

# The Bailing Wire

ABATE of CA. Newsletter for Motorcyclists Volume XXXIII ISSUE IV

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

**April 2014**

**Brent & Vickie Covan**

**ABATE Members**

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

## Lobbyist's Report

by James Lombardo, Lobbyist

The Legislature has introduced 4,215 bills for the 2013/2014 session. The Senate, with 40 Senators, introduced 1,464 and the Assembly, with 80 members, introduced 2,751 - plus many Constitutional Amendments and Bond Measures for the June and November Elections, this year!

**ALL** 80 Assembly seats are up for election and 20 members of the Senate face election as well. I have met with over 20 Candidates for these seats and have four more meetings scheduled, next week. We are sending out ABATE questionnaires to get their views on motorcyclists and motorcycling.

We will have recommendations for you all at the PAC meeting to be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> in Fresno, so please plan on attending to give your input for our endorsements and be ready for work to elect motorcyclist-friendly candidates in the June primary election on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the general election on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Please send your Local's representative to the PAC meeting in Fresno.

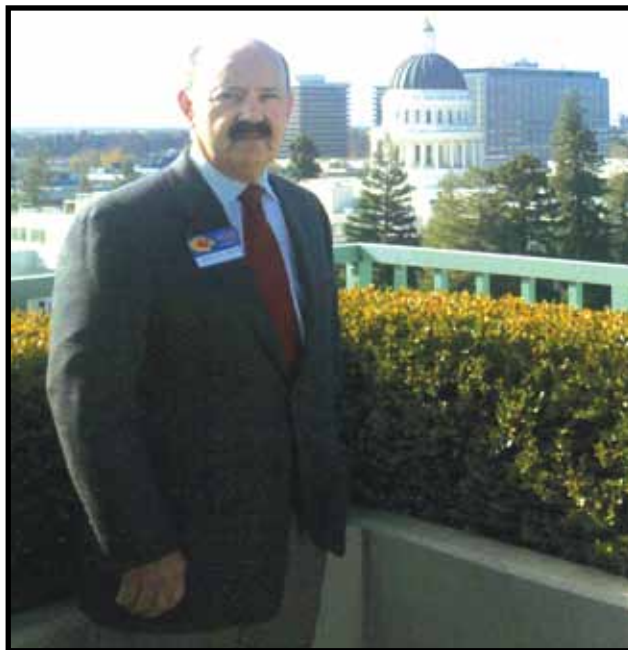
There are many "*Spot*" bills that have been introduced and will be amended in the next month. So far, the rumor from many of you was that someone was going to introduce a bill requiring us to **WEAR FLUORESCENT VESTS!** That bill has not been amended into a "*Spot*" bill, yet.

I am keeping a lookout for that bill and if introduced, will put out a **FLUORESCENT VEST ALERT TO ALL MOTORCYCLISTS TO COME TO SACRAMENTO AND KILL THE BILL!**

The Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC), the trade association for motorcycle manufacturers, tried to get several Senators and Assembly Members to introduce legislation that would legalize the use of a roadside noise test to ticket us for illegal mufflers, or just louder-than-stock pipes! I was able to speak with the members and convince them **not** to introduce that bill, **SO FAR!** The MIC is looking for one of the "*spot*" bills to put their legislation into. **STAY TUNED AND ALERT FOR THIS ONE — I AM!**

Finally, several motorcycle groups tried to introduce anti-profiling legislation, this session, but failed to get any members to introduce the bill. ABATE stood ready to actively support their efforts; however without a bill being introduced again this year it will have to wait until 2015.

See you in Fresno on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks to **ALL** of you individuals and Locals that send contributions to the Lobbyist Fund to keep me protecting **OUR** Riding Rights and Freedoms in Sacramento.



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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.

## ABATE Info or Message Line

1-760/956-1669

Fax 760/956-6519

<http://www.abate.org>

E-mail: [info@abate.org](mailto:info@abate.org)

2014 State Officers

Executive Director

**Dave Hastings 760/947-4700**

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Region 3: Bob Blatz 925/586-7376

Region 6: Ed Rogers 559/264-2891

Region 7: Chuck Pedersen 805/496-0323

Region 8: Tom Lubbers 626/622-9237

Region 9: Mark Loudermilk 951/599-5234

Region 11: Gill Mellen 949/632-9787

Region 12: Dave Connors 760/975-5953

Region 13: Yermo Ed 760/953-7353

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Jim Schlachter 707/430-2316

## by Dave Hastings, Executive Director

ABATE of California, with the help of Local 17, is sponsoring a statewide raffle to help raise additional funding for our organization. We have some great prizes and all will be awarded on June 1, 2014 at the Hot Rods & Harleys Ride in Shows at Iron Steed Harley Davidson in Vacaville. Obviously the winners do not have to be present, but if you are in the area why not attend the festivities and possibly take home a great prize too! For more info contact Jim at (707) 430-2316 or ask an ABATE member for tickets for the drawing.

June 1<sup>st</sup> is really not that far away and we need help selling the tickets for this raffle, so contact your Local President to purchase tickets for yourself and your friends and also offer to sell some more tickets to your friends, co-workers, and family. The tickets are very affordable and we have some great prizes that anyone would be happy to claim for their own. Help "your" ABATE by purchasing and selling raffle tickets and hopefully you will also be one of our winners!

Warmer and better weather is just around the corner and more and more riders are out on our roads daily. When you are out and about don't hesitate to ask them to come to your Local meeting and see what ABATE is all about. We all should be selling our ABATE to every rider we come into contact with. I'm amazed by how many riders out there have no idea or worse yet, the wrong idea, of what ABATE is and actually does. People need accurate information to make a wise decision and we should be "educating" our fellow riders about our organization. See if you can strike up a conversation about ABATE at the fuel pump, coffee shop, bar, or anyplace else where you may see another rider. Sell "us" to them and then bring a new friend into our organization every chance you get.

ABATE is a great organization and something we can all believe in and be proud of. Let's all make a concerted effort to grow our ABATE this year. Approach every rider, both on and off-road, and ask them to join us in our fight for freedom in California. You



are the best diplomat we have representing our organization and you should also be our best salesperson. Other riders already have something in common with you, a motorcycle of some type sitting there, so use that as your calling card and do your best to get that person to come to your Local meeting, or any other ABATE function that you may be attending.

Every member of ABATE benefits from a larger, growing membership pool. Also, every current member should be actively helping our organization recruit new members and retain our existing members on a daily basis. So "spring" into action now and then get ready for some summer fun with your new ABATE friends.

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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 18.**



# ABATE OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

American Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education

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Hesperia, CA 92345-2631  
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**Written articles are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily the opinion of ABATE of California. Editor reserves the right to edit any copy.**

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

## DEADLINES

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

## AD RATES

Business Card \$15.00 /Mo.  
\$150.00 /Yr.  
Double Size Business Card W/Color \$250.00 /Yr.  
1/4 Page (5"W x 7.8"H) \$150.00 /Mo.  
\$1500.00 /Yr.  
1/2 Page (10"W x 7.8"H) \$200.00 /Mo.  
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## CLASSIFIED

Members may advertise in the Classified Section at no charge.

## PHOTOS

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

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

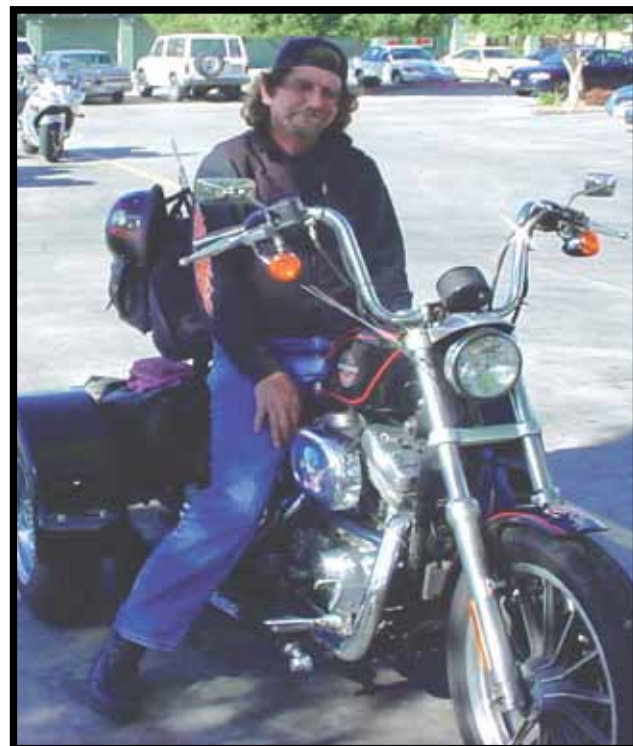
by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan, Membership Chairman

Getting new members and retaining your renewals should be the passion of the day. If you want this ABATE organization to continue succeeding, then you need to get new members and retain your renewals - period. I have talked about how you can accomplish this goal. So now just do it.

The Locals will shortly be receiving their annual supply of special raffle membership funding tickets. I talk about these every year. Buy some because the sales of these tickets help fund the drive completely.

I can't be out on the streets doing the membership trip because of my injury recovery, so it would pep old Sporty up if you'll help out - and you will be helping the best freedom fighting organization in California grow.

Thank you all! Regards, Sporty.



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ABATE of California Inc. neither endorses nor promotes the services of any particular Law Firm. We are committed to working with all MROs including NCOM, MRF, AMA, MMA, BOLT and any other motorcycle rights organization that strengthens our lobby on legislative issues and on motorcycle safety.

Donations to ABATE Of California are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes. However, dues and fees may qualify as business expenses and may be deductible in limited circumstances subject to various restrictions imposed by the Internal Revenue Code.



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RV INFO. - JEFF OZANNE (760) 948-2186 - E-mail: jozz47@verizon

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#### EVENT ENTRY

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- Couple - \$45.00

#### CHILDREN RATES

- ALL CHILDREN 17 AND UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR A LEGAL GUARDIAN. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- 13-17: \$10.00
  - 12 & Under - FREE

#### \*RV RATES

- MUST PRE-REGISTER  
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DOES NOT INCLUDE EVENT ENTRY



# The following information is from the CA DMV:

## “Ask DMV” Expert Answers to Common DMV Questions By the California Department of Motor Vehicles

SACRAMENTO – Do you have questions about general driving related requirements like registration, licensing, driver safety, and insurance? Are you unclear about laws and restrictions related to driving? The California Department of Motor Vehicles has answers. “Save Time, Go Online,” at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov). You can submit any DMV-related questions at [AskDMV@dmv.ca.gov](mailto:AskDMV@dmv.ca.gov)

### 1. Q. Tax season is here. How do I find the vehicle license fee part of my annual vehicle registration fee, which I’ve heard may be deducted on my income tax?

**A.** The vehicle license fee part of your payment is the only part of your annual vehicle registration payment that may be deducted on your income tax. The vehicle license fee can be found on your Vehicle Registration Renewal Notice or you can check on our website at <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/FeeCalculatorWeb/index.jsp>, will help determine the Vehicle License Fee. For information regarding tax deductions, please contact your tax consultant. For additional tax information contact:  
Franchise Tax Board - 1-800-338-0505 or [www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov)  
Internal Revenue Service - 1-800-829-1040 [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

### 2. Q. Who is eligible to renew their driver license online via the Internet?

**A.** You are eligible to renew your driver license online if you meet the eligibility for renewal by mail by answering **NO** to all of the following questions:

- ☐ Have you already received two consecutive five year extensions by mail?
- ☐ Has your license been expired for more than one year?
- ☐ Are you currently on any type of driving probation?
- ☐ Does your driver license expire more than 60 days from today’s date?
- ☐ Will you be 70 years of age or older when your current driver license expires?
- ☐ Do you have a driver license from more than one state or jurisdiction?
- ☐ Within the past two years:
- ☐ Were you convicted of any moving violations?
- ☐ Did you violate a written promise to appear in court within the last two years?
- ☐ Were you suspended for driving under the influence, or for refusing, or failing to complete a chemical or preliminary alcohol screening test?

Within the past five years:

- ☐ Have you had any health or vision changes within the last 5 years that affect your ability to drive safely?
- ☐ Additionally, in order to process your renewal online, you must:
- ☐ Be the person named on the renewal notice.
- ☐ Not have a change of address.
- ☐ Have a valid credit card or a checking account.

### 3. Q. I tried visiting my local DMV but it was temporarily closed. Where can I find out about office closures or service interruptions?

**A.** We apologize for the inconvenience. DMV service interruptions and office closure information is posted online at: <http://apps.dmv.ca.gov/fo/fotoc.htm>. Please return to this page for future field office closure information. You may also use your browser to bookmark this page. You may use the [regional maps](#) to locate a field office by region.

### 4. Q. A friend of mine told was that the DMV is hiring for hundreds of positions across the state. Can you tell me more about job opportunities?

**A.** Thank you for your interest. Your friend is correct; DMV is always looking for great talent to join its team. To apply for a DMV or any State civil service position, candidates must first take and pass an examination for the classification in which they are interested. Examination announcements (also known as “examination bulletins”) for the DMV are available in several locations:

- ☐ DMV’s Employment Opportunities Page: [www.dmv.ca.gov/dmv\\_careers/index.htm](http://www.dmv.ca.gov/dmv_careers/index.htm)
- ☐ California Department of Human Resources’ (CalHR) JOBS Website [www.jobs.ca.gov](http://www.jobs.ca.gov)
- ☐ In person at: DMV Headquarters, 2415 First Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95818

### 5. Q. I’m not sure how much I’ll have to pay for my vehicle registration and I’m trying to budget for it. Is there a way to find out how much I’ll have to pay?

**A.** Yes. By going online at <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/FeeCalculatorWeb/index.jsp>, you will find a vehicle registration fee calculator which allows you to calculate an estimate of vehicle registration fees and determine Vehicle License Fees (VLF) for tax purposes. Save Time, Go Online! Visit [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) or call 1-800-777-0133 for customer service.

### 6. Q. My father recently took (and legalized) his car to Mexico. I was wondering what forms and/or steps are to be followed now. I went ahead and filled out the online Affidavit of Non-Use Form. Is there something else that we need to do?

**A.** Customers should file a Change of Address and send a letter to DMV (or use a Statement of Facts-REG 256) with:

- ☐ Provide the vehicle description – make, year model, California plate number and vehicle identification number.
- ☐ Stating the vehicle was removed from the State and where it was taken.
- ☐ Provide date (MM/DD/CCYY) the vehicle left the State.

Once received, a status can be updated to the vehicle record so that billing notices are not issued and prevents collection activity when the vehicle registration expires. The Affidavit of Non-Use is only for reporting cancellation of vehicle insurance.

\*\*\*

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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 here their names are printed on this list. ABATE of California appreciates their extra support.





# LOCAL NEWS

## Local #01 Los Angeles



Local #01 Los Angeles

Hi all! The Local 1 meeting will be Sunday, March 16th. Our very own Glen Cheslock will be taking charge of the meeting as I cannot be there because I am recovering at the convalescent/rehab place in North Hills. Glen will run the usual meeting and will be talking about funding the various funds that ABATE has; PAC, Lobbyists and general, plus pay the insurance that protects our officers.

Wildman will do the publicity report and Steve B will do the run report. The treasury report will be on page 2 of the meeting pamphlet I prepared in advance. The members will be encouraged to buy ABATE raffle tickets.

With that said, it will be monkey business followed by the Lodge breakfast. Regards, Sporty.

P.S. Due to Easter falling on our regular meeting day ... MEETING CHANGE DAY AND PLACE TO:

April 13th (2nd Sunday of the month) 9:00 am Meet at Big Jim's Family Restaurant – 8950 Laurel Canyon Blvd: Sun Valley 91352.

## Local #02 Simi Valley



What another beautiful night! March weather has been so awesome – talk about great riding weather! I got to the meeting just in time for the delicious smell of burgers and dogs being grilled. A BIG thanks to our volunteer cooks Kevin and Frank! What a great job, and a special thanks to the VFW Post 10049 for having a great meeting place for us to use.

We had a great turn out this month and had a lot of raffle prizes for all to enjoy. This place got crowded pretty fast as the cooks were under pressure to deliver the goods, and they did. We serve a killer \$5 meal deal that will stuff you, with all the fixin's, you gotta be here!

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at VFW Post 10049, 4242 East Los Angeles Street and we start serving at 6:45pm and our meeting starts at 7:30.

Our Pres., Guy, got us going with the Pledge and talked about our next SBR (Sweaty Buns Run) down the road real soon. We worked out the flyers and he talked about a special deal for the riders! I won't mention it, because it's so great you have to come to the meeting to check it out - NICE!

Jane, our secretary, read the minutes; Pattibock talked about our finances; Scott, our merchandize man, talked about what we have for sale and in stock; Norm said read the Bailing Wire on line; Frank, our membership man, talked about the renewals; and Guy, who is also our Run coordinator, talked about the rides we did, and those that went on Local 1's run and what rides are coming up.

We had some guests from Local 3/13 led by Chuck and he talked about us all getting together with their Local and having a camp out and chili cook off. It was a good thing that he talked about and I hope we all get together someday soon.

Hey there all, this is important: We are getting our annual Sweaty Buns Run going (July 27). We need all you really nice people to come to the meetings and help, this takes planning and more planning, and your help is very much needed, besides, there is really good camaraderie and fun. We've stepped it up and the VFW has made this

Post one really nice place to hang out and have meetings at. We miss all that couldn't make it tonight, come on down and hang with some really nice people - you won't be disappointed!

Ride safer than last time and ride with respect, you'll get respect from others. PTL norm e.

## Local #11 North San Diego County



Spring is upon us, not that we had a winter per se. Local 11 had a great meeting this month. We had 35 participants, including new members and guests coming to see what we are about.

Prez Dan Buse was absent as he was at the state Democratic convention. VP Dave Caldwell took the reins. Dave talked about this being our last meeting at the American Legion Post in Escondido and we will be moving at least for the time being to the Escondido Moose Lodge 1874. Gary, a member from the Lodge, gave us a brief run down on the facilities. Sounds like a win-win for us and the Moose Lodge.

Treasurer Tim Clark gave us the financial information. Our PAC rep and Board member Dogman introduced some of the new members and guests he invited. He also talked about his experience at the State Unification Rally at the capitol and touched on motorcycle checkpoints and how funding is being or can be acquired beyond the state level. Dogman also reminded us the next Board meeting is in Fresno May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Regional representative Dave Connor asked that the new members and guests introduce themselves and give us a short statement on why they came and what they expected to learn.

Dave also won the opportunity drawing and kicked 20 bucks back to the Local –thanks Dave.

The current officers will remain for the 2014-2015 term. Until next month, ride safe. Gary.

## Local #17 Solano, Napa, Contra Costa & Yolo Counties



ABATE Local #17 continues to grow with now over 200 members and 19 business members. It is the members that make the Local what it is. It is their hard work and dedication to what we are about that makes the difference.

We now represent Solano, Napa, Contra Costa and Yolo counties, a diversity of ages, occupations, and interests, all united in the common goal of protecting our freedom of the road.

After many of our members attending the Unification Rally, we continue to monitor what is happening in Sacramento regarding any bills that might affect motorcyclists.

The Texas Hold Em Poker Tournament at the Moose Lodge was an overwhelming successful, bringing in a wide variety of players. Congratulations to Ron for a job well done!

Our FYAO Run was small due to the weather but still successful, and I have discovered that Mother Nature has a sense of humor. Thanks go to Ron, Sherry, Linda-Sioux,

Randy (Moose) Richard, Cheryl, and all the other volunteers.

Our upcoming Annual Spring Fun Run (Bingo Run) on April 26 promises to be a lot of fun, and hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate. Sign-in starts at 9 a.m. at STR8 Shooters on Monte Vista Ave with a \$5 donation per Bingo card.

The planning continues for the Hot Rods and Harley's event at Iron Steed Harley Davidson on June 1. Music, food, vendors, and fresh air -- not to mention some of the hottest bikes and coolest cars in the area. This is one event everyone should attend.

With warmer weather and longer days, more and more motorcycles will be on the road. Pay attention to safety whenever you are out there. Make sure your bike and tires are in good condition, and always Ride Safe! Shauna.

## Local #20 Orange County



Tonight we had a special guest speaker, former Assemblyman Jose J. Solorio. He was elected to the California State Assembly in 2006 representing the 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes the city of Santa Ana and parts of Anaheim and Garden Grove. Among his many accomplishments he carried the bill that changed the Transponder Bill on behalf of ABATE of California so that it doesn't have to be visible on the motorcycle. He authored AB 275, a law that saved the Missing Persons DNA Database. He partnered with the Orange County Leadership Fund to launch Solorio Scholars, a program created to inspire more high school students from central Orange County to apply for college by providing scholarship funds and educational workshops. Also, while chair of the "New Dems," a legislative caucus of moderate, pro-jobs Democrats, Assemblyman Solorio championed policies that attracted and kept businesses here in California. He is running for State Senate in the June 2014 Primary.

We had a full house with 62 people total, which included Assemblyman Jose Solorio, his assistant Michelle, ten other guests and two new members, Michael Tipple and Bruce Ledyard. Doreen Matsumoto renewed her business membership for MonaVie and Rick Robison also renewed his membership.

Some members of Azraels MC were out riding together and were stopped as a result of profiling. Greg said that he and the guys went to court in Newport Beach this past week, fought the profiling case and WON! The cops were not very happy.

Upcoming events are: Bill W's Sober Pack MC Froggy Day Celebration March 30<sup>th</sup>, free concert at Rushing Wind Church, 15022 Mulberry Drive, Whittier on April 12<sup>th</sup> - doors open at 5:30 featuring In The Mist 777. **ABATE Board of Directors meeting May 3<sup>rd</sup> in Fresno; ABATE 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Regional Rally May 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> in Victorville and Messengers of Recovery MC Ventura Ranch KOA Campout May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Gil Lukosky's name was drawn, but he was not present so the \$27.00 from the dollar draw carries over to next month. The non-politically correct Gill.

## Local #25 Sacramento



Continued on Next Page



# LOCAL NEWS

Lil' David called the meeting to order at 7:00 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 12 members present. Ruby introduced our guest, Rick Dobbs.

Our treasurer, Joe, gave his report. Ron said we have merchandise to sell at the Stockton Swap Meet next month. PAC rep, Gary H, reported that he met Rick Dobbs at his coffee shop today. Rick lives in Citrus Heights and is part of the Governor's prayer team. He goes to the Capitol once a month. Rick runs a charity named Shepard's Love which operates an orphanage and senior facility in Uganda Africa.

Nothing motorcycle related has happened since last month. Reibes Auto Parts Store has asked if we want to have a booth in June at their event. David M. went to Congressmen Garamendi's town hall meeting and found out the Congressman is for helmets. David also went to Local 17's poker event and had a good time. On June 1st Local 17 is having a "Hot Rod and Harleys" event for a \$4 entry fee.

Next ABATE Board meeting is May 3rd in Fresno at the Piccadilly Inn near the airport. The phone number is (559) 375-7760 and \$89 a night. The Southern Regional Rally is May 9th-11th in Victorville. David S.

## Local #52 Grass Valley



Hi folks! Well the riding season is here. Not exactly headline news for our neck of the woods since it never really left! The bike runs and events will be going in full force. I am going to do everything I can to attend more events this year and I hope you will too. Many of these organizations

will generously offer us booth space and an opportunity to get the word out. Mary and I can usually cover quite a few of them, but we may be able to expand the coverage with a few extra hands.

We will be seeing a list of candidates endorsed by ABATE. Another line item on my to-do list! I haven't done much in the way of getting pro-active to help get the candidates (that we support) elected. This year I am going to make a concerted effort to do more in that arena. I'm hoping you will as well.

In the "Not So Good News Department" one of our junior members, Wade, broke his leg during baseball practice. We all wish you a speedy recovery Wade!

Last, but not least, a special thanks to our new member John Marquez and renewals from Lars Droivold, Steve Spjut, Rick Stanley, Roy Blanscet, Esaa DePew/Rich Santos, and Lyonal Clodfelder. Your membership keeps this organization rolling! Ride safe! Craig

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# Motorcycle Safety Report

by Norm e. Newiger, State Safety officer

## The Meaning of Sign Colors

Sign, sign everywhere a sign, can you read the sign! I was cruising down the freeway and saw sign after sign after sign, then the farther I cruised the more signs I saw. All kinds of signs, almost all the signs had different colors and shapes, from the little white underpass signs to the mega green ones that list distance to said streets. I couldn't count them all during a one mile stretch on the 118 Fwy in Simi Valley. I'm sure it's like this in pretty much all major cities. If I'd done this it would look like I was texting while driving because of the plethora of signs.

The signs I saw were shall we say government instituted, then there are the billboard signs (off the roadways, most of them) and they defiantly obstruct the beautiful views of our dilapidated buildings that line our freeway systems (example: The I5 southbound in LA). Don't get me wrong, there are some nice buildings here and there.

Sometimes there are so many signs in any given area that they can be hazardous, for instance, entering San Francisco from the north after the Golden Gate Bridge as you enter the city there are so many signs for directions and such that you have to drive slow just to make sure you're going in the right direction. It's crazy especially if you're just passing through - you know them regulars, they honk and yell at you because you're just reading them signs and don't know where to go.

If you ride or drive on any type of street, highway or freeway you will see many types of signs in a multitude of different colors. The colors of these signs do have a meaning, as we all know sometimes we just get a glimpse as we zip by them, and some just stick out so as you can't miss them. Then there are temporary signs that usually deal with road construction or workers working on the side of streets etc.

The three main types of signs that are most prevalent are: Mandatory or Regulatory, Cautionary or Warning and Informative. All the signs that are discussed have to do with California roadways and could vary from state to state.

The most popular sign color is white with black letters and numbers and that is the speed limit sign. They are known as "speed advisory signs" and represent the maximum speed at which you can travel safely on that roadway that is with essentially ZERO risk of having an accident caused by that speed - just remember you will not win in court if you get a speeding ticket citing that the word "maximum" was not present on the sign. The courts will say these signs mean "maximum" speed limits, period.

The other speed sign is yellow with black numbers and letters. It is a cautionary sign to coincide with the white signs indicating a sharp turn in the road as in this example: "20 MPH". These safety speed limit signs were engineered a long, long time ago, the engineers collaborated with automobile manufactures and tire manufactures and determined that automobiles could be expected to safely travel on any road of "normal quality" provided that they did not experience more than about 2g's of centrifugal force while making a turn. This was well below the traction capabilities of tires at the time. Better tire compounds and better roadway surfaces since then made their assumptions even



more conservative as time went on.

As for motorcycles, the formula is the same, at 2g's the angle of the bike would be approximately 10-14 degrees. So advisory speeds were established, and rounded to the nearest 5 MPH at whatever speed caused that weight to lean about 12 degrees. This is how they determined the safe speed signs. In other words, the yellow signs where they have posted them are usually in curves on streets, highways and freeways where there is a change of direction that speed needs to be decelerated so you can negotiate your turn without stopping. So don't yell at the old fart in front of you because he's confused on how fast he can go!

Then there are the other regulatory signs, the ones that tell you which way to go, what you can't do and what you have to do. These signs are mostly white with black letters and some have a red circle with a red line on it which means "NO!" These are mostly regulatory informative signs that are enforceable and helps the flow of traffic, some examples are: NO TURNS, DO NOT PASS, ONE WAY, SLOWER TRAFFIC KEEP RIGHT etc. etc. Too many to list, if you really want to know get a manual from the DMV or go online.

The cautionary and or warning signs are mostly yellow with black letters and or diagrams on them to let you know of changes in the roadway. There are as many different yellow types of signs as there are white signs. Here are a few examples: Slippery When Wet, Merging Traffic, Deer Crossing, Falling Rocks, Lane Ends, Stop Ahead, etc. etc.

The informative/guide signs that we see everywhere are used for us to identify areas of interest or places that offer services. These signs have different colors and sizes and shapes. These types of signs vary in colors from cities and counties. Some of these signs are: Airport Ahead, Ski Resort, Parks, Lookout Points, Campgrounds, Libraries, Hospitals, Rest Areas, etc.

The orange signs with black letters and/or pictures are Highway Construction and Maintenance signs. These are

also known as aggravation signs (laugh) and most require you to reduce your speed and exercise caution as you drive thru the area. The most important thing about these signs is they usually have a reminder sign that says fines are doubled in construction zones and that could be very expensive!

Signs are the same as laws, you break them, and you'll pay! Our government tells us what's right or wrong (laws) so as to control us, signs are the same way. The government, as they say, is to help us to be safe, and makes it mandatory for all of us to obey and respect these signs/laws.

We all see sign abuse daily. How many times have you seen the person cut across 3 lanes on the freeway to the off ramp they just barely made? Or the mass amount of people running stop signs? Let alone all those who drive or ride over the 65 mile an hour speed limit! I am guilty of all of the above at one time or another and will probably do it again; if I get caught then I'm unlucky and will pay for it.

I hope this clarifies signage for you somewhat. If you really need to know more about the signs of the roadways, then get a handbook from the DMV or view them online. It's really easy to get access nowadays, I did!

I found out another important thing about roadway safety and it involved one of my friends (it was really a friend and not me!): At a crowded intersection he stopped just a little past the white crosswalk lines on the ground, no more than 2 feet with his front tire, no biggie he thought, but there were many pedestrians kind of walking around his tire. This caught the attention of a motorcycle policeman who pulled him over down the road and told him the reason he got pulled over was because he had altered the flow of the walking pedestrians. He got a ticket. The officer explained to him that any motorized vehicle that impedes or causes a change in a pedestrian course at any crosswalk, this also includes if you're making a left or right turn and are blocking the crosswalk of pedestrian use, you are subjected to a ticket. My friend wanted to fight it but thought to himself that it's going to cost more to fight it and I will still probably have to pay. So he mailed in the \$85.00 ticket. True story.

I like all the road signs, they do help me pay attention and prepare myself for any type of situation that could occur. I love to carve the canyons and those signs really help me out. As far as the other signs, I will try to obey them as much as I think I can, after all who does not speed occasionally?

Life is Good, respect all travelers of the road and set a good example to all, you never know who will take notice - how about future ABATE members for starters? I say Heck Yaa!!! Ride safer than last time...n

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## NCOM Biker Newsbytes

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### NCOM BIKER NEWSBYTES

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish,

National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM)

#### U.S. SENATE ACTS TO STOP MOTORCYCLE-ONLY

**CHECKPOINTS:** Bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Senate to prohibit the use of federal funds in establishing motorcycle-only checkpoints. S.2078, the "Stop Motorcycle Checkpoint Funding Act," sponsored by Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) on Wednesday, March 5th, and is similar to H.R. 1861, introduced last year in the U.S. House by Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI).

The bill would prohibit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) from issuing grants to states to set up checkpoints where motorcycle riders are targeted by police to check that their vehicles meet state standards for noise, tire condition and other requirements, and are also checked for safety gear during the roadside checkpoints.

Over the past few years, such roadblocks have been conducted in New York, Georgia, Virginia and Utah during large motorcycle rallies. The senators argue that these types of checkpoints are discriminatory and unnecessary since motorcycle riders are already subject to state registration, inspection, licensing and helmet laws and must stop at sobriety check points like all other drivers.

One co-sponsor, Sen. Manchin, former governor of West Virginia, says the checkpoints are a waste of taxpayer funding that can have an adverse effect on states' economies. "Requiring bikers to drive through motorcycle-only checkpoints is not only an ineffective use of taxpayer dollars, but it also raises legitimate questions about discrimination against motorcyclists. In West Virginia, bikers travel near and far to drive on our winding roads and enjoy the beautiful scenery, which attracts tourism and helps boost both our local and state economies," Manchin said. "As a Harley owner myself, I am pleased to work with my colleagues on this bipartisan legislation that simply would prohibit yet another senseless and unreasonable federal regulation which could harm states' economies."

The states of California, Illinois, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and Virginia have all passed legislation to bar such checkpoints.

#### CDC TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS HELMET

**LAW:** The Community Preventative Services Task Force, a panel operating under the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), has reported its findings for improving motorcycle rider safety, recommending that states and the federal government focus on passing helmet laws.

In its first-ever findings statement on motorcycle safety, the group of mostly medical professionals emphasize that motorcycle fatalities have nearly doubled since 2000, but ignore the fact that motorcycle registrations have likewise multiplied over the same time period.

Members of Congress have written the CDC requesting that they back off from helmet propaganda, but the federal health agency feels justified in pursuing all preventable injuries.

#### FURTHER EPA ACTIONS RESTRICT E15 FUEL:

Following passage of the Farm Bill, which hampers the availability of E15 (gasoline containing 15% ethanol) by restricting blender pumps necessary to dispense the fuel, as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recent move to reduce for the first time the amount of ethanol



required to be blended into U.S. gasoline supplies, two new EPA regulations are expected to further limit E15 availability.

In action taken March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the EPA decided against adopting E15 as its standard test fuel, and in other regulatory action refused to waive E15 vapor pressure limits, which will effectively reduce its distribution to gas stations during summer months.

Previously, the EPA approved E15 for use in cars and trucks built since 2001, but has not approved the fuel for use in any motorcycles or ATVs, and manufacturers have warned that E15 can damage engines and even inadvertent fueling can void warranties.

#### PENNSYLVANIA LIMITS MOTORCYCLE LEARN-

**ERS PERMITS:** State Representative Seth Grove introduced HB 892 in this session of the Pennsylvania State Legislature in an effort to curb the practice of "serial permitting" by novice riders in the state, and the bill was just signed by the Governor and becomes effective immediately.

The new law restricts the number of times someone can reapply for a motorcycle learners permit to three times in a 5 year period. Prior to this law, there was no restriction on the number of times an individual could reapply for a learners permit and thereby skirting the need to take the full motorcycle license written and riding test.

"We have been dealing with individuals who continually violate the restrictions of motorcycle permits because they treat permits like actual licenses," Grove said.

ABATE of Pennsylvania also supported the bill and provides free student motorcycle safety training, with an opportunity to obtain a class "M" license upon completion of the course.

#### FLORIDA LAWMAKERS MAY MAKE DRIVERS

**WATCH OUT FOR MOTORCYCLISTS:** Safety rule number one for motorcycle riders is to watch out for car drivers, but a proposal in Florida could make it state law for drivers to watch out for motorcycles.

The bill covers what Senator Greg Evers (R-District 2) calls "vulnerable road users." That includes motorcyclists, pedestrians, road workers, scooter and bicycle riders, farm equipment operators, carriage drivers and those in wheelchairs. If a driver commits a moving violation that results in bodily injury, it would become a second-degree misdemeanor. If it causes death, it would become first-degree, with the potential for license suspension.

#### ABATE 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 ABATE of Indiana. "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 currently 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: BIKER BURIED WITH BIKE:

An Ohio biker was granted his last wish to be buried astride his beloved Harley-Davidson, but it took one custom Plexiglas casket, three extra burial plots, five embalmers and six years of planning and preparations for 82-year old Bill Standley of Mechanicsburg, Ohio to share a grave with the '67 Harley he bought new and rode around the country through 49 states.

It all started 18 years ago when Standley joked with his kids about who would inherit his motorcycle; "I've got two sons, only got one bike," and one of his daughters off-handedly quipped, "Oh dad, just be buried with it."

Six years ago, Standley went before the Champaign County Board of Health to get permission for the bizarre burial, and was informed that he would need a special vault and he'd have to drain all of the fluids out of the bike.

He and his two sons then custom built a see-through casket from a modified septic tank, reinforced with wood and steel, and on January 31<sup>st</sup> family and friends took him on his last ride to the cemetery, where a crane lowered him and his bike to their final resting place in full riding gear, forever in the wind.

#### NCOM CONVENTION HONORS FALLEN RIDERS;

**INVITES NAMES FOR TRIBUTE:** With the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual NCOM Convention in Dallas just weeks away, 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 2013, so that we may honor their memories during the traditional "Ring of the Bell" tribute to fallen riders during the opening ceremonies. Dedications can be hand-delivered at the Convention to "Doc" Reichenbach, NCOM Chairman of the Board, or e-mailed in advance to Bill Bish at [NCOMBish@aol.com](mailto:NCOMBish@aol.com).

Attendees are also encouraged to bring an item on behalf of their organization for the Freedom Fund Auction, with proceeds benefiting the motorcyclists' rights movement nationwide through Getting Our People Elected donations, NCOM Speaker Program, lobbying activities and other pro-motorcycling projects as determined by the NCOM Board of Directors.

The 29<sup>th</sup> annual NCOM Convention will be held Mother's Day weekend, May 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at The Intercontinental Hotel - Dallas, located at 15201 Dallas Parkway in Addison, Texas, so reserve your room now for the special NCOM rate of \$99 by calling (877) 317-5786.

This annual gathering will draw hundreds of bikers' rights activists from across the country to discuss topics of concern to all riders, and 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](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com).

**QUOTABLE QUOTE:** "There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." ~ Elie Wiesel (b. 1928) author, Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor ~

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# Pac/Lobbyist Report

by Dave Hasting, Treasurer

Election fever has enveloped Sacramento and every other city and county throughout California with a vengeance. We (ABATE of California and our Lobbyist, Jim Lombardo) are being invited almost every single day to attend fund raisers and “meet and greets” with candidates from across the state. It seems like everyone in California is seeking a donation of money or asking for our help with their campaign work loads.

Have you gotten involved with a candidate yet? Would you be willing to help? Please consider volunteering some of your time to become politically involved in the 2014 election process. If you feel uncomfortable helping a candidate directly, consider helping your local polling/voting office. Contact them to see if they will need help on the day of the election.

One way or another, every one of us should become involved with the election process in some way, shape, or form. Once involved, you may discover that it was easier than you thought, and who knows, possibly more fun than you imagined too! Like I’ve said before, today’s election worker may ultimately become tomorrow’s new ABATE sponsored candidate!



As usual I want to say “Thanks” to every Local and/or individual who has contributed to our PAC and/or Lobbyist funds in 2014 and remind everyone that we will need as many donations as you can give us during this election year (and every year for that matter) along with some of your precious volunteer time. It’s simple, the more candidates we help, the more influ-

ence we will have on issues and votes that favor our motorcycle lifestyle.

So please, help out either financially or physically, and give ABATE and the candidates of your choosing some much needed help during the upcoming election cycle. We will all benefit tremendously from your expenditure and ultimately you and your motorcycle will too!


“THANK’S TO ALL THAT DO, AND TO THOSE THAT DON’T, PLEASE TRY TO!”

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I have an “almost” new aftermarket speedometer, 8-1/2” face, 306 miles. It fits an early model Harley-Davidson XL Sportster or a FXR Low Rider model. Handlebar mount with rear reset knob and mechanical front wheel drive. Bought from JP Cycles in January 2014. Paid \$109.00. Want \$75.00 cash. Contact me at (818) 429-5550 Steve B. from Local #01.

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# Sporty's Rides

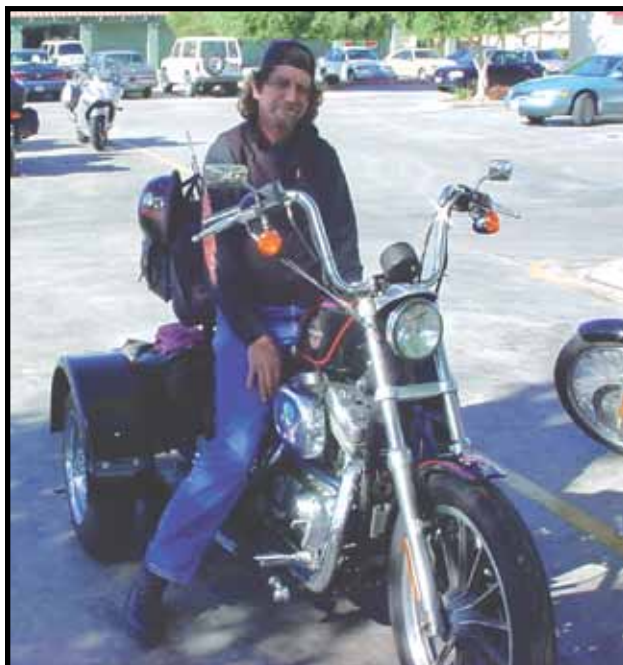
by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan

Greetings! This Sporty's Rides is my medical report coming to you from the convalescent/rehab home in North Hills. It is not that far from my house in San Fernando.

The next is an account of the March 5<sup>th</sup> surgery and is kinda like a Total Recall. At 4.30 am we're rolling from my house to the hospital in Lancaster for the process of starting over and getting this thing fixed. I, like Dee Snyder of Twister Sister fame, want to ride. Yea, I want to ride. Arrived at the hospital and checked in. Went to a holding room then off to the area where they were going to operate on my right leg.

The Juice guy, who makes you not feel pain, reminded me of an old school low rider. He had that look and talk. Surgery lasted 11 hours. They had my arms stretched out like I was on one of those bondage racks. It hurt like Hell. So they had a morphine cocktail for me, but I had a problem; I developed a real bad case of heart burn. The doctors thought I was having another heart attack. So I had to get checked out about that. My doctor, Doc C, wants this to be success and wants me to heal right this time.

All along I have had nice nurses to take care of me. I had a special nurse insert what they call a PIC line. That way they can insert antibiotics in my vein. By



the way, they installed an external fixator on my leg. It took five hours to put it on during the surgery.

Here is the problem: My leg has a 4 layer wrap on it. In order to go home I had to have someone able to change my leg bandages twice a day, plus give me the antibiotics in the PIC line on my right arm and address the settings on the contraption on my leg. Renee, my best one, was not going to be able to do this. So we found the place where I am staying (refer to the beginning of this piece). SWELL! I get three hots and a cot!

My dressing changed two times a day and they do the stuff in my PIC line when required.

So I am here for 6 weeks then I don't know where the journey will take me. But I will do whatever I have to do to get out of this mess and back to work and wheels. I miss seeing you folks. You guys and gals of ABATE are what help make ABATE work. Just do your best to attend ABATE events and support the various ABATE funds. Try to get to the Regional Rally in May.

Until next time, I miss all of you dearly, Ride like the wind SAFELY! Regards, Sporty.



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# Local #17's Texas Hold-Um & Almond Festival Pictures

Pictures By Jim Jim Schlachter



## ABATE LOCAL #23 5th ANNUAL FUND RAISER CHILI, SALSA & DESSERT CONTEST



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## Tech Tips by Craig Griswold

### Fuel Filters

We've discussed fuel (types, octane ratings), fuel systems (carburetors, fuel injection), and performance issues regarding fuel delivery. Quick show of hands, how many of you think of that fuel filter? It's one of those maintenance items that gets overlooked and in many cases can go on way past the service interval with nary an issue. The problem is, there is always that one that gives up the ghost half way through that cross country ride.

Up until the Motor Company decided to introduce electronic fuel injection in 1995, all bikes made by our beloved friends in Milwaukee were carbureted (fuel injection optional on big twins until 2007, when all bikes, even the Sportster, come with fuel injection only). With the exception of the in-tank screen filter that is attached to the fuel valve, there was no such thing as a filter per-se. There is a service check that requires removing the fuel valve assembly and cleaning this screen. When that maintenance is neglected, it looks a lot like this:



Most folks are content with the filter screen, but the more vigilant will usually add an aftermarket in-line filter, offering an additional layer of filtration.



There are a multitude of in-line filters to choose from. Most of these are disposable, but some are designed with a replaceable filter element. These, and some of the disposable filters, are made with glass or clear plastic allowing a visual inspection for replacement. When installing one of these, keep in mind most are directional so check for a flow direction marked on the filter.

There are four fuel filter assemblies for Harley-Davidson fuel injected models (three for the big twins, one for the Sporty). For the big twins, the first filter application fits 95-99 models.



The last fits 08 to present. Harley got smart on this last one and designed it as a replaceable, pleated filter element.



What's more impressive is the price difference. The 95-99 version costs about \$160.00 (up from 80 bucks just a couple of years ago). The 00-07 is back down to that less shocking \$80.00. The late model version costs a whopping 19.00! Way to go Harley! Make it better *and* less expensive.

Installation is not too difficult for any of these, although a service manual is a must. The only special tools involved are a stepless fuel line clamp tool, a T-20 Torx driver, and an inch/pounds torque wrench (for the 95-07 big twin models/07 and later XL). Better than a torque wrench, a torque screw driver typically has the lower scale capability required for this job.



For the 08 and later big twin models, a special spanner wrench is needed to remove the lock ring on the fuel canopy. This lock ring system replaces the self sealing screw fasteners and thus the Torx driver and torque wrench/driver are no longer needed.

The filters reside inside the fuel tank as part of the fuel pump assembly. The fuel canopy must be removed to access this assembly.

For brevity I won't go into specific details (use HD's factory service manual) on the procedure, but once the fuel canopy is separated from the tank, the filter can be changed. This is a good time to inspect the internal fuel lines. In some instances, the lines are routed in such a way that they make contact with the assembly bracket or the fuel tank channel. Vibration causes these areas to chafe and pin hole leaks can occur. If in doubt, replace them!

The Motor Company recommends replacing fuel filters every 25,000 miles. Most shops will recommend this change during the 25K service. Although this particular job can be a bit spendy, it is worth the peace of mind and much less expensive than a break down!

Ride safe!

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

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

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

**ABATE Locals:** 2, 6, 11, 19, 21, 23, & 24.

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

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



# 2014 ABATE Events

EVENTS FOR 2014

[www.abate.org](http://www.abate.org) Events Calendar

**April 4 -6** – Yermo Eddy's Annual Spring Campout – contact Yermo Ed for details 760/953-7353

**April 12** – ABATE Local 23 – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual fundraiser – Chili, Salsa & Dessert Contest (see flyer this issue for details).

**April 26<sup>th</sup>** – Saturday – Local 17, Vacaville, Spring Fun Run (see flyer for details).

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Tentative meeting schedule for Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>**, Sunday – ABATE Local #27 – 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Bare Necessities – (See flyer this issue for details.)

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

**May 14 – 24**, 2014 Annual Run For the Wall – All Routes leave from Rancho Cucamonga on May 14<sup>th</sup>. [www.rftw.org](http://www.rftw.org) for more information.

**May 19** – LAST DAY to register to Vote in California elections. (if you have moved or changed your name – you will need to re-register).

**June 1** – Hot Rods & Harleys – ABATE Local 17 & Iron Steed H-D (see flyer this issue). Buy tickets !!!

**June 3** – California Primary Election Day.

**June 21** – ABATE Local 44 – Annual Route 66 event, details to be announced.

**July 27** – ABATE Local 2 – 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Sweaty Buns Run (see flyer this issue).

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

**November 4** – State Election Day

November 9<sup>th</sup> – Annual Totally Kids fund raiser – (a.k.a. One more from the Heart).

**November 11** – Veterans Day

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

Editor's note: The following is an explanation that Nick used for a local 44 meeting, however, this could be used to explain to any local how ABATE PAC works.

### LOCAL 44 PAC REPORT by Nick Benson Sr

#### HOW I CHOOSE WHICH CANDIDATES TO SPEAK AT OUR MEETINGS

I was recently asked how I choose which candidate(s) to speak at our Local 44 meetings. As ABATE is a non-partisan organization, party affiliation plays no part in who ABATE endorses. However, throughout the history of ABATE, the Democrats have generally voted against us, but not always. Conversely, the Republicans have generally voted with us, but again, not always. This can be frustrating for an ABATE member of either party. I will use myself for an example of a member that leans to the right. Because I have so many interests, it gets difficult for me to endorse a democrat that votes with me at ABATE, but completely opposite on all my other beliefs. But for ABATE, I must simply state facts and therefore follow the same criteria for choosing a speaker of either party. Conversely, for a Democrat member of ABATE, it is difficult to endorse a Republican that may vote with motorcyclists, but opposite other Democrat ideology.

All ABATE members need to understand that ABATE of California is a political organization. It is not a social or judicial organization. Although ABATE does encourage all members to socialize and share our fondness of riding, the primary goal of ABATE is to keep our motorcycling rights intact via legislation. Other groups such as B.O.L.T. prefer to keep our motorcycling rights intact through the courts, and still other groups are simply for socializing. Because ABATE is strictly a political organization, it stands to reason that we will try and get only motorcyclist friendly legislators voted into office. Twenty-two years ago when I first joined ABATE we struggled to get any politician to speak at one of our meetings. Now we have quite few that seek us out!

I am not only the PAC rep for Local 44, but I am a member of the ABATE PAC division of ABATE. Any ABATE member in good standing can become a member of ABATE PAC simply by attending two PAC meetings in a row and then not missing two in a row. The PAC meetings are almost always at the Board of Directors meetings. This means that normally there will be two in Northern California and two in Southern California. However, the Board is working on some changes to have only one meeting in Northern California and three in Central California. By being a member of the PAC, you can vote on how our ABATE PAC fund money is disbursed e.g. which candidates will receive money from us. PAC members receive emails and updates of who we are or are not going to support in any given election. Basically, PAC members receive a little more information about the candidates and legislation before the general membership. Then the PAC rep or member will bring that information to the Local meeting. So sometimes my first bit of information about a candidate will come from the ABATE PAC.

1. Other times, candidates will contact me and ask me to endorse them. Because I am fairly well known in political circles to be affiliated with ABATE and an activist, it is not uncommon for me to be asked for my endorsement.
  - a. The first thing I do is ask them to fill out an ABATE Question and Answer sheet like the one shown at the bottom of this report.
  - b. Sometimes the candidate will advise me that ABATE already has one on file and then I check with Carol Cromwell to get a copy of it.
  - c. If they fill out the Q&A to ABATE's liking, I then ask them to sit down and have a talk with me.
2. At this talk, I will ask them about motorcycle issues and a host of other issues that are of concern to me and are usually the concerns of most ABATE members such as gun control, etc. I also always demand their cell phone number as I want to be able to reach them directly and not one of their flunkies.
  - a. If they answer all the motorcyclist related issues to the way most of us would like them too, I then ask them if they would like to speak at our meeting.
  - b. If they say yes, I will contact the President of the Local and ask the President's permission to schedule that candidate to speak at our meeting.
3. Still other times, ABATE's Legislative Director – Sandy Lubbers – will contact the ABATE PAC members and tell us about a candidate in our area that is having a "meet and greet" or "fundraiser" and asks if one or more of us will attend that function.
  - a. If it is in our area I will attend that event and talk to them and in most cases I will ask them if they have filled out a Q&A and if not, if they will. From that, I will follow the above criteria stated in #1.
4. Sometimes I will read or hear about a candidate that is running for a race in our district. If this candidate seems like he is someone that would support our positions, I will seek him out and follow the above criteria to determine if we would like him to speak at our meeting.
5. There are some reasons I may not ask a candidate to speak at our meeting.
  - a. They may refuse to fill out a Q&A which is mandatory for ABATE to endorse them.
  - b. They may be right up front about not supporting biker's rights.
  - c. They may have a history of writing legislation that is counter to biker's right e.g. Dick Floyd or Paul Cook both of whom wrote and passed helmet bills.
  - d. In our Assembly race, we have one candidate that wants more CARB restrictions put onto motorcycles and cars. I probably would not ask him to speak because I cannot imagine any of us wanting to hear him promote more regulations on us.
6. What YOU should do if you want someone to speak at our meeting.
  - a. If you don't know them, contact me and I will contact them.
  - b. Make sure that you have them fill out a Q&A or contact me and I will get one for them. Without the Q&A, ABATE will almost never endorse them.
  - c. Contact me or our Local President Dave Hastings to see what date is available for your candidate to speak.
7. What you should do if you have questions about the speakers that I select.
  - a. Contact me!

Finally and VERY important, if you have a candidate in your area that ABATE is supporting and that you also would like to support, contact your PAC Rep, our Legislative Director, Carol Cromwell, or even the candidate themselves and let them know that you are available to help even two hours per month! Candidates cannot buy enough volunteers that WANT to be there helping. Most of us cannot afford to give them money, but it has been shown again and again that what a candidate really needs are volunteers to stuff envelopes, man telephone banks, hang signs, walk precincts, and a whole bunch of other stuff. Don't ever assume that you are unable to offer them something, each of us have our own talent and believe me, your candidate will find and use that talent. And they WILL remember you. I had a candidate call me and tell me that he wanted to know if I would help him and that I was referred by a person that ABATE helped get elected 25 years ago! 2014 is one of the most important years for us that there is. We will probably be getting at least 30 new Assembly members! You can help us make sure that ALL of them are motorcyclist friendly!

The Following are questions that are typically asked of candidates:

Would you oppose legislation and enforcement policies that allow "safety checkpoints" to single out motorcyclists rather than treating all road users equally?

Would you support legislation to include motorcyclists in those interests which cannot be discriminated against by Federal, State, business or private entities, if the motorcyclist's activities are lawful?

Would you oppose legislation requiring smog checks for motorcycles?

Would you support permanently designating the month of May as Motorcycle Awareness month, and support programs to encourage California motor vehicle operators to be more aware of motorcycle riders?

Would you support an amendment to the Mandatory Motorcycle helmet law to allow Freedom of Choice for adult riders?


Would you oppose legislation and enforcement policies that single out motorcycles as sources of noise pollution rather than treating all sources of noise equally?

Would you support a resolution urging local authorities to set aside dedicated motorcycle parking in downtown and shopping areas?

Would you oppose legislation to make lane sharing illegal?



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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!

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Pictures by Glen Cheslock





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**OUR MISSION:**

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

Sporty Milligan 2nd Sun - 9 AM  
1616 4th St Big Jim’s Restaurant  
San Fernando 8950 Laurel Canyon Blvd.  
818/ 361-8800 Sun Valley 91352

**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  
busel3@att.net Escondido Moose Lodge  
760/807-7294 25721 Jesmond Dene Rd  
Escondido 92026

**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 Tues - 7:00 PM  
310/245-0543 Meet with Local 20  
suzpalmiere@aol.com

**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 Katzen 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  
P.O. Box 3094 16195 Main St  
Victorville, CA 92392 Hesperia 92345

**Barstow - Local #47-Reg#13**

Yermo Eddy Meet with L#44  
PO Box 521  
Yermo CA 92398  
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  
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