

The Bailing Wire

Newsletter for Motorcyclists

Volume XXXI

ISSUE XI

NOVEMBER 2012

A Union of Motorcyclists
Dedicated to Freedom of the Road



Lobbyist's Legislative Report

by James Lombardo,
Lobbyist

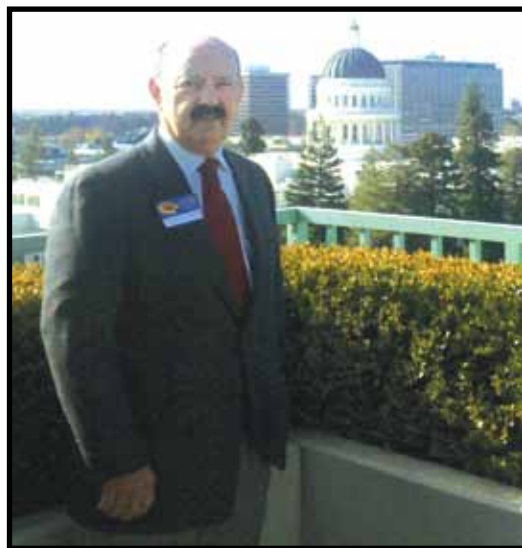
Elections – Elections – Volunteer time to
protect our Freedoms!

It's pretty simple folks. Remember your junior year of high school when you had to take that boring civics class? Well, the first principle they taught me, and also most probably you, was how *blessed we are to be able to freely cast our own vote to help determine the future*, thanks in no small measure to the sacrifices of our soldiers and vets!

The second rule was if you didn't like the jerk in office that represented you, run yourself, or support someone you like better - that's the 3 or 4 hours that I have been asking all of you to donate to your candidate running for the Legislature or Congress! You won't have to come to Sacramento to see your legislator, you can see them in their local offices. Sure saves a lot of gas money, too.

I literally walk the walk, and talk the talk. Last June, my son and I walked precincts for our good friend, Assemblyman Bill Berryhill, who is running against Kathy Galgiani for Senate District 5 (she voted the last 6 years against bills important to ABATE). Bill is one of the candidates critical to supporting our issues and we are heading back down to do some more walking and calling, for Bill, before November 6th.

At last Sunday's ABATE Board Meeting, the PAC approved contributions for several candidates and all the donations will be hand delivered by members from ABATE Locals who will also volunteer their time to help in the campaigns.



Folks, the time you volunteer is less money they have to raise to pay campaign workers. I get the **BIGGEST THANKS** from legislators and how much they appreciate **YOUR/ABATE'S** volunteer time! Look in last month's *Bailing Wire* for a list of elections to get involved in, and check out the *Voter Guide* for which candidates support us. The list is also posted on our website. Share our endorsements with other motorcycle MROs, shops, etc.

Our next Legislative and Board meeting is in Sacramento, January 12 of next year, I really hope that you can make it!

At the Board Meeting, we will be discussing proposed legislation to introduce in 2013. Send at least one representative from your Local with any ideas and/or suggestions for **ANY LAW** that needs to be changed that affects motorcycle riders.

Continued on page 3

American Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education

Table of Contents

Page 2	Executive Director
Page 4-5	Board & Freedom Fighter Bios
Page 6	Board Ballot
Pages 6-9	Locals Reports
Page 10	PAC Lobby
Page 11	Sporty's Rides
Page 12-13	Coast
Page 14	Events
Page 15	VIP's
Page 16&17	Safety
Page 19	Membership & Pay it forward
Page 20	Donations
Page 21-23	Flyer's
Page 25	Business Members
Page 26	Merchandise
Page 27	ABATE Meetings
Pages 28-32	Summer Run Pics

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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Asst. Exec. Director- Vacant

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Region 7: Vacant
Region 8: Tom Lubbers 626/622-9237
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Gill Mellen 949/632-9787
David Morena 916/616-9605
Lee "Sporty" Milligan 818/361-8800
Johnny O'Kane 760/956-1669

Executive Director's Report

by Greg Covell, Executive Director

As I have stated before ABATE is at a critical juncture. We have already discussed changing our image in some minor ways. But wearing button down shirts, a new logo and changing what our acronym stands for are not going to make a real difference if we cannot convince the grand community of bikers to unite behind us in our efforts to protect motorcyclist's rights.

If we are to be considered a professional organization with any power to affect change then we must start with ourselves. An actual State Office with an office and a business address in a major city would be a start. An updated filing system, communications center and new computers using Excel and Access to keep those files would improve our image through improved communications. Updating the Bailing Wire to a magazine format would improve our ability to get businesses to advertise with us. Regular emails need to be sent to all members we have an email address for - especially when we have information that is time sensitive. The AMA and NRA do this quite effectively. If members don't want to receive emails from us let them opt out after receiving them. Anyone can delete an email they don't want. Ways need to be found to re-distribute how we spend our money to allow for these changes. These are all internal changes that must be made for us to become successful in today's society.

We have lost another Local (Local 5, bringing us to 28 Locals in the State) and the point is very clear that we cannot continue to do as we have done. I am more than willing to help create change, but must have the backing of the Board and the renewed efforts of our current membership to get and retain members. As our membership drops so does our ability to finance change



and change is never inexpensive and rarely allows everyone to be happy and get what they want. It takes work, communication and compromise.

Elections are here and we need to vote in Legislators who will support ABATE and the rights of motorcyclists. This Election is critical and we need every motorcyclist and everyone who supports motorcyclist rights to VOTE. We need to use our votes to show legislators the direction we wish them to take.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: "Complacency and apathy is easy and comfortable - but in the long run the cost of doing nothing is very high."

I am ABATE of California.... are you? Keep Your Eyes Wide Open.



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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 through political and legislative action. ABATE promotes motorcycle safety through education, training and public awareness.

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



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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.

ABATE OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

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Carol Cromwell & Caroline Griffith

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Gill Mellen & all our Members

COLUMNISTS

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

AD RATES

Business Card \$15.00 /Mo.
\$150.00 /Yr.
Double Size Business Card W/Color \$250.00
1/4 Page (5"W x 5"H) \$150.00 /Mo.
\$1500.00 /Yr.
1/2 Page (10"W x 5"H) \$175.00 /Mo.
\$1750.00 /Yr.
Full Page (10"W x 10"H) \$350.00 /Mo.
\$3500.00 /Yr.

Full color ad is 25% extra.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL -

\$125 - One Year Business Member Listing, Couple Membership and Display Plaque.

Add \$75 per year for color business card.

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

Jim from page 1

Sporty, on behalf of Local 1, has requested we introduce our bill requiring Caltrans to put back up the **MOTORCYCLES OK IN HOV LANES** signs. So discuss *what your Local wants* at your meetings and show up at the legislative session before the Board Meeting, or send your suggestions to Carol Cromwell at the ABATE office. Otherwise, see you in Sac Town in January for the meeting!

I really do appreciate all the support from individuals and Locals and the fundraisers you all do to raise money to keep me in the Capitol *fighting for OUR FREEDOMS!*



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Their Membership #: _____ (Sponsor)
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Renewing Junior membership – renewal pin _____ \$5.00
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(Usually the same as sponsor and expires when sponsor's membership expire)

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Charge my credit card: Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐

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I would like to donate \$ _____ to the:

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Nominees for ABATE Board of Directors 2012-2013

Bio Bob Blatz



My name, for those who don't know me is, Bob Blatz. I have served on the ABATE of CA State Board of Directors for the last two years. I am also Region 3 Regional Director, Locals 14, 15, and 17 and am in charge of trying to organize the Northern Regional Rally to be held in Belden Town in July of 2013. I was Local 15's President for 5 years but decided to let some new blood take over that role. I'd like to make this short and sweet. I require your vote to remain active on the State Board of Directors.

I have attended almost all of the State Board meetings since I became President of Local 15 almost 6 years ago. I'm a firm believer in our Policy and Procedures manual and recommend that all of our leaders whether Local or State glance at it once in awhile.

So just don't sit back; get out at state and national elections and please support me for a renewal in the ABATE of CA election. Thanks for your time.

Bio "Rebel" Ruthi Wolfson



I have been riding motorcycles since I was 11. I am now 61. I have spent a career of nurs-

ing researching with other medical professionals how accidents had occurred and if a helmet was or wasn't the cause of the injury. Researching trauma has been my forte' throughout my career along with researching insurance fraud.

I broke my neck when my 3/4 HJC, DOT approved helmet broke my cervical spine in my worst accident ever. It was written on ER report as well, as by the surgeon. I can't imagine life without a motorcycle. I AM a Disabled Biker. And I still ride.

Experience: Trauma Nurse Practitioner/Legal Nurse Consultant 42 Years. Involved with ABATE of CA as member back in late 1970's, then President of Local 25 since July 2011. ABATE of Chicago, IL, Safety & Education Coordinator for 17 years. Prior to that Legislative Coordinator. Suncoast Brotherhood of Dunedin, FL (previously ABATE) Lifetime Member. Founder & Author, of the Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Program of Greater IL & FL. Taught 10,000+ high school courses. Hosted Motorcycle Safety talk show on WKRS Radio Talk Show, 1990's. Advocate for Disabled Nurses Rights Nationwide. Advocate for Disabled Bikers Rights with Media Coverage. Author of Domestic Violence Programs for Emergency Rooms. Medicare/Medicaid/Insurance Fraud Investigator until retirement. At present on Tuesdays and Thursdays I speak on the Phil & Bill Radio Talk Show about ABATE Legislation plus other events.

I have attended every hearing at the Capitol this past year as President of Local 25, except for one. I have multiple media contacts for the rally events here in the Capitol as well as contacts throughout the state. As President of Local 25, I have networked with MMA, as well as the independent motorcycle associations. I attend meetings of as many clubs/orgs/associations as possible to spread the word of legislation and to promote ABATE. We no longer have 4-6 members show up at our meetings, we actually now fill the dining room at Denny's. I encourage participation of all members even to do something small. Before I became President I started letter writing campaigns to legislators and we hand deliver them to the Capitol. We are a growing Local now. Slowly that is.

My best skill of all is that I have spent my career doing research in the medical field and in the motorcycle genre. As a Board member I can devote my time to working for the better of the organization, as in retirement, I have the time to sit and research more, plus have the time to continue my Capitol visits as well.

"Rebel" Ruthi Wolfson, RN, BSN, TNS, LNC
Legal Nurse Consultant

Bio Lil' David Morena



Every time they pass a law, we lose a little more freedom! That's why I joined ABATE of California back in 1990. I have learned that politicians are like little boys and dogs; you have to keep an eye on them!

I hold, or have held, various positions within ABATE of California. Currently on the State level, I'm a Board Member, Treasurer, Regional Director and an individual PAC member. On the Local level I have held the President and Vice-President of Local #25.

I ride and want to ride tomorrow, so I'm committed to fighting for our rights to ride! I ask for your vote to continue our fight. Thank you.

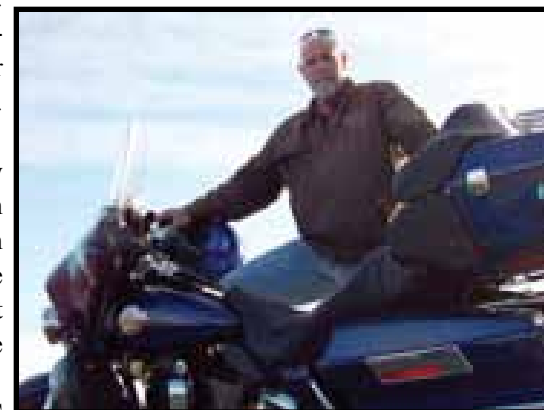
Bio Ed "Iceman" Mathis

Lil' David Morena nominates Ed "Iceman" Mathis for ABATE of California Board of Directors. Iceman has been a motorcycle enthusiast since 1969 and is currently the Vice President of the Shaggers M/C and Assistant Director of the Hi Desert Trikers BTW.

He is a past Modified Motorcycle Association of California (MMA) Division 5 Manager and has served on the MMA Board of Directors.

Iceman has been attending the California Freedom Rally for 20 years and would be a valuable asset to the ABATE of California Board. I ask for your vote. Thank you.

Bio Steve Guderian



Continued on next page

Bios Continued from page 4

I am running for one of the open Board of Director positions. My current position as state Safety officer has shown me the true state of motorcycle rider rights. From this experience I have learned that for the most part the state motorcycle safety committees and personnel have little respect for us, if any at all. This is completely unacceptable for all riders in California. We, ABATE of California, need to – no, we must change this perception if we are to be able to gain even the most fundamental rights for all riders. We, ABATE of California, have to change our approach and way of doing things so that we can gain the trust of all riders and the respect of all people associated with the motorcycle community. This is not a short term plan, rather it is a long range goal that is going to need a concentrated effort from current members, and from the future members we are going to enlist.

I use to be on the other side, the government safety side. I know how they think, how they act, and what their weak nesses are. This knowledge along with the known commitment of the ABATE Board of Directors and general membership can move us forward into the position of a dominate motorcycle rights organization, which is something all riders in California deserve.

As a motorcycle rider, a motorcycle rider safety expert and a motorcycle rider concerned about

my rights, I am committed to moving ABATE of California into a position of strength in the motorcycle riding community. No other motorcycle rights organization in California is in the position to do what ABATE can do and I want to do my best to make sure that ABATE of California can completely fulfill the destiny that is before it.

Respectfully, Steve Guderian.

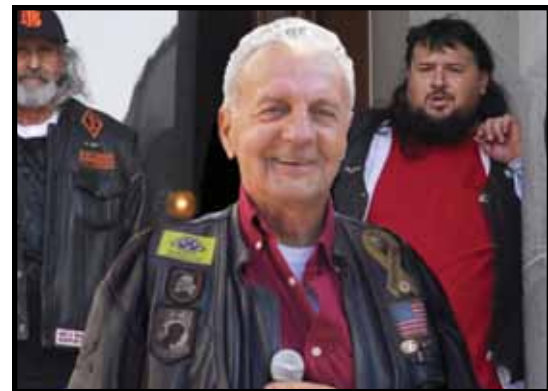
Bio Dave Hastings



Hello, my name is Dave Hastings and I would like to serve another term on the ABATE State Board of Directors. By now I think most of you know me so I'm not going to spend much time on

my past positions and record. Suffice it to say that I feel ABATE of California currently has a very capable and dedicated group of individuals holding statewide office and I would like to retain my position as a contributing member of this organization and its Board of Directors. I feel I still have the drive and ambition to better our organization and with the help of my fellow elected officers we will be able to ensure both the direction and focus of our ABATE for the next generation of riders in California. Please give me your vote on election day and I will do my best for you and our organization. Thank You, Dave H.

Bio Gill Mellen



I will run for the Board again this year. I have been on the Board since 2006. Spike and I got Assemblyman Jose Solorio to do the Transponder bill and I will work for all of you again if you want me on the Board again. Thank you, Gill

2012 Freedom Fighter Nomination

by Nick Benson Sr

My nomination for Freedom Fighter of the Year would have to go to Mark Castillero "Dogman" of the Boozefighter M/C and ABATE Local 11 member. Back in May of this year, Dogman emailed me regarding some of my posts to the discussion line. He was looking for a way to get more involved in the political process but had some reservations as he had never done anything like this.

I gave Dogman a few basic ideas for getting involved and he ran with all of them! First he got involved with the Greg Imus 8th Congressional District Campaign. Dogman not only made a large monetary contribution to Greg Imus, but took a list of Wrightwood phone numbers and made political calls to numerous Wrightwood residents even though he lives in San Diego and is not even in the 8th Congressional District.

Next, he jumped into the 76th Assembly District (Oceanside) and is helping with the Sherry Hodges' campaign.

Finally, Dogman got involved with the Todd Zink campaign against our nemesis Fran Pavley and traveled to meet with Todd Zink and pledge his support when the time comes, but also made a sizable monetary donation to Zink!

These donations come from his own pocket during times that are economically challenging to say the least! With the exception of Sherry Hodges,

his help is going to ABATE's friends and endorsees in districts that are not even close to where he lives! Now that is motivation!

To go from being someone that is not involved, to jumping in with both feet (and wallet) within just a few short months is nothing less than awesome! Dogman deserves the recognition of someone that puts their money where their mouth is and is truly an inspirational Freedom Fighter that the rest of us should use when setting the proverbial bar!

by Lil' David Morena

I would like to personally nominate Elmer Simeon for the 2012 Freedom Fighter award. Elmer, our one man band has been playing free at our ABATE events for the last 3 years! He has been a Local 27 member for over 10 years and is always distributing the Bailing Wire to local shops.

I ask for your vote for Elmer as our 2012 Freedom Fighter.

by Dave Hastings

I would like to nominate Nick Benson Sr for the 2012 ABATE Freedom Fighter award. Nick has been a long time member of ABATE of California and has held numerous positions

in our organization. He is currently a member of our state Board of Directors and has been very active during the 2012 election cycle. Nick has personally helped with the campaigns of several of our high desert politicians, but more importantly he has provided accurate information and reliable statistics regarding those campaigns to anyone who has requested it.

Nick has also been very active in educating the off-highway riders regarding the new side-by-side regulations that were signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown and take effect in January of 2013. Nick has hosted meetings with the off-road riders and spent many hours researching and informing people about this new law that will severely impact the off-road families of California. He was the original "Paul Revere" rider who informed us of the new law coming and now he is spear heading the fight to modify and ultimately stop the enactment of this poorly written piece of legislation.

So, in his short tenure on our ABATE state Board of Directors, Nick has been extremely active in supporting the freedom of all riders rights, both on and off road, and I feel he is very deserving of the 2012 Freedom Fighter of the Year award!

LOCAL NEWS

Local #01 Los Angeles



Local 1 reporting! For once we were able to actually have a meeting to report on because Local 1 had its monthly meeting early. That was due to the fact our regularly scheduled meeting was on October 21 and that is the day of the Love Ride. And once again ABATE Local 1 will have a booth in the trade show portion of the event in Castaic.

So a brief recap of the meeting. We discussed the need to work for the candidates in the area that are ABATE endorsed - Todd Zink Senate Dist. 27 comes to mind. If you are in the 27th Senate district help Todd defeat Fran Pavley. And help the ABATE endorsed candidates. We will be rewarded when the time comes for legislative stuff.

Richard Wagner paid us a visit and we're going to again work with him and Glendale HD for the 25th annual Fred Jordon Mission Skid Row Toy run, which is this December 9.

Glenn Cheslock talked about the Love Ride booth, courtesy of Glendale HD, and we're going to have at least eight folks there to man it. Also we're going to raffle off a 19 inch flat screen TV.

There were only a handful of folks at the meeting so I am sending out a report of this to my email members. Well we had a new member sign up. His name is Wildman. Yes, you got that correct, Wildman.

That's all folks! Regards, Sporty.

Local #02 Simi Valley



Here's the headlining news upfront! Local 2 dinners are on the house! Yes sir, free dinner for all the members that showed up and anyone who was there! Thanks to the volunteer cooks Norm (me) and Pres Ray! We started out slow and then it got going. I was kinda hoping to be overwhelmed but it was a good turnout anyway.

We serve our infamous \$5.00 dinner from 6:45 pm till 7:30. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at VFW Post 10049, 4242 East Los Angeles Street in Simi Valley.

Pres Ray got us going again and talked about our Local's up-coming elections for starters. Nominations are the hot topic tonight and I cannot believe it's that time of the year! Already! We are discussing our Christmas party, Woo Hoo! You

will know the time and date real soon, it's gonna surpass last years big shindig that's for sure.

We were tossing around an important agenda last month about the status of our location and we are still here, so far so good, we are very thankful to the VFW for allowing us to have a place to have a meeting and we get to use their facilities (BBQ)! The bottom line is that they are hurting just like we are, in this economic doldrums situation the state of California is in.

Most of our officers are on vacation or home so they will be re-nominated, thank you all for doing this again! Our faithful secretary Jane read the minutes, Pres Ray read the treasurer's report. Norm did a PR/safety report about an article on motorcycle accidents. This was a one sided newspaper article written by a mayor without any knowledge of motorcycles, riding, or education of any sort. He essentially brought forward that it basically was the responsibilities of the motorcyclist and they were at fault for these accidents and gave out information without any facts! I cannot tell you how this one sided baloney ticked me off for the fact that it was factless! I made copies of it and gave it to our members to reply to this guy, this is where we come in and explain to him and people like him that it's a responsibility for ALL drivers and riders and educating ALL instead of just the motorcyclists. He wants to make a video game for us riders to use so we know what to do...hmmm; Santa Clarita Valley is the locale.

Hey, we had a great meeting, we missed all those who couldn't be here, please attend the next meeting, we will have valuable information for you. Ride safe PTL norm e.

MAIL-IN BALLOT

ABATE of California Board of Director's for 2013-2014.

Vote for one or no more than 5. Couple members can vote twice.

Ballots must be postmarked **NO later than December 14, 2012.**

Candidate bios are in Oct. & Nov. Bailing Wires.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert J. Blatz (Bob) | <input type="checkbox"/> "Lil David" Morena | <input type="checkbox"/> Gill Mellen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Rebel" Ruthi Wolfson | <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Hastings | <input type="checkbox"/> Ed "Iceman" Mathis |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Guderian | |

Freedom Fighter Award 2012

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Castellero "Dogman" | <input type="checkbox"/> Elmer Simeon | <input type="checkbox"/> Nick Benson Sr |
|--|--|--|

Name _____

Member Number _____

Couple _____

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**Bios are on
pages 4 & 5**

LOCAL NEWS

Local #06 San Diego



I apologize for not getting Local 6's news out. Last month I was off to Durango to the NCOM meeting and the Ignacio Bike Week - great time! But on the Durango ride, just out of Kingman going east, we hit monsoon rains and big hail. On that stretch of road it is slightly uphill with no exits and lousy shoulder, really no place to escape. It turned out to be the worst and scariest 20 minutes of riding in all my 35+ years of riding. The rain came down so hard my trike hydroplaned at least a half-dozen times. It was all I could do to keep it on the road, not spin out, or get hit by another vehicle. But I'm here to tell about it.

Our October meeting had a fairly good turnout, and we thank everyone who came out to our beautiful Kate Sessions Park. Snowman led the meeting and we discussed politics, of course. Hope everyone voted!

In August, Todd Bottle stepped up to the plate and volunteered to be our new PAC rep. Thank you Todd! He's new to all this, so there will be a bit of a learning curve, but he's enthusiastic and we really appreciate the help. If anyone wants to jump in to help create our own mini-PAC committee, I'm sure he'd be grateful for some assistance.

Mo and Monica are busy planning a run for May to celebrate Motorcycle Awareness Month and to add some bucks to our coffers. Please stay tuned for details. We will, of course, need help with the event so please put on your "volunteer" hat when plans are firmed up.

And speaking of events, the Boozefighters (business members) got the trophy for "largest club" at the ABATE Golden State Rendezvous in Kernville in September. Snowman reported how great the campground in Kernville is and that they all had their usual fantastic time. And congratulations to Local 11 for having the largest attending Local this year. Way to go!

Don't forget that the Final Option has their monthly Sunday Biker Breakfast the same morning as our meeting. IDEA: go to breakfast at Sweetwater Harley and then come up to the meeting; nice breakfast, nice little putt and we'll make it a nice meeting! Don't forget to try to attend Local 11's meeting on the second Sunday of the month at 11 am. I think they have a new location in Escondido, so check the Bailing Wire.

And we wound up the meeting with our Liaison Reports. We thank everyone who attend meetings and talks about ABATE. Hint: Keep some membership forms in your bike!

Ride safe, we will ride free again. Nancy

Local #08 Orange County



Hello from Orange County Local 8! The October meeting was a very productive one! Our thanks to Daniel Pfaffly for standing in for President Jared. Great job Daniel!

The final touches for our 7th Annual "Trick or Treat" run were discussed and we're certain it'll be a success! Local's 8 & 20 shared run is a great fundraiser for each Local and allows us to support ABATE of California.

November is a busy month with the upcoming elections. We were reminded to support Assemblyman Chris Norby and participate by volunteering wherever possible. Members present did a little early voting for ABATE Board of Directors and Freedom Fighters as well. Larry Pfaffly came prepared to highlight California's ballot issues and Propositions, and a lively discussion was had by all.

On a sad note, our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of past Local 8 member Denise Turner who recently passed away of a brain aneurysm. We know she's riding with the angels now.

Local 8 will be gathering at Denny's Restaurant - 7740 Orangethorpe Ave, Buena Park to ride to the 22nd Annual "One More From The Heart" run for Totally Kids on Sunday, November 11. Kickstands up at 8:30 am. Hope to see you all there!!!

Joann Stevens won the membership drawing of \$24.00, but was not present so it'll be rolled over till next month! It pays to show up!!!

Happy Thanksgiving to you all! Be Safe & Ride Free. Linda Kelly

Local #11 North San Diego County



Hey all! Missed you last month as we were out of town. **Today, Sunday, October 14, 2012 was our last meeting at the Oakvale Bar and Grill site at Lake Wohlford. Next month's November meeting will be at the American Legion Post 149 in Escondido.**

We had a small turnout today probably due to the great weather and NFL Sunday. We had a guest speaker as well, Sherry Hodges (R) who is running for State Assembly representing Encinitas, Carlsbad, Oceanside, Camp Pendleton & Vista and is ABATE friendly.

In other Local news we will have a booth at the Escondido Street Fair on Sunday, October 21. We are trying to get out into the public more and hope to see some of you out there. Ride safe. Gary

Local #17 Solano & Napa Counties

Our annual Toy run is on Sunday, December 2. We will meet at the Vacaville Moose Lodge, 6585 Gibson Canyon Road in Vacaville at 9 am. Please bring at least 1 unwrapped toy - benefits Toys for Tots. Ride leaves at 11 am. Our final destination is the Veterans Hall in Dixon. For more info contact Glenn 707-624-6310 or Glennphillips01@comcast.net or www.Abate17.org

Local #19 Pomona Valley

Hello all, from Local 19. We are getting very busy now that our Toy run for 2012 is only eight weeks away. The bicycles are ordered and we'll be getting together soon to assemble them. We did this in a couple of days last year. There was a lot of help and, if you showed up late, you were lucky to get a bike at all. Try to remember guys, if you see a small group of ladies working together, they probably don't need any help or advice. If they do, they will ask. There is still a lot to get done before December 2. We still need volunteers, raffle prizes and batteries, so don't be shy.

It is time to start the nomination process for our Local's next year's officers. As a minimum, we MUST have a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These are Primary Officer positions and need to be filled for the Local to continue. Please let Robert, Diane or me know if you are interested in any of the positions. The amount of work involved is minimal each month and it can be a lot of fun. Your current officers have held positions year after year and some are in need of a break. Step up, speak up and help keep Local 19 alive and well. You will NOT be on your own. We will still be here to offer help if you need it.

The fall season is upon us. Although we still have some warm weather out there, it will be colder out and the wet and rainy days are coming - believe it or not! We have to make sure our bikes are properly maintained and we need to give extra thought to the weather conditions we'll be dealing with. We all hit the road with fun in mind and you have a better chance when you and your equipment are prepared for the ride. Safety has to be constantly on our minds if we want to ride another day. Don't forget to take a look at your buddy's bike as well. An extra pair of eyes can help.

In the mean time, keep the shiny side UP! Ed

Local #20 Orange County

Local 20 conducted their meeting on Tuesday, October 9, at the Best Western Hotel in Costa Mesa. 34 individuals were in attendance. Various topics were presented and discussed such as sup-

LOCAL NEWS



port for biker-friendly legislators (i.e. Todd Zink instead of Fran Pavley) in the upcoming elections, legislation that may be introduced that would adversely affect bikers (gas minimums, lane sharing, etc.), and various biker events.

Additionally, Hessian Spike spoke about the upcoming West Coast COC meeting and potential precedence setting for restitution of fees resulting from recently won biker court cases.

ABATE members turned in their votes for the ABATE Board of Directors. Rick Lister's name was drawn and was present at the meeting. Rick donated half back to the Local.

The next Local 20 meeting will be on Tuesday, November 13. Moonie.

Local #21 Antelope Valley



Mark came by and pitched in money for the Local. Thanks Mark. If anyone else went to the meeting, send in the money.

Toy Run coming up November 25 at the Moose Lodge, 44545 Division St; Lancaster. Love Daryl

Local #23 San Bernardino



Hello Everyone! Well the nominations for our Local's officers are in and the voting will take place at our December meeting. Kevin Sorrell was nominated once again for President, Russ Krause was nominated for Vice President, Secretary/Trea-

surer is Cindy Krause, Membership is Tammy Odell, and Ron Morris was nominated for Road Captain.

We will be having our 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off and Dessert and Salsa contest on November 17 at Kevin and Bea's home in Redlands. Everyone is welcome. All Chili Entries will donate \$10 and everyone else that wants to be a judge will donate \$5. The Chili Cook-Off will start at 1:00 pm. Bring your own drinks, everything else will be provided.

Our November membership meeting will NOT be on November 4, but will be held prior to the Chili Cook-Off on November 17 at Kevin and Bea's home. You may call Russ at 951-961-6377 or Kevin at 951-285-4290 if you need directions. We are not producing any flyers for this event, but everyone is welcome to come and have some fun.

Our regular membership meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month at Vicky's Restaurant in San Bernardino, at the corner of Mill Street and Waterman. Meeting starts at 9:00 am but you are welcome to come early and have some wonderful food.

Tammy Odell, Membership Coordinator

Local #24 Fresno

On the third of the month, about 37 of our 125 members and several of our Business members gathered for the Local 24 meeting. A GREAT BIG THANKS FOR ALL OF YOU THAT SHOW UP EACH MONTH!!!!

Ed led off with the Pledge to the Flag. He went over the ABATE Voters Guide and discussed our local political situation. There is a BIG long ballot this election. Don't let that discourage you, look over each proposition, local issues and decide for yourself. Your vote is critical. We, in the Local ABATE and at the State level, hope you will keep motorcycle rights in mind as you make your voting decisions.

In the election theme, the ABATE Board of Directors election is now. The ballot for this is in the Bailing Wire. Go to www.abate.org, click on the Newsletter, and download the October issue. The Ballot is on Page 3. The Voters Guide is also in the same issue.

Looking out ahead, our End of Summer Run will be over by the time you read this. However, the Turkey Run will be November 3 with sign-ups 1000 to 1100 at Kimmey's in Clovis. We will ride in the local area ending up at La Cantina for a catered Mexican dinner. Great fun and Yum-Yum.

Our Local 24 Christmas Run will be to Valley Children's Hospital. Date and particulars about gifts will be announced at the next meeting. Please attend and get the information, this is the most important charity run we do.

Looking way ahead we plan to do a group ride and attendance at the next state ABATE run in Kernville. There are many great motorcycle roads in the area. I know because I built most of the ones West of Kernville!

Another very important reason to attend our November meeting: Ed is checking out a new

location for our meetings. We will also consider a different meeting day of the week. If all looks OK we will vote on the changes at the November meeting. Be there and let us know what you think.

Phil reported we have 125 members and 17 business members. Ursula said the treasury is low, but holding out OK. The ABATE prize was won by Chris and he donated it back. Thanks a bunch!!! Membership drawing was won by Darlene Morris, but she was not in attendance, so prize rolls over to next month.

See you November 7 at Yosemite Falls Café on Blackstone. BE THERE. Bruce

Local #25 Sacramento



We will be vending for free at the MMA Toy run on November 25 at the Sacramento 6 Drive-in on Oates Drive, just east of Bradshaw, just north of Interstate 50. We also will be vending for free at the MMA swap meet at Dixon Fairgrounds on December 9.

Invited to our meeting this Thursday, October 18, is Assembly members Beth Gaines, Peter Tateishi and Andy Pugno. Also invited to this meeting will be the two charities we will be helping for the holiday season - the Sacramento Housing Authority along with Sacramento Family Promise to help feed needy families and the St. John's Women's Shelter. Their CEO and staff have also been invited. It turns out that the first two charities also work with the Shelter. Sacramento Housing Authority will be on hand this Thursday night to speak about us all working together as well, as they want to do a newspaper article with pictures of us delivering the food to the families.

Capitol Coffee Shop, owned by Gary Haller, past president of Local 25, has a donation jar to raise funds, food, and gift cards from those who work at the Capitol for our Feeding the Hungry for the Holidays Project. Local 25 also has a donation jar set up at our meetings as well as at the events we are participating in. Most recently we have visited the Spyder Ryder's Org of America. Two of their members belong to Local 25 and are trying to recruit more members for ABATE. At their next meeting, October 23, I was told that they will be donating money to Local 25 to help us out. One of their members works at Raley's and has asked for donations for us.

On October 13, I and other ABATE members visited the Northern CA COC meeting in Stockton. We let the clubs know that we are available to

LOCAL NEWS

vend at their events, if we can vend for free or give a raffle prize donation.

Rebel Ruthi Ranting & Raving - someone stole the key to my broom!!

Local #27 Riverside



Local 27's "Not a Poker" run on October 7 at Fairmount Park is now over and done. We had a good time throwing darts and judging motorcycles and tattoos, but with only 87 participants it was not as financially successful as we had hoped. Many thanks again to the Geezers who showed up in force and to the Pobobs and Lost Souls for their participation.

Local 27 is looking for volunteers to run for our Local's board offices. If you find that you have the need to support ABATE a little more and become more involved in the decisions being made, come to the meeting on November 6 and submit your name and bio for consideration by the membership. Commitment is the key. Elections will be held in December and newly elected officers will start their duties at the end of the meeting.

The state Board of Directors met online on October 14. Discussion ranged from reminders for Locals to contact members with expired or expiring memberships to encourage them to renew to new computers for the state office (they are all antiques with obsolete programming). Also discussed was the formation of an off-road division of ABATE to address the needs of the off-roading community and their conflict with restrictive laws in California.

Be sure to read the Voter's Guide and go to the polls in November ready to vote for candidates supported by ABATE.

Come one come all. Learn what you can, and say what needs to be said, be a part of the solution and not part of the problem. Want to know what's happening here locally? Check our website www.abatelocal27.org.

Keep your Eyes Wide Open, Greg Covell, President Local 27. Email: gcovell8@gmail.com

Local #44 High Desert



Hope you attended our annual Halloween camp-out! We always look forward to spending the weekend with our ABATE friends and their families. It's always fun to see all of those kids with a trick or treat bag full of candy and crafts plus the awards that every kid in attendance receives. This year our campground girls had even more exciting ideas to keep everyone's children entertained.

November will be a busy month for our Local with 2013 Officer nominations, attendance of the Vietnam Vets event at the conclusion of our meeting and leaving from there for our first in a long time "Toy Drive" in conjunction with the Cadillac Ranch in Apple Valley. All in all, lot's of fun and something for everyone, all packed into one day!

Don't miss this meeting or you may be nominated for an officer position in absentia! I will also be setting up another "street clean-up" day during November so stay tuned. In addition we will be having our annual ABATE 44 Christmas Dinner Party soon and will have all of the details and prices available at our November meeting.

Last thing on my list is food donations for those less fortunate at this time of year. If you can help, please bring canned goods, food gift certificates, cash, or anything else that you can spare to our November and December meetings and I will personally see that the items get divided equally between the Moose and Eagle's for distribution to needy families in our area. Both of these great organizations are struggling to provide for our hi-desert families in need this Thanksgiving and Christmas. I hope our ABATE family will be able to lend a hand to brighten these two important days for our neighbors in need. Do what you can and thank you in advance for your help.

See you at our November meeting! Dave H.

Local #52 Grass Valley



Hi Folks! It's mid-October and the year is practically in the can. The Board of Directors just wrapped up their meeting (this month was the online version) so I figured I'd pass on a few items of interest. There will be another bike raffle. Once tickets are available I'll get the word out to you. The State of the State from Greg Covell highlighted the trend of declining membership and Locals as well - Local 5 was recently closed. Some ideas are being brought out as possible ways to boost membership. One of them stood out in particular - Re-branding the organization. I wasn't around when this all got started, but I have to wonder. I used to drive me nuts in the NAV when new brass took command and just felt inclined to change it up and then tag it all with a new and improved acronym. Sometimes change is good though. Maybe it's time for a facelift?

One of our Local members brought this up some time ago and it looks like they're looking at the same idea. The Board is looking at a set-up for e-mail alerts for the membership. As it is right now, if you are signed up on the discussion line you will see action alerts among various other correspondence. This would streamline the process for a limited scope of communication and could go straight to your e-mail. I'll keep ya posted.

Another idea came up for bringing in the off-road community. Don't know if this had ever been approached but I would sure like to get some feedback on your thoughts. I've always been a huge believer in the power-in-numbers philosophy. Just getting the on-road community on board is a challenge. If we expanded the search a bit ...

Along the lines of membership, please get the word out to folks not in the membership. Tell them about us and let's bring 'em in.

By the time this rolls out we'll be making plans for Thanksgiving and winter bike projects. What do ya'll think of a Christmas party this year? Let me know. Cheers! Craig

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Pac/Lobbyist Report

by Dave Hastings, Treasurer

The fact that this column needs to be written and submitted by the 15th of each month to meet the deadline for the next month's Bailing Wire is always an issue when we are trying to keep current with important events statewide. So with that said I will assume you are reading this column right before, or even possibly after, our November 6th election. Did you work and support your favorite candidate? Did you use our ABATE PAC election information regarding our endorsed candidates? Did you even vote?

When I hear people complain about how bad our California and Federal policies are, I always remind them that you get what you elect. It amazes me that we will continuously give a yes vote to higher fees and tax increases, elect politicians and legislatures, pass initiatives and approve increases to existing spending limits with no thought at all of the consequences.

Today it's the cost of gasoline; tomorrow the cost of electricity, water bills, food, medical care, and the list goes on and on. Somewhere, someone (was it you?) stepped into that voting booth and either directly approved of it



or indirectly enabled it by voting for the politician who authored the legislation. One of these days we all have to accept our own personal responsibility in this economic nightmare that we have created for ourselves and our children.

Make a vow to live within your means, work productively to increase your discretionary income if you feel the need to increase it, and always vote to make our legislators live by the same standards that we live by. Let's return our country to the values that made us the envy of everyone worldwide and remove the tarnish from our golden state. We start that process by looking subjectively at that person looking back every morning in our bathroom mirror and we complete it behind the election booth curtain.

Our ABATE PAC members have worked hard to keep you informed, encouraged you to support motorcycle friendly politicians regardless of their party affiliation, and have donated countless hours of volunteer work and monetary donations to our endorsed candidates to improve and protect our motorcycle lifestyle. Even still, eventually it comes down to you. Remember the next time you step into that booth and make your choices, you do "get what you vote for"!

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

Sporty's Rides

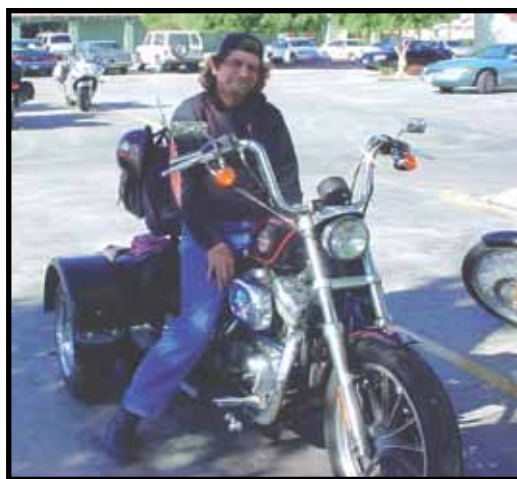
by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan

Hi all! Sporty's column here to make your life better. I have been doing this column for a lot of years and hopefully, you the readers have come to enjoy this as much as I have enjoyed writing this. This month's column was kinda late as we just got over the last Board meeting, which was on line. I say that the meeting went ok, but when you use head sets it's kinda of hard to hear everything and some things for me get lost in the transmission. But it does do one thing - save you travel expenses. So in that regard it is ok, just not perfect in my opinion.

Sporty, get to the highlight of the column now! This month's column is going to be dedicated to campaign stuff. My Local 1 member, Steve B, and I went to work the campaign again in Todd Zink's Thousand Oaks campaign headquarters. This occurred a week after the state run in Kernville.

By the way, we had a blast in Kernville. I worked the raffle booth as the chairman. Had the usual cast of helpers - they know who they are - and we made money for the organization.

Anyway we were going to put up big signs for Todd Zink, candidate for Senate Dist 27 (vs Fran Pavley), but they were still deciding when they could put up signs. So instead we got about 100 yard signs and were off in the little truck that could to the areas in the San Fernando Valley where his 27th District area is. This was a



good deal because Steve and I got the signs out in Reseda, Porter Ranch, Chatsworth and Stevenson Ranch - sweet. I had to feed Steve so we stopped at the subway in Chatsworth and had a late lunch. At about 4 pm I dropped Steve off at his house and stopped to give Angel, Todd Zink's volunteer coordinator, a quick call to recap our adventure and I informed Angel that I was going to put signs out in the town of Topanga. Got a couple of signs put up in Calabasas and hit old Topanga Canyon Blvd where I put signs up on that road. However I discovered that my right front tire was getting messed up so I had to stop the sign putting up for the day. I forgot to mention we stopped by old road HD and they took signs and literature but will not put

up signs on the property. Go figure on that score because Fran smog-bill-turned-noise-bill from last year hurts the motorcycle businesses.

Result of the tire deal was that I needed to get two new tires for the truck and will eventually need front bushings and struts - kinda of expensive but necessary.

The following week went out to check to see if I had lost any signs and yea some were missing so I replaced them. Angel had emailed me to help work in the Todd Zink booth in Reseda at their 100 year anti-slavery deal on Saturday. I worked there from 2 pm to 5 pm. We passed out literature for Todd. I only saw him briefly as he had a fundraiser to attend in Woodland Hills.

Ok, moving on, Saturday, October 13, I went to check in the Topanga area to see if my signs had been messed with as I had 8 signs left to put out. Yes, they were and I replaced them and got a sign out on Pacific Coast Highway and Topanga Canyon Blvd on a vacant lot that was fenced. It's an old gas station so there were candidate's signs all over it. The next day I helped for a couple of hours working the Todd Zink booth in Encino at the Taste of Encino Street Fair. Good deal. Then came home at 12:30 pm to prepare for the virtual reality Board meeting.

Hopefully some of you worked the campaigns and made Sporty proud. Until next time be good, help your Local out and get members for ABATE. If you don't, no one will. Regards, Sporty.



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COAST TO COAST BIKER NEWS

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish

FATALITIES FALL IN MICHIGAN AFTER HELMET LAW REPEAL: "The numbers speak for themselves," said Vince Consiglio, president of ABATE Michigan, in announcing a decrease in motorcycle deaths since the state repealed their mandatory helmet law. Despite dire predictions to the contrary, motorcycle fatalities actually have dropped by 7% based on statistics obtained from the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Secretary of State.

On April 12, 2012, the requirement for motorcycle helmets was amended to allow adult choice for bikers 21 and older, providing they completed an accredited motorcycle-safety course or had a minimum of two years riding experience.

According to an ABATE press release, from 2011 (pre-amendment) to 2012 (post amendment) motorcycle fatalities dropped from 89 to 85 in Michigan, a 4.5% reduction. During the same time period, the number of motorcycle registrations increased from 261,658 to 266,589, so ABATE concludes; "If the fatality rate is adjusted to the total of motorcycle registrations it shows that the fatality rate has decreased from 0.034% to 0.031% since the helmet-law amendment - a seven percent reduction."

"This data proves conclusively that the helmet-law amendment had no adverse effect on motorcycle safety," Consiglio told The Detroit News.

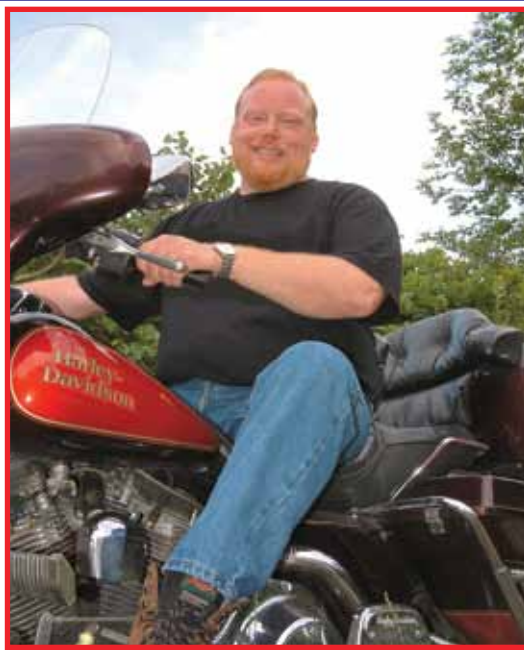
DEER TAKE DEADLY TOLL ON MOTORCYCLISTS: "When a deer collides with a vehicle that weighs a couple of tons, the fragile animal almost always gets the worst of it. When a deer meets a motorcycle on the roadway, both the rider and the deer may suffer the same fate," stated the Washington Post in reporting on research by AAA that found that seven of the eight people who died in crashes involving deer over a three-year period in Maryland and Virginia were motorcyclists. Nationwide, the auto club said, about 70% of deer-crash fatalities involve motorcycles.

"Because they are riding on two wheels, motorcycle riders and their passengers are especially vulnerable when they smash into a deer," said John B. Townsend II, an AAA spokesman.

The deer mortality rate becomes most evident this time of year, as the mating season has more deer on the move. Their carcasses by the roadside attest to the danger that the lure of romance poses for them and for drivers.

In 2010, the latest year for which there are national statistics, 403 people were killed in accidents involving deer.

MOTORCYCLE THEFTS DECLINE: A total of 46,667 motorcycles were reported stolen in 2011, and 17,199 of them were recovered, accord-



ing to a report released today by the National Insurance Crime Bureau. That compares to 49,791 stolen bikes in 2010, a decrease of 6%.

California, the most populous U.S. state and the one with the most stolen motorcycles since the NICB began collecting data in 1996, retained its top spot with 5,927 thefts last year. It was followed by Texas, Florida, North Carolina and Indiana. The state reporting the lowest number of thefts was North Dakota (21) followed by Wyoming, South Dakota, Vermont, Alaska, and Montana.

Recoveries of stolen motorcycles were largely proportional to thefts, with California the leader in recoveries (2,085) followed by Florida (1,334), Texas (965), Indiana (769), and North Carolina (725). The overall average time of recoveries was 31 days.

July and August were the biggest months for thefts in the U.S. last year, with more than 5,000 each, compared with 2,147 in February, the report shows.

Whereas the number of thefts increases dramatically in the warmer months, the day of the week seems to be of no significance. On Mondays, the day of the largest number, there were 6,962 bikes stolen. The number on Sundays, the day of the lowest number, there were 6,422.

More than 500 motorcycle makes were among those stolen last year, but the highest percentage of bikes stolen were of the Honda brand, at 24%. Yamaha was next (19%), followed by Suzuki (16%), Kawasaki (11%) and Harley-Davidson (7%).

"UNFAIR" TICKETS LEAD TO PROPOSED FREE MOTORCYCLE PARKING IN NYC: City Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria), an avid Harley-Davidson rider, is pushing for legislation that would make motorcycle parking free throughout the five boroughs. "We get tick-

ets a lot," Vallone said of motorcyclists in the Big Apple. "That is unfair."

At issue are muni-meters; "There is no way for a motorcycle rider to affix a muni-meter (receipt) to their bike in a way that it won't blow away and it won't be stolen," Vallone said.

State Assemblyman Michael DenDekker (D-Jackson Heights), a fellow motorcyclist who recently received a \$65 parking fine, has joined with Councilman Vallone in supporting a law to give motorcyclists a free ride. Due to what he calls "a faulty system," DenDekker said making parking free for some 38,000 motorcyclists in New York City would put the brakes on the problem while being an environmentally sound move because motorcycles generate less pollution, need little space and use minimal gas.

"It would be a great idea to encourage other alternate forms of transportation like we're doing right now with bicycles," DenDekker said. "We also need to do that with motorcycles."

Joe Sessa, director of New York City Harley Owners Group, said the parking situation in the city is only getting worse, and American Brotherhood Motorcycle Club president John Cartier said bicyclists get help from the city, while motorcyclists don't. "We pay \$42.50 in registration fees and pay our taxes, too. We make our contribution and we're not getting anything back. We just want a level of equality."

R.I. SALES TAXES HIGHER FOR MOTORCYCLES THAN CARS: Normally, if you're buying a new car and you have a trade-in, you will only be charged sales tax on what you pay. But Rhode Island riders are roaring mad about an old law that forces motorcycle buyers to pay taxes on the full price of the bike regardless of the value of your trade-in.

Richard Unsworth of North Scituate, RI complained to a local news station that he was burned by \$600 in excess sales tax when he traded in his old bike on a new Harley-Davidson. "When I went to the registry I expected to pay about \$1,100 in taxes," he said. "When I got done, it was like \$1,700!"

That's because Unsworth was charged sales tax on the full price of the motorcycle, even though he had a trade-in valued at \$7,500. "My trade-in was taxed back in 1999," he added. "I'm paying again for the same \$7,500! I don't believe it's fair."

An investigation by WPRI-TV Call 12 For Action uncovered a law in Rhode Island that only allows passenger vehicles to get a reduction in sales tax for the trade-in. Passenger vehicles, according to the law, do not include motorcycles or pickup trucks.

Continued on Next Page

Continued from Page 12

"This was a law that was actually passed in the 1940s when pickup trucks were mainly used by farmers and motorcycles weren't that popular," said RI Tax Administrator David Sullivan. "Now that it's 2012, things have changed, but clearly the law hasn't."

According to Sullivan, the revenue hit would be about \$5-10 million a year if the General Assembly were to change the law to include all vehicles. That's not expected to happen in the near future. Although there have been several attempts by legislators to make the change, but it's been shot down every time.

LEGAL BATTLES CONTINUE OVER MONGOLS CLUB COLORS: An unprecedented federal government effort to seize the Mongols Motorcycle Club's trademark has quietly become a quarter-of-a-million-dollar headache for the Justice Department, reports McClatchy Newspapers. Four years after prosecutors grabbed national headlines by seizing the Mongols' logo, an appellate court must now sort out what the federal government might owe the club's attorneys.

It could be a lot, in a free-speech case that's also a cautionary tale about aggressive federal use of forfeiture to seize private property.

"What they did was an outrageous violation of the First Amendment, and an absolute abuse of forfeiture and trademark laws," American Civil Liberties Union attorney David Loy told the paper. Rebuking prosecutorial overreach, a federal judge in Los Angeles ordered the Justice Department to pay \$253,206 to Loy and Alan Mansfield, an attorney with Consumer Law Group of California, who successfully challenged the prosecutors' attempt to seize the Mongols' trademark.

Forfeitures are big business for the federal government. Last year, the Justice Department seized some \$1.8 billion worth of forfeited assets. Typically, these are ill-gotten gains from drug trafficking, financial fraud and other criminal activity.

Los Angeles-based prosecutors claimed a huge haul in October 2008 when they announced mass indictments of Mongols MC members, and in addition to physical assets such as motorcycles, firearms and other property, prosecutors sought to claim the Mongols' trademarked name and logo. "If any law enforcement officer sees a Mongol wearing his patch, he will be authorized to stop that gang member and literally take the jacket right off his back," then-U.S. Attorney Thomas P. O'Brien declared at the time. But a judge in Los Angeles ruled last year that prosecutors had gone too far. The judge reasoned that the trademark belonged to the organization, not to individuals, and therefore unindicted club members should still enjoy the right to use it.

Last February, another federal judge added that the Justice Department had to pay for the trademark fight because the government "violated settled First Amendment and trademark law." "The novelty of the government's position did not make it substantially justified," U.S. District Judge David O. Carter ruled. "Rather, it took unlawful action based on an ungrounded and unsubstantiated legal theory, and without sufficient factual support." Because the complex case "arose at the intersection of forfeiture, trademark and First Amendment law," Carter added, attorneys deserved the fair-market rates of between \$525 and \$650 an hour for the 461 hours spent challenging the government.

The Justice Department is appealing the judge's order to pay, however, with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals likely to hear the case next year.

PALESTINIANS CRACK DOWN ON MOTORCYCLES: Lawmakers in Gaza have continued their draconian campaign against motorcycle usage, taking the bold step of banning the import of spare parts for motorcycles into the ancient Palestinian city.

Interior Ministry official Hassan Akashed has admitted that the move aims to directly reduce

the number of motorcycles, which he claims are a main cause of car accidents.

According to visordown.com, motorcyclists in the city have been subject to an ongoing crack down, banning them from riding after midnight, and restricting women from riding. The Interior Ministry recently announced that it was banning women from riding bikes or being pillion passengers, to limit accidents and "protect community values."

Israel's blockade of Gaza has meant that parts for cars have been impossible to get hold of and the cost of maintaining them has become unsustainable for most. As a result, motorcycles have seen a huge surge in popularity. Just five years ago there were only about a dozen or so motorcycles in the city, but the number of motorcycles in Gaza had grown to around 15,000 by 2010.

EUROPEAN BIKERS PROTEST VEHICLE-INSPECTION PLAN: Thousands of motorcyclists rolled into Belgium to protest an EU proposal for regular mandatory bike inspections. The law would be "expensive and useless," said representatives from the Federation of European Motorcyclists' Association (FEMA) who met with European Union officials EU headquarters in Brussels as more than 4,500 motorcycles roared through the city's streets, protesting the proposed law that would introduce mandatory EU-wide road-worthiness tests for motorcycles.

The new EU-wide regulations would supersede national safety inspection rules for four-wheel and two-wheel vehicles, and FEMA said the law would offer "no benefits expected in terms of safety, as proven by several independent studies."

Members of Belgium's Federation of Angry Bikers (FBMC) turned out in large numbers for the protest. "Only 0.3 percent of motorcycle accidents in Belgium and 0.6 percent in Europe are due to technical problems," FBMC head Joe Verrecke told the Belgian news agency Belga.

QUOTABLE QUOTE:

"We keep having to choose among candidates who are so stupid they want the job, and so egocentric they think they can do it." ~ Orson Scott Card (1951-), American author and political activist

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ABATE 2012 Events

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

November 6 – VOTE in the General Election -

November 11 – Totally Kids in Loma Linda, CA and will also be honoring Veteran's Day. Mystery Ride to follow.

Contact HR 951/279-4370 for flyer
www.totallykids.com/home.html

November 17 – ABATE Local 38 – Annual Turkey Run, Info? Contact Ed Aranda 760/337-8372

November 23 – ABATE Local 23 – Monthly meeting & Chili Cook off (Read their Local report for information).

November 25 – ABATE Local 21 – 16th Annual Happenin' HQ Toy Run Moose Lodge, 44545 Division St; Lancaster CA 93535.

November 25 – 32nd Annual San Diego Toy Run (see flyer for details.)

December 2 – ABATE Local 17 – Annual Toy Run – Vacaville Moose Lodge; 6585 Gibson Canyon Rd; Vacaville.
Contact info – Glenn 707/624-6310
OR glennphilips01@comcast.net

December 2 – ABATE Local 19 – Annual Toy Run

December 9 – Annual "Skid Row" L.A. Toy Ride – ABATE Local 1 and Glendale Harley-Davidson.

December 14 – ABATE Board of Director's Ballot – must be postmarked today!!!

Make plans now for ...2013

January 12 – ABATE QUARTERLY MEETING – SACRAMENTO – Details TBA,

Please attend your organizations meeting. Welcome and meet the new ABATE Board of Directors, and welcome back the returning Board Members.

February 24 – ABATE Local 1 – Annual Polar Bear Run

May 6 – (Tentative) - Motorcycle Awareness & Freedom Rally – State Capitol – SOUTH Steps

May 10 – 12 – ABATE Southern Regional Rally

July 26 -28 – ABATE NORTHERN Regional Rally

Please email your ABATE Event information (in Microsoft word document) and Flyers (in a JPG file) to Bailing.wire@abate.org by the 15th of the month to be listed in the next issue. Your flyers MUST be in a jpg file to be used in the Bailing Wire. Your event flyer will also be on the ABATE web site on the Events Calendar.

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

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Motorcycle Safety Report

by Steve Guderian, Safety Officer

It's That Time of the Year Again

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

Well, the holiday season is just around the corner, again. As Safety Officer I would be remiss in my duties if I did not say something about holiday parties, drinking and riding. Everything that you have heard before, over and over again, well it is still there. Drinking and driving or riding is a bad thing and the cops will be out enforcing the DUI laws. In fact, during the holiday season there is increased DUI enforcement through overtime grants from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. So, the chances of getting caught are greater than usual during this time of the year.

Nothing new right? You have heard all of this before plenty of times and right about now you are starting to yawn. Well, it is me, and I like to think that I always have a little something different for you to think about on topics, and this one is no different.

A few years back a small study was done in Minnesota that looked at drinking (alcohol) and rider impairment. In essence, they had a motorcycle with outriggers on it so that it would not fall over and a simple riding obstacle course on a wide open lot. They had their test subjects ride the course sober and at various levels of measured intoxication. One of the conclusions, at the legal limit of intoxication, which is 0.08 Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC), a person's ability to effectively ride a motorcycle is significantly diminished. In the testing that was done, the rider was unable to effectively control the motorcycle



through the simple obstacle course. The rider's ability in the course was measured when they rode through it with a 0.00 BAC, so the study was able to do a direct comparison for riders. If we stop to think about this, this really should not be a surprise to any of us.

Here is the big finding in this study, at least for me, they also tested the riders at a 0.05 BAC level, just a little more than half of the legal limit, and found that at this level riders started to show a noticeable decrease in their ability to effectively control their motorcycles.

Let's take a moment to think about controlling a motorcycle and not just riding it. At speed riding is really easy because the motorcycle will keep itself upright, but actually controlling the motorcycle at all speeds, particularly at slower speeds the motorcycle is not so easy to handle. Effectively controlling the motorcycle requires us to use both feet, and both hands, all at the same time. This is referred to as coordinated muscle control.

To make matters even worse for our coordinated muscle control, none of the actions that we are doing with our hands and feet are at the same rate or action. Compare the brake and the clutch (hands) you can just grab the clutch and yank it

in any way you want to. Operate the brake lever like you do the clutch lever; just yank on it, and the chance of a mishap sky rocket. Right hand and right foot are both brakes, but you can't use them with the same amount of pressure. Both require a smooth operation, but the foot pedal requires less force than the brake lever. And the shifter, that is a tapping motion that is completely different from what the hands and other foot are doing.

Alcohol impairment affects a person's ability to multi-task and to have coordinated muscle control. Said another way, alcohol impairment effects a riders ability to have the coordinated muscle control of hands and feet necessary to effectively control a motorcycle. This is not a good thing for us as riders since we have to use both hands and feet all at the same time to control the motorcycle that we are on.

And it gets even better, or worse, depending on how you want to look at it. Not only do we have to have coordinated muscle control, but we also have to have "fine" muscle control. Basically, this means that when we ride, particularly at slower speeds we don't use large or strong motions with our controls. Instead we have smaller, smoother motions of the controls. We don't just grab a handful of throttle when we move away from a stop. Instead, we have small, smooth amounts of twists of the throttle as we start from a stop. Same with the clutch, we just don't drop it and away we go, rather we have to have a small, smooth incremental release of the clutch. And, this clutch and throttle control has to be coordinated in order to achieve a smooth start.

Putting this all together, effective control of a motorcycle requires coordinated fine muscle control. I described the problems with alcohol impair-

Continued on next page

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Safety from page 17

ment and coordinated muscle control, now for the fine muscle control. But first hold up your hand in front of you, either one, so that you can clearly see your forearm. Now squeeze and release your hand. Do you see the muscle in your forearm extending and contracting with the squeeze and release of your hand? This shows you that a big muscle in your arm is responsible for the fine muscle control in your hands for throttle and clutch use.

There is a standard for field sobriety testing. It has been studied extensively and tested in court and has consistently been upheld. This study was done by some independent researchers and doctors so it is not really government established. One of the field sobriety tests is known as HGN, or Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus. It is a test done with the eyes. Here is the theory behind it; some of the smallest muscles in the body are the ones that control the eyes. If impairment effects muscles, then it stands to reason that some of the first muscles affected would be the smallest ones. So, if you know what the muscle is supposed to do when it is not impaired and you check it and see that it is doing something other than what it is normally supposed to do you can deduce that something must be affecting it.

So, if the little muscles in the body are affected by impairment, it stands to reason that fine muscle control of larger muscles is also affected. Combine this with an inability to coordinate this fine muscle control and you have a pretty obvious "tell" or indication of a rider who might be under the influence. And, just one more little piece of information to consider, the ones who think that they can control their muscle movement through impairment, they are the first ones to get caught because they make the most obvious mistakes.

One other little side note I would like to mention with this, lots of times we start out on a ride during the day, make a holiday stop and then end up leaving when it is dark outside. We were careful about our drinking and we know that even though we have had a few, it has been a couple of hours so we should be way below the limit. However, since we started riding in the daylight the only glasses (eye protection) that we brought with us were our sunglasses. OK, I guess we are going to be wearing the sunglasses home while riding in the dark.

Well, let me mention to you that wearing sunglasses at night messes with your depth perception on things. The darker the tint on your sunglasses, the greater the problem will be with depth perception. Consider this for a moment, you are stopped at an intersection, waiting for traffic to clear so that you can make a left turn and get on your way home. There is only one car approaching, it can be from either direction, on your left or right, and it sure looks like it is far enough away for you to make your turn. Well it turns out that with sunglasses on, that car might not be as far away as you think and you are getting ready to pull out in front of it.

Sunglasses at night and some amount of impairment independently represent an increased risk for an unfavorable event just by themselves. Put them together at the same time and the potential for bad things to happen gets even larger. Consider this situation, I think it is a pretty common one; you go off on your day ride to one of those little secluded back road motorcycle friendly establishments. During the holiday season it gets darker sooner than many people (riders) realize. So now you are on a two lane roadway, using dark

sunglasses and you have a 0.04 BAC. One thing about BAC, no matter what anybody may tell you, they really don't know what their BAC is at any time during drinking. Back roads are known for being dark, and having sharp curves that are not always well marked.

Can you make it home under the conditions described above? Maybe you can. But, the question is how big a risk are you taking on this ride, and can you guarantee yourself that you won't have a mishap on the way home under the conditions described? No, you can't. Always carry a pair of clear eye protection if there is no visor with your helmet. They can be carried anywhere. I would suggest that if you are on two wheels, don't drink. But I know that this is not going to work for everybody, so how about if you drink less, and wait a little longer before starting that ride home wearing clear glasses.

As always, thoughts and information are always welcome, email anytime. Questions - got any questions? - send them to me and I will answer them in a safety piece. Safety is all about each rider so any question you may have, it is important. Email, Galileo-g@sbcglobal.net.



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Pay It Forward – A New Membership Idea

by Russ Krause, Vice President Local 23

Local 23 member Ray Holt is an active ABATE of California supporter and Freedom Fighter. In his day to day travels he often finds himself spreading the word of ABATE to passers-by, be it at a motorcycle event or someone on two wheels he runs into at the gas station. Recently, Ray found himself "talking ABATE" to one of his work counterparts, who knew little about the constant battle motorcyclists face in protecting their Freedoms of the Road. As is often the case, with people's first introduction to ABATE, Ray's counterpart showed genuine interest in the work and accomplishments of ABATE and even spoke of possibly joining ABATE. However, Ray was just not able to close the deal and sign him up as a new member. Not to be discouraged, Ray proposed, to his counterpart, that he would pay for his membership, no strings attached, but did encourage him to attend one of Local 23's meetings to learn a little more about the mission of ABATE and to meet some of the Local's members. I am happy to report that we did have a new face at our most recent monthly meeting, courtesy of Ray's generosity in "Paying it Forward".

Ray's gesture of "Paying it Forward" to a new ABATE member is a novel idea, one of which could provide ABATE Locals and members with a great new way to bolster membership. Through the course of any given year, many ABATE members donate cash amounts, often in excess that of a single membership, be it a direct cash donation, or indirect donation such as the purchase of raffle tickets or supporting another ABATE Local's event. By simply re-directing some or all of what

one donates towards a new membership, a new ABATE member can be added without digging deeper into one's wallet. Locals could also participate in a "Pay it Forward" membership, adopting their own ideas on how to fund and select a "Pay it Forward" member.

Aside from the immediate effect of a gained ABATE member, the hope would be that these new members not only renew their membership, each year, but also, in the spirit of "Pay it Forward", will bring in a new member themselves and continue the cycle. There are a countless number of ways a Local can adopt a "Pay it Forward" membership into their normal fund raising activities and of course any member can individually "Pay it Forward".

When Ray told me about what he was doing, I knew he was on to something good. Through Ray's participation in "Paying it Forward", Local 23 has added one new Freedom Fighter to its membership and has inspired Cindy and me to do the same, which we will be doing very soon.

I know that not every ABATE member can or desires to "Pay it Forward" but for those that can and wish to, there is no better time than now!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan, Membership Chairman

Dateline November Membership: Hello all! I'm guessing that you're getting new members and you're retaining the renewals. I have been at this a long time and it's a mixed bag to know if the results have been rewarding, but I press on with my Membership column.

You know the Membership drive is, hopefully, purring along at a somewhat breakneck speed and we're picking up members and of course you're retaining your renewals.

The Christmas toys runs are coming and with the spirit of giving should be the spirit of getting new members at these events. We have two recent successes with the transponder bill and the end motorcycle only checkpoints bill that Governor Brown signed into law. So please talk this up at these events and you might get a new member.

Please also try to attend your Local's meetings. It will make the Local leaders feel appreciated. And leaders, please send out meeting reminders to all of your members by email, phone calls or self stamped post cards. This keeps you in touch with your members and the rewards are the members sending in their renewals.


So that's the column. Remember there is unity and strength in numbers of members. Regards, Sporty.

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Donations to the PAC FUND from ABATE Locals:

17, 21, 23, 24 and 27.


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

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

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Merced 209-722-1966
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Merced 209-384-1234

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Concord 925-689-9801
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Marysville 530-821-2276
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★ **Bradley's Custom Cycle**
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Cycle Recyclers
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Bakersfield 661-325-4714
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Bakersfield 661-324-0768
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Oxnard 209-848-4909
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Merced 209-384-1234

SAC Cycle
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Temple Teli's
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Santa Cruz 831-429-8539
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Santa Cruz 831-477-2100
Ken American Bikes
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3 X 3 1/2 PATCH

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Item # 07-177 \$8.00

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9 X 6 Oval Sticker	06-160		\$ 5.00	
Bear Patch	07-177		\$ 8.00	
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Medium 6 X 4	07-175		\$ 25.00	
Small 4 X 2	07-176		\$ 15.00	
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M/C License Plate Frame Let Those Who Ride Decide - Bottom	12-342		\$ 14.00	
Car License Frame	09-182		\$ 15.00	
ABATE of CA 2 color design Pin	07-172		\$ 5.00	
ABATE of California Knit Blanket 60 X60	07-137		\$ 55.00	
Can Cooler	07-165		\$ 2.00	

ABATE T-Shirts Men's	Qty.	Qty.	Qty.
Navy Pocket Medium 07-191		Ice Gray Medium 07-194	
Large 07-192		No/Pocket Large 07-195	
X-Large 07-193		X-Large 07-196	
		XX-Large 07-206	

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Large 11-323		Large 11-317		X-Large 11-329			
X-Large 11-324		X-Large 11-318		XX-Large 11-330			
XX-Large 11-325		XX-Large 11-319		XXX-Large 11-331			
		XXX-Large 11-320					

Total Men's T's X \$ 20.00 =

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		X-Large 11-340	
		XX-Large 11-341	

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 1616 4th St Elk's Lodge
 San Fernando 91340 10137 E. Commerce
 818/ 361-8800 Tujunga, CA

Simi Valley - Local #02-Reg#8

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

Thousand Oaks-Local#03-Reg#7

Chuck Pedersen 3rd Thurs - 7:00 PM
 842 E Avenida De Las Flores Elks Lodge
 Thousand Oaks 91360 158 N. Conejo School
 805/496-0323 Thousand Oaks

San Diego County - Local #06-Reg#12

Snowman-ABATE #6 1st Sunday - 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

Jered Yates 2nd Mon. 7:30PM
 5031 Tripoli Ave American Legion #354
 Los Alamitos CA 8071 Whitaker, Buena Park
 714/393-7174

South Orange County - Local #09-Reg#11

Cory Toroian 2nd Tues. 7:00 PM
 949/496-2936 Call for Meeting Place

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

Dan Buse 2nd Sun - 11 AM
 760/807-7294 American Legion Post 149
 buse13@cox.net 230 E. Park Ave
 Escondido CA 92025

Ventura County - Local #13-Reg#7

Scott McCool 2nd Thurs. - 7:30 PM
 VFW Post #3935
 300 Surfside Dr.
 805/657-2454 Pt. Hueneme CA 93041

Alameda County Local#14-Reg#3

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

Contra Costa County - Local #15-Reg#3

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

Solano & Napa Counties - Local #17-Reg#3

Glenn Phillips 3 rd Sun.- 10:00 AM
 P O Box 148 Judy's Wild Wrangler Saloon

**ABATE MEETINGS**

Vacaville 95696 4826 Midway Rd.
 707/624-6310 Vacaville CA

Pomona Valley - Local #19-Reg#9

Robert Cuthbertson 4th Wed - 7:00 PM
 P O Box 4664 Round Table Pizza
 San Dimas 91773 1020 N Mountain
 909/921-2159 Ontario CA

Orange County - Local #20-Reg#11

Gill Mellen 2nd Tues - 7:00 PM
 2104 Continental Ave. Franciscan's Best Western Inn
 Costa Mesa, CA 92627 2642 Newport Blvd.
 949/632-9787 Costa Mesa CA 92627

Antelope Valley - Local #21-Reg#13

Ron Sundquist 2nd Thurs - 7:00 PM
 37230 52nd St. East Moose Lodge
 Palmdale 93552 44545 Division St
 661/586-5555 Lancaster 93535
 ron.sundquist@sbcglobal.net

South Bay - Local #22-Reg#11

Suzanne Palmiere 1st Thurs - 7:30 PM
 310/245-0543 Chowder Barge
 suzpalmiere@aol.com 611 N. Henry Ford
 Wilmington 90744

San Bernardino - Local#23-Reg#9

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

Fresno - Local#24-Reg#6

Ed Rogers 1st Wed. 7:00 PM
 559/264-2891 Yosemite Falls Cafe'
 Shaw & Blaskstone, Fresno

Sacramento - Local#25-Reg#2

Rebel Ruthi Wolfson 3rd Thurs-7:00 PM
 916/459-7266 Denny's
 Abate.ca.local25@gmail.com 3520 Auburn Blvd.
 Sacramento 95821

Riverside - Local#27-Reg#9

Greg Covell 1st Tues - 7:00 PM
 P.O. Box 7070 American Legion
 Riverside CA 92513 2979 Dexter Dr,
 951/522-3434 Riverside, CA 92513
 www.abatelocal27.org

Morongo Basin - Local#29-Reg#10

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

Bob Brown Last Thurs - 7:00 PM
 606 Tangerine Dr SOBE's
 El Centro CA 1151 S 4th St.
 760/352-7995 El Centro

Bakersfield - Local#40-Reg#6

Omar Macias 3rd Tues. 7:00 PM
 661/832-5240 Rusty's Pizza
 661/900-8690 5430 Olive Dr
 Bakersfield 93308

High Desert - Local#44-Reg#13

George Butterfield 2nd Sat. 9:30 am
 P.O. Box 3094 Victor Valley Moose Lodge
 Victorville, CA 92392 10230 "E" Ave.
 760/954-1227 Hesperia 92345

Barstow - Local #47-Reg#13

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

Grass Valley - Local#52-Reg#2

Craig Griswold 3rd Wed - 6:30 PM
 21183 State Hwy 20 Larry & Lena's Pizza & Grill'
 Penn Valley 15690 Johnson Place
 530/263-8071 Hwy#49 Grass Valley

Ridgecrest - Local #58-Reg#13

Dave Cornelius 3rd Sat 10:00 AM
 760/447-4342 Mickey's Pub
 1661 W. Triangle Dr.
 Ridgecrest



Local 24's End of Summer Run

by Bruce Waldron

On a Saturday with perfect weather, members of Local 24 gathered at Denny's on Jensen Ave to sign up for the End of Summer Run. It was good to see lots of our long time members, folks that due to work pressures haven't been able to attend our meetings.

Scott got us all into line and away we went across the great Central Valley towards the Coast Range. The orchards and vineyards were all in their fall splendor. We gassed up at I-5 and continued on.

A little before reaching our first stop, Ray demonstrated his off road skills. He said he swerved to miss a wild pig chasing a rattlesnake. I didn't see the pig or snake, so I cannot say what really happened.

Arriving at the Panoche Inn we found the ceiling had been recently painted, so a new crop of "money" was being affixed. The road to Panoche is strictly "old time", with good potholes, one lane, narrow and very sharp turns making the Inn a good place to stop.

After suitable rest, we headed up the hill to the 19th Hole near Hollister.

Good place for a lunch stop and friendly staff. Next stop was at Daisy's place in San Juan Bautista. From here some went to the Whole Enchilada near Moss Landing while others went directly to Santa Cruz. Ed and several others joined up in Santa Cruz.

On Sunday with Ed in the lead, we headed North from Santa Cruz to La Honda Road stopping at Apple Jack's and then on up to Alice's Cafe. Heading down Skyline drive the view of the Bay Area was the clearest I can remember. It was a great day to ride. At Boulder Creek we stopped to rest at Joe's and then on to Heflings in Ben Lomond. If you want a hamburger that is a real hamburger, stop there. Hunger totally satisfied we rode back to Santa Cruz.

The next day everyone picked their own route back to Fresno. I rode down Highway 1. It was another absolutely fantastic day to ride the coast. Looking back at previous End of Summer Runs, we have had every type of weather, from cold, rain, wind, but this year was the best ever.







GREAT PLACE, WHAT A ROAD TO GET THERE

