



Motorcycle Awareness Foundation of Tennessee

Riders Way

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date February 2008

Campaign Save A Life Awareness Program



In 2007, MAFT was able to secure the equipment and materials needed to start our school awareness program. Our first school, DeKalb County High School presented us with 45 students. Which was fine with us since it was our first class and nerves of steel we didn't have. We arrive and figured we had time to collect our selves while setting up, that didn't happen. The class started piling in while we were setting up and asking all kinds of questions about our bikes or our tattoos or how far we had ridden.. After we started things seemed to run pretty easily. We had

one student who was scared to death on a bike by his uncle and boys in the second row putting torn up paper in a front row students hair, it was hard to stop laughing while telling him to brush his head off. The pay off was when we took the kids outside to sit on the bikes to feel the balance and experience where the brakes are. Then the light goes on in their heads and you know that you have gotten the message through to another person about the importance of giving a motorcyclist room to maneuver. Our second school was Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro TN.

This school presented a whole new experience. Being a more populated area they didn't seem to know that just about everyone rides. We gained their attention when we explained that we knew TN Senators that ride and about 20 Country Music Stars that live and ride in TN. I was even told that I was a hard core biker, I thanked her kindly and told her I have been working 27 years to achieve this look. After this they came around asked good questions, paid attention and really enjoyed the one on one with the bikes. We were allowed to pull the bikes into the classroom at this school,

Preventing Accidents Through Education

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and had 5 classes for a total of 195 students. Each class split into 3 groups when the one on one time came with the motorcycles. About six students would only sit on the Harley and about 6 would only sit on the sport bike the rest meandered between both bikes. But we definitely achieved our goal by turning the light on for these students. Greenbrier High School was next. The

principal at this school gave us a tough time about bringing in the bikes but we won him over and then the weather was too cold and wet to take them. But we promised the motorcycles would be there next time. The students loved the program and was very attentive except for two girls in the front row but with a gentle reminder that we ride in this area a lot and we really

don't want them running over us, things smoothed out from there. It is quite the experience and every class is different. You really need to come out and at least observe one of our classes. It is quite the feeling to see a student realize that motorcyclists are people too and the motorcycles we ride are not like bicycles.

The Awareness Vigil

The Awareness Vigil was created to pay tribute to our fallen brothers and sister due to Right of Way Accidents. It gives us a chance to bring Awareness Messages to the public through the news media. The Tennessee Bicentennial Capitol Mall in Nashville TN donated their park to hold our event. August 26, 2007 brought sunshine and heat but we had 100 people attend. The Piper played softly in the background as people sat in chairs on the Court of Three Stars. Our speakers were

Bob Edwards for MAFT, Cindy Davidson for Campaign Save A Life Program, Kendal Poole from the Governors Highway Safety Office and John Milliken from the Dept of Safety and Terry Hagemeyer. spoke about the new Right of Way Law in TN. A beautiful poem "Can you feel the wind in Heaven" was read by Melissa Davidson. Then it was time for the riders of all kinds to stand up and pay tribute to their fallen comrade. We had several motorcyclists take advantage

and speak about their ROW experience. People stayed around to look at the different programs MAFT has been influential in bringing to TN and all had great comments about the event and its purpose. We got news coverage from Channel 4 and Channel 5. Due to the heat we are thinking about moving this event into September but from the feedback we received, this event is both wanted and needed by the TN motorcyclist. Let's keep improving this yearly event.

The Annual Reunion

A cabin in the Smoky Mountains was the setting for this fun filled weekend, with 20 of us in attendance. We had certain times we attended Foundation Business which went very smoothly with everyone having the same goals. But we all know bikers so even the business sessions erupted into laughter sometimes. Different members chipped in to prepare the meals and

even when the guys took their turn none of us got sick. A break in the mid day let some of us ride, some went shopping, some went go cart riding in which I remain the champion and others just lounged around the cabin. We enjoyed a working dinner, then retired for the evening. Between the bar and coffee and soda drinkers the evening turned into a lot of fun.

Entertained by our Karaoke members and then we can't forget the back up singers that didn't want to get in front of a microphone, the hot tub loungers and the BS sessions going on no matter what room you wandered into you enjoyed and found laughter. It was a great time and we look forward to next year.

Look Beyond the Differences and find a Way to Walk the Path together

Future Awareness Festival

We have been asked to promote and organize an

Awareness Festival for Tennessee. The Bicentennial Capitol Mall has gladly offered the park again to us free of charge. This would be a yearly event to take place in May to kick off Motorcycle Awareness Month. The State of TN has offered to help us with advertising. We can feel free to bring in

Vendors, Stunt Riders or any type of Awareness Group we see fit.

We would use this event to promote over all awareness issues especially among all highway users. The expectations of this event will be to promote Motorcycle Awareness, Campaign Save a Life Program, and the Motorcycle Accident Course.

Other States do this every year and get a good response from the Motorcyclists and News Coverage to help spread the word to Look Twice For A Motorcyclist. It will take a lot of hard work and planning but it will definitely be worth it in the end. Please step up and do your part to help educate TN about Motorcycle Awareness.