaker from West Islip, New York made those remarks in response to a high school senior who wrote to him as a part of a government class assignment.

On January 29, the 17-year old, Matthew Cutrone, wrote to Barraga requesting "some sort of bike lane or maybe even warning signs in certain areas of the county" after his mother was hit by the driver of a van that illegally turned left in front of her.

Stating that he believes that "no one who lives in our hamlet or for that matter Suffolk County should ever ride a bicycle or motorcycle," Barraga's callous response lit up social media and prompted a ton of angry responses, though the legislator said he's standing by his remarks.

WASHINGTON STATE RIDERS LOBBY TO TURN LEFT ON RED: Motorcyclists in Washington could turn

left at an intersection if the traffic light doesn't give them the green arrow after a complete cycle under a bill that received strong support from the Senate in Olympia.

SB 5141 would change state traffic laws to account for a problem some motorcyclists have at intersections controlled by sensors that fail to recognize them. They don't register on the sensor, and the left-turn arrow never turns green, said Senator Jim Hargrove, a Hoquiam Democrat who rides a motorcycle and said he's experienced the problem first-hand.

Under the proposed legislation, a motorcyclist would have to wait through a complete cycle of lights changing for all directions before making a left-turn when clear. The bill passed on a 46-2 vote. The same bill passed the Senate last session but didn't receive a final vote in the House.

MICHIGAN MOTORCYCLE SAFETY BILL WOULD PREVENT REPEAT OFFENDERS: Michigan lawmakers are looking to close an "apparent loophole" that allows motorcycle operators to obtain a temporary permit each riding season without ever completing a safety course or skills test required for full endorsement.

Temporary Instruction Permits, intended for new or returning riders, are valid for 180 days and require operators to travel alongside an endorsed adult. But enforcement is difficult, and TIP holders are significantly over-represented in traffic accidents each year; 52% of riders who crashed were not properly endorsed.

Current law allows operators to obtain a temporary permit every season. But House Bill 4781, introduced by state Rep. Bradford Jacobsen (R-Oxford) and 15 co-sponsors, would limit motorcycle operators to two TIPs over the course of a 10 year period. "That's certainly adequate time to ride with a friend, take an instruction course and get the experience necessary to drive a motorcycle," Jacobsen said in testimony before the House Transportation Committee, which has not voted on the bill.

"It's a no brainer really," said Vince Consiglio, president of ABATE Michigan, which led efforts to repeal the mandatory helmet law but also supports stronger endorsement requirements. "These unendorsed riders are maybe 10 or 20 percent of the population, but they're over 40 percent of the fatalities since 1989. It's incredible that nothing has happened."

Officials have known about the endorsement issue for years, and the Secretary of State and Office of Highway Safety Planning have both pushed educational programs to raise awareness. But education alone is not working, prompting motorcycle safety advocates to push for legislative action.

ABATE OF INDIANA SEEKS TO ALLOW OFF-ROAD VEHICLES ON COUNTY ROADWAYS: Indiana state law bans driving off-road vehicles on public streets, but ABATE of Indiana, a motorcycle advocacy group, is asking Tippecanoe County commissioners to exercise a clause that allows county officials to allow all-terrain vehicles, gators and various other off-road machines, including snowmobiles, to use county roads in unincorporated areas.

"We're just requesting that they at least evaluate this, look at what other communities have done with this -- what other counties have done with this" said Jay Jackson, executive director of American Bikers Aimed Toward Education. "We're not aware of any significant ramifications as a result, so we don't see a downside to it."

Jackson told commissioners that 45 Indiana counties allow off-road vehicles on public roads. The vehicles still must comply with state laws governing off-road vehicles. State law requires the rider or driver be 16 years old and licensed, and also requires that the vehicle be registered, much like a boat.

WEIRD NEWS: APB FOR MR. HARLEY DAVIDSON: Police in Guapa, Brazil, investigating a string of carjackings believed they found a key piece of evidence that could blow the case wide open: a Harley-Davidson cap belonging to a suspect: "He left a grey T-shirt which he had used to cover his face, and also a baseball cap with a skull embroidered on it, along with the name Harley, and the citizen's surname, Davidson, who is probably the miscreant we're looking for," a police officer told a local news station.

QUOTABLE QUOTE: "True patriotism hates injustice in its own land more than anywhere else." ~ Clarence Darow (1857-1938) American trial lawyer



Pac/Lobbyist Report

by Dave Hastings, Treasurer

Thank you, one and all, for your continued PAC and Lobbyist contributions. Jim Lombardo has a very busy schedule this time of year trying to examine all of the legislation that is being introduced and keeping an eye open for any bills that may be sneaking their way through Sacramento. His service to the motorcycle riders in California really is priceless and we all benefit daily from his dedication to our cause.

Our Lobbyist is one of the huge benefits that ABATE has to offer to every rider, on or off-road, in California. Jim and Sandy Lubbers, our Legislative Director, strive to prevent legislation harmful to riders from ever making it to the floor for a vote.

ABATE figured out a long time ago that a proactive stance was needed to protect our motorcycle lifestyle because once a bill is passed it is a long, hard battle to amend, modify, or repeal that legislation - hence our aggressive, proactive stance today.



ABATE aggressively monitors pending bills and sometimes even legislative “rumors” and we make it very clear where we stand on any piece of legislation that may affect our motorcycle freedoms. In addition we offer our grass roots campaign help to candidates that are sympathetic to our causes and fight hard to keep our enemies

on the run in Sacramento. All of this makes for some strange bedfellows because we are truly non-partisan and will help as needed, or fight if necessary, any candidate, regardless of party affiliation, that crosses our “line in the sand” when it comes to our motorcycle lifestyle.

All of these efforts require funding and fortunately you keep digging into your little piggy banks to find it. So again, “Thank You” for your financial support and more importantly, your feet on the sidewalk, when we ask you to help a candidate. ABATE is only as successful as the people who give of their time and you will be asked to give a lot this election cycle. If we make sure our candidates are elected this year it makes our work load much lighter next year. It is much easier to have a motorcycle friend in Sacramento than an enemy and we will need a lot of help this year to get our friends elected. Join in and help us help them, because in doing so, you ultimately help yourself and your motorcycle too!

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Sporty's Rides



by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan

Hi all! It's February and by now you would think I would have been back to work, but alas that is not the case. In March either the 5th or 12th, hopefully the 5th, I am going to have surgery on my leg once more. The previous doctor, Dr T,

sent me to a specialist who is located in Lancaster. So it's one hour up and one hour back when I have to see him. That sucks. I also have to see a plastic surgeon, Dr H. He is a referral from Dr C. Since he is not a Kaiser doctor I have to get special authorization to get treatment from him. He is being used to help me get the swelling down in my leg so they can operate. The leg wrap is four layers. The deal right now is to use the four layer wrap which needs to be changed once a week, until surgery takes place in March. I will also have to stop taking my blood thinner at least 4 days before the surgery. You folks are probably thinking what a pain in the ass. The day of the surgery I have to leave my house by 4.30 am to get to the hospital by 5:30 am so I can be on the operating table by 7.30 am. This surgery takes 6 to 8 hours to complete because they are redoing everything over. After surgery it's 2 to 3 day's recovery in the hospital. The RECOVERY IS 6 MONTHS. That's this month's medical report.

lar Bear run which is February 23rd. The Polar Bear run is fast approaching like a week from the time the columns for the Bailing Wire are due. My Local 1 member, Steve B, has been the busy one getting raffle prizes for the event. I have been supplying the Local with Polar Bear flyers. I also have been getting some raffle prizes. In fact I got a raffle prize from Dirty Bird, which is Mc-Closky's old shop in Canoga Park. Just walked there with my walker showed them a flyer and - Bam! - got the shop's owner to donate a t-shirt as a raffle prize.

At our Local 1 meeting we're going to discuss final preparations for the run. I am sure the weather will not be a factor to deter the folks from coming out for our run. With that said I am going to close for now.

Reading my columns must get awfully boring these past months. At some point I will get better and be again the enjoyable scribe you have enjoyed in the past. Please bear with me at this point.

Regards Sporty.

Chapter 3

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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 listing and thanking you here; IF we leave your name off, please contact Carol@abate.org or Dave Hastings 760/947-4700 and we'll list you next month. (Most times it's just a matter of when the mail arrives and the Bailing Wire deadline.) But it never hurts to follow-up.

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

Reggie & Avril MacKay, L#11
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ABATE Locals: 2, 11, 19, 21, 23,

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

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

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

Sustaining ABATE Members aka V.I.P. THANK YOU!! For the Extra Support!!!

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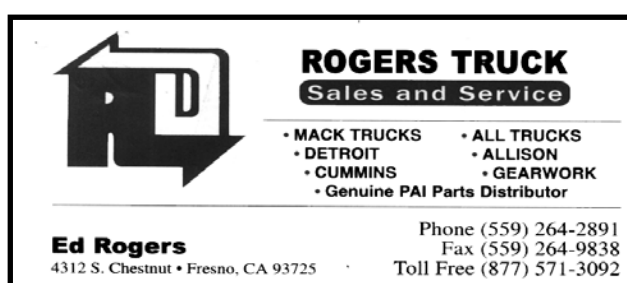
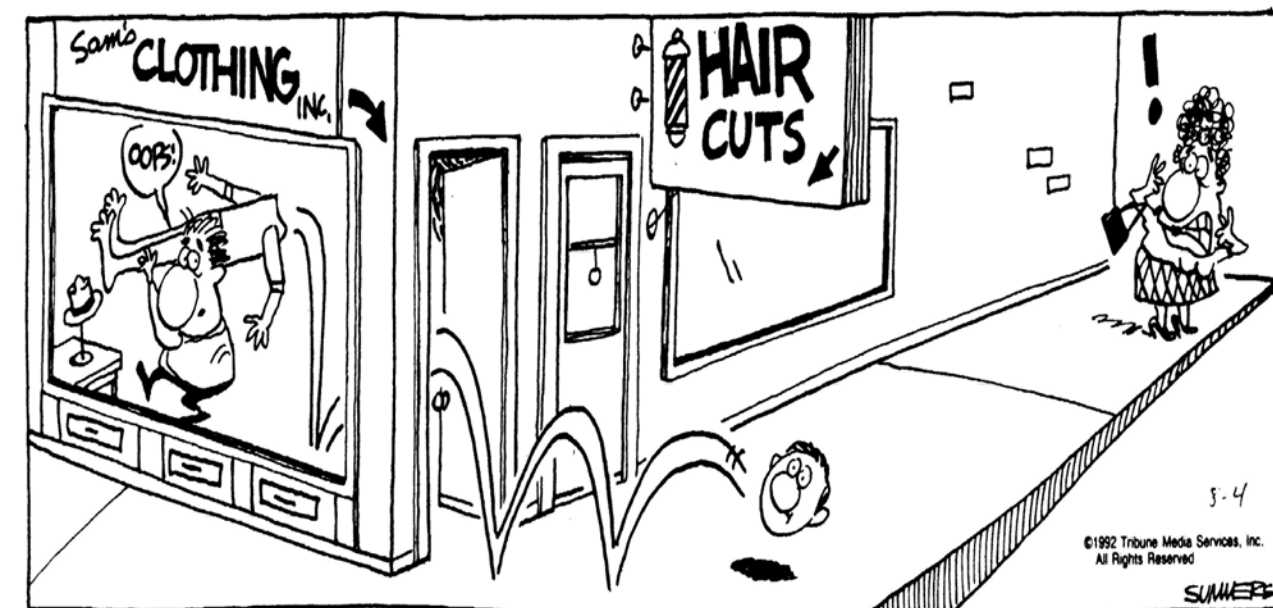
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Sustaining Members (VIP's) are mailed a hard copy of the Bailing Wire (the months it is printed); a certificate of Appreciation (suitable for framing); their membership card with VIP printed on it; and as you see their names are printed on this list.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



2014 ABATE Events

EVENTS FOR 2014

www.abate.org Events Calendar

February 15, Saturday – ABATE Local #17 – 3rd Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament – Vacaville (see flyer in this issue for details).

February 23, Sunday – ABATE Local #01 – 27th Annual Polar Bear Run – starts in Sun Valley (see flyer in this issue for details).

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

March 9th – Sunday – Daylight Saving – 20th Annual Southern Regional Rally – Time Begins (in California and a few other States)

April 26th – Saturday – Local 17, from the past 19 years of this event, Vacaville, Spring Fun Run (see flyer for details).

May 3rd, Saturday – ABATE Quarterly

Meetings – Fresno; Airport Piccadilly Inn; 5115 E. McKinley Ave; Fresno, CA 93727. For room Reservations call 559/375-7760 tell them you are with ABATE for the special room rate of \$89.00/night plus tax. Special room rate is valid until April 2nd.

Tentative meeting schedule for Saturday May 3rd is: 9:00a to 9:30a – Meet & Greet; 9:30a to 10:30a – Presidents Meeting; 10:45a to Noon – PAC Meeting; Lunch at noon; Board Meeting at 1:00pm

May 4th, Sunday – ABATE Local #27 – 12th Annual Bare Necessities – (Contact Kenny Nuttall for more information)

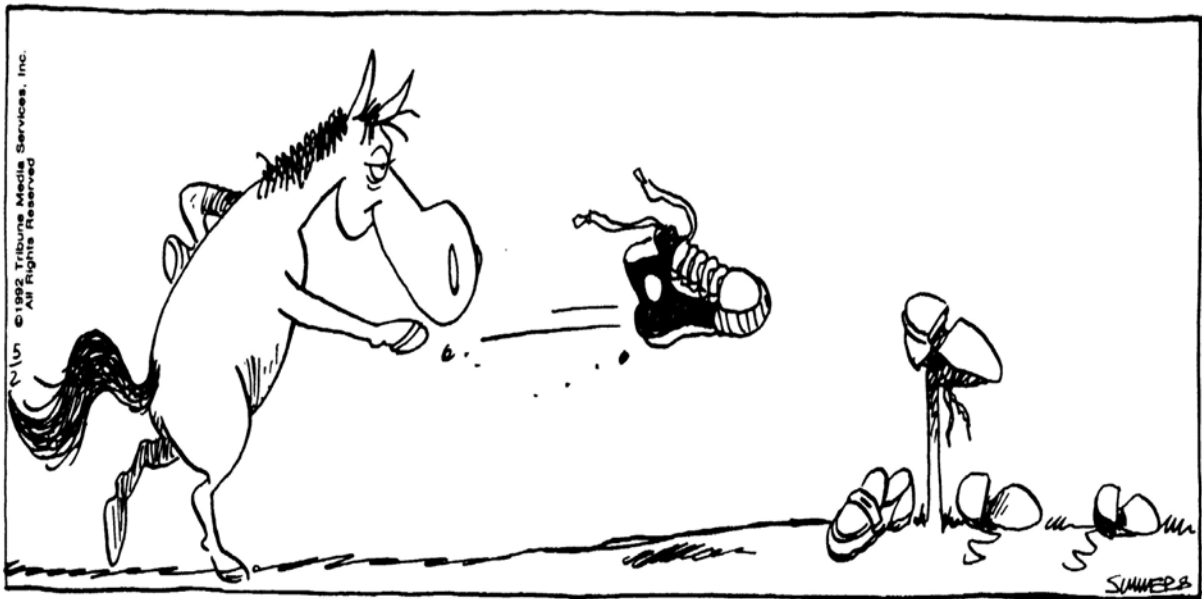
May 9, 10 & 11 – Friday through Sunday Shady Oasis Kampground, Victorville. (See flyer in this issue for details). The Committee is looking for any pictures and those who attended that we have lost touch with – please contact Run Chairman Paul Thomas prlitho@aol.com for details.

May 14 – 24, 2014 Annual Run For the Wall – All Routes leave from Rancho Cucamonga on May 14th. www.rftw.org for more information.

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

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

All event flyers that have been received are also on ABATE’s website Event Calendar – can be downloaded and printed in a PDF format – ABATE LOCALS – Don’t Forget To Get Your Event Insurance, contact the ABATE State Office.



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A Union of Motorcyclists

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

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

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

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

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

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

Off-Roaders - Protect Your Rights - Join Us NOW

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Gold Business w/ Color Ad \$ 200.00
(Same as Gold Business but with color business card size ad in Bailing Wire)

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Our Bailing Wire newsletter is available every month online @ abate.org
*A printed edition is available every other month.

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Motorcycle Riders Foundation Awareness & Education (MRFA&E) was established to promote motorcycle awareness and education due to an ever-increasing rider population. No one is more concerned with rider safety than riders themselves, and obviously those best suited to educate newer riders are veteran riders.

OUR MISSION:

Promote awareness and education in the motorcycle community to improve riders' safety.

Please donate, we are a 501C3 Corporation. Your donation is tax deductible. To donate go to our web site listed at the bottom.

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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

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

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

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

San Diego County - Local #06-Reg#12

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

Orange County - Local #08-Reg#11

Daniel Pfaffly 2nd Mon.7:30PM
American Legion #354
8071 Whitaker
714/649-2516 Buena Park

South Orange County - Local #09-Reg#11

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

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

Dan Buse 2nd Sun - 11 AM
buse13@att.net Call for meeting place
760/807-7294

Alameda County Local#14-Reg#3

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

Contra Costa, Solano & Napa Counties Local #17 Region #3

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

Pomona Valley - Local #19-Reg#9

Jeff Bassler 3rd Wed - 7:00 PM
C/O 9648 Calle Vejar Round Table Pizza
Rancho Cucamonga 1020 N Mountain
91730 Ontario, CA 91729
909/596-9685

Orange County - Local #20-Reg#11

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



ABATE MEETINGS

Antelope Valley - Local #21-Reg#13

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

South Bay - Local #22-Reg#11

Suzanne Palmiere 2nd Thurs - 7:30 PM
310/245-0543 Chowder Barge
611 N. Henry Ford Ave.
suzpalmiere@aol.com Wilmington 90744

San Bernardino - Local#23-Reg#9

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

Fresno - Local#24-Reg#6

Doug Biggerstaff 2nd Tues. 7:00 PM
559/222-5306 Yosemite Falls Cafe’
www.abate.local24.org Shaw & Blackstone, Fresno

Sacramento - Local#25-Reg#2

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

Riverside - Local#27-Reg#9

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

Morongo Basin - Local#29-Reg#13

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

North Valley - Local #31-Reg#2

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

Yuba City - Local #33-Reg#2

Steve Katen 3rd Thurs. - 7:PM
530/749-1003 American Legion
5477 Feather River Blvd.
Olivehurst

Imperial Valley - Local#38-Reg#12

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

Bakersfield - Local#40-Reg#6

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

High Desert - Local#44-Reg#13

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

Barstow - Local #47-Reg#13

Yermo Eddy Meet with L#44
PO Box 521
Yermo CA 92398
760/254-3833 or 760/953-7353

Grass Valley - Local#52-Reg#2

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

Ridgecrest - Local #58-Reg#13

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

Venice Beach/Santa Monica Local # 63

Kimko 310/907-6174 1st Monday 6:00pm
On the Water Front Café
205 Ocean Front Walk
Venice Beach 90291
mindbodyalignment@verizon.net

Regions With Local info:
Region 2: Regional Representative Lil’ David Morena 25, 31, 33 & 52.
Region 3: Regional Representative Bob Blatz 14, & 17.
Region 6: Regional Representative Ed Rogers 24 & 40.
Region 7: Regional Representative - Chuck Pedersen 2 & 3/13.
Region 8: Regional Representative Tom Lubbers 1.
Region 9: Regional Representative Mark Loudermilk 19, 23, & 27
Region 11: Regional Representative Gill Mellen 8, 9, 20 & 22.
Region 12 Regional Representative Dave Connors, Locals 6, 11 & 38
Region 13: Regional Representative Yermo Eddy 21, 29, 44, & 47.

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