


Tennessee Motorcyclist




P . O. Box 962 Sparta, TN 38583-0962 * info@cmtabate.com (931) 761-8162

November 2015



Motorcycle Wind Chill Chart



Riding Speed (mph)	Air Temperature (degrees F)														
	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
5	27	32	37	43	48	53	58	64	69	74	79	85	90	95	100
10	16	22	28	34	40	47	53	59	65	71	77	84	90	96	102
15	9	15	22	29	36	42	49	56	63	69	76	83	90	96	103
20	4	11	18	25	32	39	47	54	61	68	75	82	89	97	104
25	0	8	15	22	30	37	45	52	60	67	74	82	89	97	104
30	-3	5	13	20	28	36	43	51	59	66	74	82	89	97	105
35	-5	3	11	19	27	35	42	50	58	66	74	81	89	97	105
40	-6	2	10	18	26	34	42	50	57	65	73	81	89	97	105
45	-7	1	9	17	25	33	41	49	57	65	73	81	89	97	105
50	-7	1	9	17	25	33	41	49	57	65	73	81	89	97	105
55	-8	0	9	17	25	33	41	49	57	65	73	81	89	97	105
60	-8	1	9	17	25	33	41	49	57	65	73	81	89	97	105
65	-9	1	9	17	25	33	41	49	57	65	73	81	89	97	105

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The objects and purposes of the Corporation shall be to form a united motorcyclist's organization both at the individual local level and at the State level. The Members of the Corporation shall be dedicated to promoting fair motorcycle legislation and shall ensure their freedom by working to prevent enactment of, or to repeal/modify existing unfair motorcycle legislation. The Corporation's Members shall promote and maintain motorcycling safety and awareness programs in the community.

Charter	Contacts	Meeting Times
Caney Fork	Jeff Parker 615-683-7982	1st Tuesday of the month @ 7, Golden Nugget 374 Cookeville Hwy, Carthage
Dickson/Humphreys/Hickman	Mark Proctor 615-477-0171	3rd Thursday @ 7, VFW Dickson
Montgomery County	John Ahlers	1st Monday @ 7, Sunshine Restaurant, 3195 Fort Campbell, Clarksville
Music City	Wendell Baldwin 615-838-1490 deadeyewb@aol.com	1st Sunday @ 2, Skully's Old Hickory
Nashville	Jack Jones 615-579-4112 jdj32K@yahoo.com	3rd Tuesday @ 7, Bikini Beach Bar Antioch
Northeast	Tom Kyner 423-272-4834 tlkyner@gmail.com	1st Monday @ 7, Call for location
Robertson County	Roland Verchota 615-533-6368 Verchotaw@bellsouth.net	1st Tuesday @ 7, Piggy Pit Springfield
Smith-Wilson-Stones River	Mike Hoyte 302-252-8778 swsrdirector@gmail.com	1st Sunday @ 2, Smitty's Lebanon
Sumner County	Jeff Hollins 615-452-0409	3rd Thursday @ 7, VFW Hendersonville
Tennessee Valley	Mark Moore 423-570-0250 Yog1958@yahoo.com	3rd Sunday @ 2, Call for location Chattanooga Area
Upper Cumberland	Ron Erwin 931-879-3899	1st Sunday * Call for location
Wheels of Thunder	Bob Celmer 901-465-7381	1st Thursday @ 7, Panchos 717 N. White Station Rd., Memphis

Director's Column

I hope your summer was as fine as mine. It started off a little slow and wet, but when it got hot I bought a State Wide Poker Run book and hit the road. I didn't get to make it to everything, but I got most of the pages signed. I was especially happy to make Northeast Charter's fall ride. It's always a good time. I just have to leave out early to get there.

The drawing for the State Wide Poker Run went well. It rained the night before, and was cloudy that morning, but by the afternoon everyone had brought their books in to draw their cards. Lady Luck smiled on her sisters that day. A girl from Smith/Wilson/Stones River got third, a girl from Sumner County got second, and the top prize went to a girl from Upper Cumberland. I'm sure we'll do this again next year. Expect vendor forms at the December Board of Director's meeting.

After the card drawing was over, we took a short break and then jumped into the State Field Meet Finals. It sprinkled on us a little bit, but we ploughed ahead. The rider class had been close all summer. There were several who could have taken the lead. In the end, one clearly stood above the rest. The passenger class was even tighter. It was decided by just one point. Congratulations to CMT/ABATE's State Field Meet Champions of 2015: Tommy and Sharon Jones of SWSR. You should be able to see all the final figures elsewhere in this paper.

So now it's off to the toy runs. See you on the road.

Dean Lucas
CMT/ABATE
State Director



Note: State Board Meetings are the second Sunday of March, June, September, and December



Want to be a part of this amazing organization?

Fill out the application below & submit with membership dues to the CMT/ABATE office.

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YOUR RIGHTS YOUR RIDE



Before we get started, I would like to welcome Jackie and John Ahlers to the lobby team. Take time to thank them for volunteering to be your newest registered lobbyists.

I never could stand somebody that talked about themselves all the time, but there are times when that is appropriate. One such time is to avoid out right confrontation by using one's self as an example, which I do quite regularly. The other is to respond to queries from those seeking information concerning whom someone actually is. The following is a case of the latter.

I came to CMT/ABATE because I believe the rights of the individual should not be infringed upon by the government. I volunteered to assist Legislative Director Rhonda Williams with the lobby efforts. This came natural as I had been lobbying for our county Tea Party group for a couple of years. No, I am not a professional advocate, nor a barrister. I am a retired master mechanic and machinist and have worked all crafts in construction including superintendent with an engineering firm. I spent my time farming and working cattle along with stacking ties and lumber at a couple of saw mills. During Desert Storm I was a civil service heavy equipment mechanic at Fort Campbell. No I am not a vet, that's another story. I think this covers the question folks have had concerning my vocation.

The next group of questions I want to address haven't been asked to my face, but

Trumpets and a Vespa. Hmm, no Jap bikes. I wonder why? I have spent right at a half century riding and wrenching scoots. No, I am not a patch holder, but have been close to a lot of members of different clubs. The reason I never wore a patch is part of the same story of why I am not a vet. I have to trust you before you hear that one.

That is enough on me for now. If you have a personal question for me, just ask. I can't say I don't bite, but I will think more of you if you speak your mind with me. Let's move on to more important matters.

A few months ago I mentioned the possibility of a gas tax hike in Tennessee. I only heard from two individuals, that didn't like that idea. This will be coming up during the 2016 session and I have been asked for my opinion on the matter by several members of the General Assembly. If you want them to hear your two cents worth, we need to hear from you.

A gas tax hike could be a good thing, if common sense is used. We haven't had a gas tax increase in years. The money does go to maintain the roads. Letting out of state travelers help to fund highway work makes sense. Electric and hybrid vehicles should pay their fair share by higher registration fees. The state should use what funds it currently has more wisely. When asked how I would handle a gas tax, I responded with the following:

1. Find out why the current tax revenues aren't enough and make any changes that will increase the efficiency of TDOT.

made their way to my ears. Yes, I ride a BMW as well as about anything else you can think of. I spent more time on Harley-Davidson's than any other brand. Yes, I do own a Harley, ten in fact along with three Buell's, three Beemer's, a Guzzi, three

2. A \$500 extra fee on annual electric vehicle registrations and an additional \$250 hybrid. Split the money between highway funding and offsetting the cost of charging stations installed by the State.

3. No more than a penny a gallon additional tax on all highway use fuels, such as gasoline, diesel, ethanol blends and propane.

The aforementioned was in a casual conversation and not as a representative of this organization.

I have been asked about three wheel vehicles that are not motorcycles and not cars. Tennessee was the first State to define an autocycle by State law. Other states are faced with this issue now and hopefully our state will prove to be a good model for their future legislation. This type vehicle seems to be generating a lot of concern over combining any accidents with motorcycles. Before we all jump to the wrong conclusion, we should consider the possibility that autocycles might be involved in fewer accidents. They could be safer than motorcycles. If this is the case, then the data could benefit motorcycle statistics. Currently there is not enough information to make an educated guess either way, but we shouldn't take a negative stance on something that we know nothing about. Personally, I would like to see how well autocycles hold up in the real world and how safe they are or are not before making a decision.

We will be having a couple of more legislative retreats before years' end. Folks in East and West Tennessee aren't able to make it to the middle of the state on short notice, so, we will take the show on the road in order for everybody to have their say. Next Spring, we will have a single retreat to set an agenda for the 110 General Assembly. This will cover 2017-2018. Operating on a two-year schedule that runs congruent to the General Assembly will be much more efficient than trying to piece together a yearly last minute effort.

You don't have to wait on a legislative meeting to provide input. I am always open to any suggestions or criticisms. I don't give a damn how you FEEL, but I do want to know what you THINK.



J & J Ahlers





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Freedom Business."
- Karen Bolin

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In September the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) held their annual "Meeting of the Minds" in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This is a gathering of representatives from Motorcycle Rights Organizations from across the USA and Canada, and frequently includes overseas organizations. CMT/ABATE was represented at this event by Wheeler, Carol and myself (our MRF State Rep and two Assistant State Reps). It sounds like fun (and it was), but why would CMT/ABATE want to send people to Milwaukee to attend this?

The Meeting of the Minds (MOTM) is far more than just a get together of like-minded bikers. This is the premier Motorcyclist's Rights seminar in the USA. Seminar sessions are designed to provide critical information to the state organizations in many specific areas. In addition to the general sessions, which everyone attended, there were 15 breakout sessions covering topics that were focused on narrow areas of interest. The three of us from Tennessee split up and attended the breakout sessions that we felt would have the most benefit for CMT/ABATE.

One of the most important sessions was the Legislative Planning / Strategy breakout session. This is where all of the State organizations, including CMT/ABATE, have input into what legislative priorities the MRF will work on for the following year. This included a review of 30 issues on the

national/federal level that are, or could become, a concern for motorcyclists. There were a few issues that were dropped from the list of issues the MRF will address, either because they have been resolved, or it was felt that they were unlikely to become a problem for us. Some issues were determined to be best left to the individual State organizations to deal with within their States (for example, lane splitting is primarily a State issue that we are currently working on here in Tennessee, and we would prefer to avoid any federal regulation on this). At the end, we wound up with a sizable list of issues that the MRF will address over the coming year, ranging from simply monitoring the status of crash studies, to actively working to influence content of the new highway funding bill.

There were also sessions specifically for the MRF State Reps, which both Wheeler & I attended to get more familiar with the expectations for this position. We made sure Tennessee was represented at the roundtable forum for State Directors. The State of Tennessee was also represented in a presentation by Paul Degges, from the Tennessee Department of Transportation. A possible goal for us to strive for was highlighted in a session on how Wisconsin gets 600 bikers to the Capitol for their state lobby day.

A lot of information crammed into just a few days. But absolutely worth the ef-

fort and expense of having Tennessee represented at the MOTM. For myself, one of the biggest benefits of attending one of these seminars is the energy and enthusiasm that I come away with. Just being around this many people who are dedicated to preserving our rights as motorcyclists is an inspiration to put more of myself into the fight. I encourage all CMT/ABATE members to consider attending the MOTM if they possibly can – it's not just for the MRF Reps. It might be all the inspiration you need to become a leader in the fight for Motorcyclist's Rights. Next year's Meeting of the Minds is September 23-25, 2016, in Oklahoma City.

Ride Free, - Ed

Ed Domine, MRF State Rep



D/H/H Charter Director Mark Proctor, Representative Jay Reedy, Montgomery County Director John Ahlers and his wife Jackie at an Appreciation dinner for Rep. Reedy hosted by Little Piping and Mechanical, Woodlawn Tn.

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Editor's Note: All information for the newsletter has to be sent electronically by the 10th of each month or it will not make it into the next edition of the newspaper. It **MUST** also be in electronic format! Please email your submissions to: **keeblerg@yahoo.com**.

Did we miss something or make an error? It was not intentional. Please keep us informed. Send event dates, articles, minutes, **pictures** etc. to **keeblerg@yahoo.com**. That being said, I am **BIG** on photos, I want more photos not only from events but of our members out there riding!

CMT/ABATE, Inc. is not a "Biker Club", but a non-profit, political organization that was formed to preserve freedom and safety for all Tennesseans who enjoy motorcycling. Our major goals are to modify existing laws that are detrimental to motorcycle safety and enjoyment, and to enact new legislation in support of all motorcyclists who ride in Tennessee. If you are concerned about preserving personal freedom and motorcycle safety, please join us.

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS CMT/ABATE OF TENNESSEE

CHARTER EVENTS CALENDAR

11/8 SWSR Toy Run & Chili
Cook Off

12/19 SWSR Labeling Party

State Field Meet Finals

Slow Race

1st Jeff Hollins
2nd Tommy Jones
3rd Casey Wright

Barrel Roll

1st Cody Toungett
2nd Casey Wright
3rd Mike Hoyte

Ball & Cone

1st James & Leslie Sullivan
2nd Josh & Chasity
3rd Jeff Hollins & Becky
Foss

Weenie Bite

1st Jeff Hollins & Becky
Foss
2nd James & Leslie Sullivan
3rd Josh & Chasity



Many Thanks
From CMTABATE attendees
Of the 2015
Meeting of the Minds
To those who donated most
appreciated financial support:
DHH Charter
Montgomery Charter
Nashville Charter
Northeast Charter
Ed and Lisa Domine
Brent Perry
Mark Waters.

CMT/ABATE Attendees:
Ed and Lisa Domine
Wally Baez
Carol Simpson

Friends of D/H/H CMT/
ABATE showing their
butts and Celebrating
Life.



November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Muc/UpCu	2 MeCo NoEa	3 CaFo RoCo	4	5 WOT	6	7
8 SWSRconloff SWSR toy run	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 TeVa	16	17 Nash	18	19 DHH SuCo	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	27
29	30	27	28	29	30	

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If interested, please contact the CMT-ABATE office at **info@cmtabate.com**

or call **931-761-8162** Deadline is the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. Ad payments are non-refundable. A typesetting fee may be charged for non-print ready ads. Please forward artwork in jpeg format if possible to **newspapera-bate@gmail.com**

NEWS & EVENTS
(MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

CANEY FORK - Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7:00, Caney Fork Motors

WELL ---First things first---want to let everyone know what a wonderful meeting we had.

Everyone commented on how nice it went...We had a wonderful time talking about the rides we all had been on and future rides we are going on...

Brian Nixon led us in the pledge. Jeff gave the treasure report.

Yee-Haw thanked everyone who came out and supported Izzy and Scott Ride.

It was an awesome turn out and the smile on her face was priceless.

Dean Lucas reminded everyone about the legislative retreat on Nov.18th.

We also need to remind everyone our meetings are being held at Caney Fork Motors until we decide otherwise.

We Nominated our officers and we will vote the next meeting in Nov.

Also, we have lost another member of our charter R.I.P Debrah Usry.

We also have another member in bad health and we discussed having a yard/bake sale for them at the first of Nov. so get all you have together.

Hanna made a motion to close the meeting @ 7:45.

RIDE SAFE---KARLA PARKER

DICKSON/HUMPHREY/HICKMAN-

Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 19, 7:00, VFW, Dickson, TN

Next meeting 10/15/15 @ 7:00 p.m. @ VFW in Dickson, TN

As we do at every meeting, Mark Proctor called everyone to order and 24 members and visitors said our Pledge of Allegiance.

Mark then gave us the highlights from the BOD meeting. Knoxville charter has closed due to no participation. Said Nashville is planning a Bike Week for Sept of 2017. Said it's supposed to compete with

Sturgis and Daytona. Next BOD meeting will be December. Helmet law has carried over from last year & we have lobbyist in place.

Our Activities Director, Steve Teston, discussed upcoming events. The BWC ride is 9/19/15 and several of our members will be attending. Randy Brown Ride is on 10/3/15. Nitro burning bike drags are also on 10/3/15 in Bowling Green, KY. TN Thunder will be participating.

The annual Toy Run will be on 10/31/15. Lineup will begin at noon at the Charlotte Courthouse. This year the ride will be dedicated to the memory of Sylvester "Grandpa" Caldwell. Our oldest member who passed due to injuries sustained in a car accident on Labor Day. He passed on Sept. 8. Grandpa was a wonderful man and will be missed greatly by all of us. The Toy Run will end at The Boardwalk in Waverly, TN. Afterward, The Elks Lodge in Waverly will be having a chili supper for us. All money from the chili supper will go to Wheaties Kids.

Another lively meeting was enjoyed by all. Everyone stay safe.

MONTGOMERY - Next Meeting: Monday, Nov. 2, 7:00, Sunshine Restaurant, Clarksville

MUSIC CITY - Next meeting: Sunday, Nov. 1, 2:00, Skully's, Old Hickory

NASHVILLE- Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7:00, Bikini Beach Bar, Antioch

NORTHEAST- Next Meeting: Monday, Nov. 2, 7:00, Call for location

ROBERTSON COUNTY- Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7:00, Piggy Pit, Springfield

SMITH /WILSON /STONES RIVER - Next Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 8, 2:00, The Roost, Lebanon

October 4, 2015

Meeting called to order by Mike at 2:15PM, whom also lead in the pledge. All officers present except for products and Sgt. at Arms. There were 16 members in attendance.

Secretary and Treasury report both given and approved.

Legislative: Bullit covered details from Sept. BOD

Membership: no renewals, Birthdays are Mike, Jerry, & Chapel.

Activities: Tommy covered Nov 8th Toy Run/Chili Cook-off. SEE FLYER. Motion made to turn the Vets funds over to Mary and Richard Peoples to do Vets Night Out since we don't have the funding to do their Christmas. Motion made to reimburse Kim to print Biker Bucks

Safety and Education: Rain and falling leaves are bad this time of year. Be careful. Use caution in blind turns not just for animals but for other vehicles as well. Look for them even when they may not look for you!

New Business: Skeeter Tipton won the Popsicle stick drawing. Must be present to win. Next meeting November 8th at the ROOST @ 12 NOT 2. SEE FLYER FOR DETAILS!!! Motion to adjourn... 3:30 Later, Ruth

SUMMER COUNTY - Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 19, 7:00, VFW Hall, Hendersonville or TBA

TENNESSEE VALLEY - Next Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 15, 2:00, Call for Location Mark (Yog) 423-570-0250

UPPER CUMBERLAND - Next Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 1, 12:00.Call for Details, Ron 931-879-3899

WHEELS OF THUNDER - Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 5, 7:00, Pancho's, Memphis



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Randy and I live the rural community lifestyle and wouldn't trade it for any other. When a trip to the 'big town' is required, I'm grateful to be able to choose my 42mpg two-wheeled vehicle versus my 14mpg truck. Plus we've enjoyed glorious, unusually comfortable weather for August & early September and it's just made this luxury all the more appreciated.

But can I say I miss my Honda-Davidson? She never gave me any guff about starting or continuing to run so long as I took care of all her needs. Not that I don't love riding the old '93 Heritage more than my loyal Honda.

So it was a pretty stranded feeling last month when I was in Murfreesboro and my good old girl decided not to have enough battery to crank and Randy was all the way in Dallas. Fortunately I am blessed with the great fortune of amazing family in my motorcycle activist community!

A stranger was nice enough to give me a jump off their battery. But in the time it took my carpool tunnel numb fingers fiddled with the seat bolts, the engine died. No pleading could convince her to restart. Ugh.

Were it not for my former mother of another, uh, well... let's just say "Mom I'm home" started the family ties when Denise Lightburn was good enough to provide me with a place to overnight while I was lobbying in 2013. (We are similar age but I became daughter Nicole's big sis whenever I finally got 'home'.)

I was stranded unless I wanted to make a pricey call.

I had not been such a good sister to keep in regular contact but 'mom' still took my call and arranged to come to my rescue. Thanks to Denise and her fella Bill Franklin, I was back on the road again without a fat invoice.

But here is good news for all TN motorcyclists, whether traveling in state or out, for future break downs. If I was unable to find a motorcycle family member to



come to my aide, I would have been able to utilize an amazing free resource. Ever heard of BAM?

I will just borrow it's self-description as follows:

"BAM is a unique volunteer organization of bikers helping bikers. Motorcycle Attorney Russ Brown started BAM over 30 years ago to provide breakdown assistance to motorcyclists across the country. BAM's nationwide volunteer network of roughly 2 million motorcyclists can help you in an emergency. If you experience a breakdown or mechanical problems while on the road, call 1-800-4-BIKERS, and we will search our volunteer network and

send someone out to help."

Mr. Brown pays for the toll free lines to be manned 24/7 as a way to give back to the community that has supported his personal livelihood. I really like that concept!

God willing Randy and Rhonda will never need Russ Brown's services for personal injury. But so long as we ride Harley Davidson's outside the great state of Tennessee, chances are we might appreciate remembering this number!

If you would like to make yourself available for a broke down biker, go to their website and sign up. They have multiple ways for you to check off if you can be of aid. <http://www.russbrown.com/what-is-bam.html>

I would like to close by thanking Carol Simpson for her amazing work over these many past years as our PR/Communications position as well as serving our Motorcycle Awareness safety grant program. Her genius idea for the "Don't Ride Fried Program" is a treasure for this organization and more so for the families whose rider 'gets' the message to only ride sober. With that, I also owe a heartfelt thank you to the Board members who expressed their confidence in me to begin serving this position. We have an enormous year ahead of us and I promise to do everything possible to make sure that I do not let this organization down.

Rhonda Rae Williams
PR/Communications
At-large, Lifetime Member

CMT/ABATE Champion Representative Jay Reedy passes MREP class.

During the Weekend of October 9-11, Rep. Jay Reedy completed the Basic Rider Education course at Appleton's Harley Davidson in Clarksville. A few years ago, Rep. Reedy frequently rode his own motorcycle, but felt that a Rider Ed Class would be beneficial as he ponders which motorcycle to buy for next spring.

Rep. Reedy joins several other legislators who have taken the rider education class, knowing that honing their skills through education is the best way to prepare them for enjoying the breeze on their knees. In the not too distant past, Representative Bob Ramsey and former Representative John Tidwell both passed the beginner's class. Rep. Tidwell even earned a 100% on his written test!

If our Champions know it is a great assist

to safe riding---well--how about you? check out the variety of courses available across the state. Experienced rider and beginner classes, too!!! <http://www.tn.gov/safety/article/mrep>



As we had mentioned a few weeks ago, one of the legislators had asked for the Attorney General to render an opinion on the helmet law modification bill. The legislator was operating on the assumption that it was unconstitutional to exclude those insured by TennCare. This was another attempt to kill the bill. The Attorney General released that opinion this week and has shown his dedication to following the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, as well as the Constitution of the United States of America by finding our bill to also follow both documents of law. Read it for yourself and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

STATE OF TENNESSEE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 12, 2015

Opinion No. 15-70

Constitutionality of Senate Bill 925/House Bill 700, 109th Gen. Assem. (2015-16) — Exception to Motorcyclist Helmet Requirement for Adults with Medical or Health Insurance Other than Insurance Provided Through TennCare

Question

Does Senate Bill 925/House Bill 700 violate the equal protection guarantee of the United States Constitution or the Tennessee Constitution by creating an exception to the motorcyclist helmet requirement for adults covered by medical or health insurance other than insurance provided through TennCare?

Opinion

No. The State's interests in preserving the fiscal integrity of its publicly funded health care programs and preventing broader societal costs provide a reasonable basis for the legislative distinction between (i) motorcyclists with medical or health insurance other than insurance provided through TennCare and (ii) motorcyclists with insurance provided through TennCare or with no insurance.

ANALYSIS

Subject to certain exceptions, Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-9-302(a) requires "[t]he driver of a motorcycle, motorized bicycle, . . . or motor-driven cycle, and any passenger on any of these" to wear a helmet. Failure to do so is a Class C misdemeanor. Id. § 55-9-306.

Senate Bill 925/House Bill 700, 109th Gen. Assem. (2015-16)¹ would amend Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-9-302(a) to create an exception to the helmet requirement for drivers and passengers who are twenty-one or older and who have medical or health insurance other than insurance provided through TennCare. The helmet requirement would remain in effect for drivers or passengers who are uninsured or who are insured through TennCare. Thus, the bill distinguishes

1 The relevant text of the bill is as follows:

(2) The driver of a motorcycle, motorized bicycle, or motor-driven cycle, and any passengers on these vehicles . . . , shall not be required to wear a crash helmet if the driver and passengers are twenty-one (21) years of age or older and maintain medical or health insurance that is not provided pursuant to title 71, chapter 5, or otherwise provided through the bureau of TennCare. A driver or passenger who does not maintain insurance as required by this subdivision (a)(2) shall be required to wear a crash helmet in accordance with subdivision (a)(1).

between adult motorcyclists who have medical or health insurance other than insurance provided through TennCare and those who do not.

The question is whether this distinction violates either the federal or state constitutional right to equal treatment under the law. The Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that no state shall "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Article I, section 8, and article XI, section 8, of the Tennessee Constitution guarantee "essentially the same protection" as the federal Equal Protection Clause. *Tenn. Small Sch. Sys. v. McWherter*, 851 S.W.2d 139, 152 (Tenn. 1993). Equal protection claims under the Tennessee Constitution are subject to the same legal analysis as is applied to equal protection claims brought under the federal Constitution. Id. at 153.

The level of judicial scrutiny applied to a legislative classification that is challenged on equal protection grounds depends on the nature of the classification. See *City of Cleburne, Tex. v. Cleburne Living Ctr.*, 473 U.S. 432, 439-41 (1985). As relevant here, classifications that neither interfere with a fundamental right nor discriminate against a suspect class receive rational basis review and will be upheld as long as they are "rationally related to a legitimate state interest." Id. at 440.

It is well established that laws imposing a helmet requirement on all motorcyclists are subject only to rational basis review because they neither interfere with a fundamental right nor discriminate against a suspect class. See, e.g., *Simon v. Sargent*, 409 U.S. 1020 (1972) (mem.) (summarily affirming decision of three-judge district court in *Simon v. Sargent*, 346 F. Supp. 277, 279 (D. Mass. 1972), which upheld Massachusetts helmet requirement under rational basis review); *Picou v. Gillum*, 874 F.2d 1519, 1522 (11th Cir. 1989) (upholding Florida helmet requirement under rational basis review); *Arutanoff v. Metro. Gov't of Nashville and Davidson Cnty.*, 448 S.W.2d 408, 412-13 (Tenn. 1969) (upholding prior version of Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-9-302(a) under rational basis review).

Senate Bill 925/House Bill 700 differs from those laws in that it would further classify individuals based on whether they have medical or health insurance other than insurance provided through TennCare. That difference, however, provides no reason to apply a higher level of scrutiny. Neither uninsured individuals nor individuals insured through TennCare are a suspect class for purposes of equal protection analysis. Cf. *Harris v. McRae*, 448 U.S. 297, 323 (1980) (“[T]his Court has held repeatedly that poverty, standing alone is not a suspect classification.”); *Molina-Crespo v. U.S. Merit Sys. Protection Bd.*, 547 F.3d 651, 660 (6th Cir. 2008) (“[A] class of less wealthy individuals is not a suspect class warranting strict scrutiny review.”). And classifying individuals based on whether they have medical or health insurance other than insurance provided through TennCare would not implicate any fundamental right. See, e.g., *U.S. Citizens Ass’n v. Sebelius*, 705 F.3d 588, 601 (6th Cir. 2013) (rejecting argument that there is a fundamental right “to remain uninsured or . . . to refuse to pay for unwanted medical care”); *Clark v. Prichard*, 812 F.2d 991, 995 (5th Cir. 1987) (rejecting argument that “the right to public assistance is a fundamental right for purposes of equal protection review”).

Under rational basis review, a statutory classification bears “a strong presumption of validity” and “those attacking [its] rationality . . . have the burden to negative every conceivable basis which might support it.” *FCC v. Beach Comm’ns, Inc.*, 508 U.S. 307, 314-15 (1993) (internal quotation marks omitted). The classification will be upheld as long as there is “a rational relationship between the disparity of treatment and some legitimate governmental purpose.” *Heller v. Doe*, 509 U.S. 312, 320 (1993). “[I]t is entirely irrelevant for constitutional purposes whether the conceived reason for the challenged distinction actually motivated the legislature.” *Beach Comm’ns*, 508 U.S. at 315.

Senate Bill 925/House Bill 700 therefore would survive rational basis review if there is a reasonable basis for treating differently individuals who fail to “maintain medical or health insurance that is not provided pursuant to title 71, chapter 5, or otherwise provided through the bureau of TennCare.”

The insurance-based classification in Senate Bill 925/House Bill 700 would easily satisfy that standard. The State has a “valid interest in preserving the fiscal integrity of its programs” and “may legitimately attempt to limit its expenditures.” *Graham v. Richardson*, 403 U.S. 365, 374 (1971) (internal quotation marks omitted). It also has a valid interest in reducing or preventing costs to the public. See, e.g., *Neinast v. Bd. of Trs. of Columbus Metro. Library*, 346 F.3d 585, 594 (6th Cir. 2003) (holding that legitimate interest supported library’s policy requiring patrons to wear shoes because “[i]njuries suffered by . . . barefoot patrons . . . impose broader societal costs”).

Those legitimate interests provide a reasonable basis for the distinction in Senate Bill 925/House Bill 700 between motorcyclists with medical or health insurance other than insurance provided through TennCare and those who are uninsured or insured through TennCare. A motorcyclist without a helmet is more likely to suffer serious injury than one wearing a helmet, and those serious injuries, in turn, impose increased medical costs. See *Picou*, 874 F.2d at 1522. For persons with private insurance, the increased medical costs due to riding a motorcycle without a helmet would be borne by their private insurance companies. See *Bruce A. Lawrence et al., U.S. Dep’t of Transp., Nat’l Highway Traffic Safety Admin., Costs of Injuries Resulting from Motorcycle Crashes: A Literature Review* (2002), available at http://nhtsa.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/motorcycle/Motorcycle_HTML/overview.html (“Only patients with adequate private health insurance coverage represent no medical cost burden to the government.”). In contrast, for persons who have no insurance and for those who have medical or health insurance provided by the State under title 71, chapter 5, or otherwise provided through TennCare, the increased medical costs due to riding a motorcycle without a helmet would be borne directly by the State or the Tennessee public.

In sum, Senate Bill 925/House Bill 700 does not violate the equal protection guarantee of the United States Constitution or the Tennessee Constitution because the State’s interests in preserving the fiscal integrity of its publicly funded health care programs and preventing broader societal costs provide a reasonable basis for the legislative distinction between adult motorcyclists with medical or health insurance other than insurance provided through TennCare and adult motorcyclists who are uninsured or who are insured through TennCare.

HERBERT H. SLATERY III
Attorney General and Reporter

ANDRÉE SOPHIA BLUMSTEIN
Solicitor General

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Special Assistant to the Solicitor General
and the Attorney General

Requested by:

The Honorable Jim Tracy
State Senator
2 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37243

CMT/ABATE MEMBERS' UPDATE September 28, 2015

Sent to you at the request of MRF State Rep for CMT/ABATE, Ed Domine
and approved for transmission by PR/Communications Rhonda Rae Williams

CMT/ABATE, Inc was represented from September 24 through September 27 at the MRF Meeting of the Minds by four individuals: members-

Ed Domine, MRF State Rep for CMT/ABATE) and his wife Lisa (DHH members)

ed.d@juno.com

Wally "the Wheel" Baez, MRF Assistant State Rep for CMT/ABATE (Montgomery Charter)

wallypabaez@yahoo.com

Carol Simpson, MRF Assistant State Rep for CMT/ABATE (Nashville Charter)

csfreedom@aol.com.

The first item of business was Thursday night's Meet the Board and Members gathering. The Board members introduced themselves from the dais, and the attending organizations came to the microphones to report the motorcyclists' rights news from their states. Doc D'Errico, Representative of the State Reps to the MRF Board diligently transcribed the reports as listed below. You can go to www.mrf.org and review the entire agenda of the General Sessions and breakout Workshops.

Much appreciation to Doc for his dedication to documenting the State's Reports.

From: Doc D'Errico via Reps

Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2015 5:00 PM

To: reps@mrf.org

Cc: editor@mrf.org ; 'MRF Board'



Subject: Re: [Reps] MRF MoTM Roll Call of States - Summary

Hello, Reps!

Those of you at the MRF Meeting of the Minds know I usually take copious notes during the "Meet the Board" session, which to me is more a "Roll Call of States" – to me, one of the single most important sessions of MoTM, because this is where we learn about what we're each doing all at once!

I captured 30 States reporting, 32 SMROs, and Canada... In the order they presented, although AR and UT added via email later:

AR

Nothing currently active, but may be facing a challenge to Adult Helmet Choice next year.

UT

Currently in a holding position.

There have been several cities that have been flexing noise ordinance regulations by giving warnings; they have not set up real

testing stations thus the warnings.

ABATE of Utah has formed a new chapter, Southern Utah ABATE, that represents the Saint George area.

Lane splitting may be a topic in our next legislation session.

IL

Accent Lighting Bill Passed

Creation of an "Autocycle" category to separate statistics

AZ

Handlebar Height Passed

Motorcycle Awareness program expanding

NC

Liberty Bill (Adult Choice Helmets) did NOT pass

Working on access to public access facilities

Anti-profiling did not pass – objection from Law Enforcement

Driver Ed funding restored! In session, but addressing 27,000 driver ed students annually!

LA

Working on Adult Choice (Helmets)

Motorcycle Definitions (Autocycle) – Elio (steering wheel) lobbying hard

RoW Penalties Increased

PA

Volunteer Fireman killed – Bill 853 addresses Distracted Driving Penalties

Increase

Red Light Bill

Lemon Law for Motorcycles

Motorcycle-only Checkpoint Bill

MO

HB 650 – LED Lighting Passed!

SB 254 – Vertical License Plates Passed!

Helmet Law Amended – did NOT pass

RoW Tiered Penalties Bill in process

PAC Fund Patches being sold

MA

2-year Legislative Session

Successfully passed 1 Bill last session -

adding a MMA designee to the Governor's Highway Safety Committee

Also stopped 8 Bills that were anti-motorcyclist including one that would have imposed a 6 month loss of license and \$250 fine – worse than a 1st time DUI – for no EPA stamp

New Session filed 7 Bills:

Accounting of Motorcycle Safety Fund
Sound Emissions to use existing objective testing standards rather than "harsh and unreasonable"



Adult Helmet Choice
"Dead Red"

RoW Penalties (currently only \$35!)

Motorcycle-only Checkpoints

Equal Access (Parking)

Also working to STOP at least 14 anti-motorcyclist Bills, including Vulnerable Roadway Users

Alternate Sound Testing (j2825) (filed twice – House and Senate)

Stealing the Motorcycle Safety Fund to Driver Education Program

Requiring Junior Operators to have mandatory training and a 6 month "clean" driving record PRIOR to MC Permit

Working with local Law Enforcement to do voluntary sound emissions testing and training

KS

RoW Bill in Committee

No Rider Education in KS currently

Many bills passed years ago including Handlebar Height, Helmet Choice, & "Dead Red"

SD

Handlebar Height Repeal Passed!

Worked with Highway Safety and Highway Patrol to accomplish their goals
Hosting Heartland STEAM

OH

Handlebar Bill Passed (Shoulder Height, but not being hassled for higher)

Purple Heart Plate Passed and in production

Pink Ribbon Motorcycle Plate in Senate
Road Guard Bill in process, but opposed by Law Enforcement

CO

MOST (Motorcycle Operator Safety Training) issues

MSF awarded the program administration



\$35 fee taken away, ABATE wants to eliminate the program

Shot down in the House

"Tuk Tuk" Rickshaw-style Autocycle

doesn't require Motorcycle License

HOV Lane use – motorcycles must pay for transponder

Lane Splitting Bill

AZ

Handlebar Height Passed!

Red Light Bill

Lane Splitting Bill

New Membership Program being moved to online server – looking for help/advice

AK

Coalition targeting putting Driver Ed back in public Schools (currently privatized)

Moose Federation addressing Roadkill by requiring DOT to clear RoW for visibility

OK

Motorcycle Funds to an agency – control of spending oversight by committee, ABATE participating

\$1.8M collected for motorcycles since 2010

47th State to adopt texting while driving bill

Turnpike Bill to reduce toll fees for motorcycles

Uninsured Driver Bill

OKC hosting MoTM 2016!

ID

Autocycle Bill PASSED!

Reduction of permit renewals to 1 Passed
Tar Snake Bill

Ride Sharing Program being explored

Lane Sharing to be explored

STAR Program reviewing a "2-up" curriculum

CT

Has Mandatory Rider Education for Motorcycles – Added Evergreen Safety Council S/TEP for 3-wheelers

Autocycle Helmet Choice

Passed Elio Motors assisted as Lobbyists

AL

Finally has a "M" Endorsement!

Driver Education Program being added

MN

Adding new License Plate

Profiling Bill

Reckless Driving Bill (added "Gross Misdemeanor" category)



TN

"Don't Ride Fried" Program

Impaired Riding program with the Governor's Highway Safety Council

Rider Education Funding saved from Governor's grasp as a regulatory (not legislative) item---one of only three out of hundreds of reserve accounts left untouched

Lane Filtering Position Statement

Funeral Ride Helmet Choice exemption passed

CMT/ABATE had a four point legislative agenda for 2015, the first year of the two-year 109th General Assembly:

1. FUNDS
2. FILTERING
3. FUNERALS
4. FREEDOM

FUNDS: The Governor had passed an addendum to the budget in 2014, allowing him to "attach" any and all reserve funds to balance the budget.

The previous Governor had passed such a bill in a very lean year (2008) and took 890,000 of the Motorcycle Rider Ed Program funds.

CMT was able to successfully resolve the 2014-2015 concern administratively and were one of only 3 funds that remained untouched.

FILTERING: introduced lane splitting bill. New issue in Tennessee. Did not "run the bill" in 2015, but worked diligently educating legislators on what lane splitting/filtering actually allows. Bill still alive for 2015 session. Success

FUNERALS: Tennessee already allows freedom of choice regarding helmets in parades at 30 mph or less. This bill allows freedom of choice regarding helmets to allow for the show of respect during memo-

rial rides, funeral processions, body escort details. Passed both houses and signed by governor. Gives CMT a "roll call vote" to refer in working the Freedom of Choice bill. SUCCESS.

FREEDOM: Bill passed through House and Senate Transportation committees. For the first time ever in Tennessee this issue has a positive fiscal note instead of a negative fiscal note. This should help in 2016 when CMT will work to pass through Budget committee in House, and Finance Committees in House and Senate and go to floor votes for SUCCESS.

Need EVERYONE in EVERY STATE to fill out and send in Tourism template letters. Letters packets passed out to everyone at MOTM. Thanks to all who are helping to provide this data to be taken to Department of Tourism, Fiscal Review Department and committee chairmen and members. ABATE of Illinois has sent in over 100 letters so far. THANK YOU. email csfreedom@aol.com if you want Tourism template letters and info page sent to you for your own use AND forwarding to EVERYONE.

VA
Tickets were being issued for riding while "standing" on pegs – being repealed
Auxiliary Lighting Bill being revisited using the IL template
Adult Choice NOT signed by Governor

MD
Advisory to Coalition of Clubs
Helmet Choice did not get a vote
RoW – bill to have penalty include mandatory appearance – ran out of time
Profiling Bill passed the Senate unanimously, but is stalled in the House
Anti-checkpoint Bill passed

ND
40th Anniversary
Autocycle Passed
Move Bee Hives away from ditch not successful

IN
Autocycle Passed
Handlebar Height Passed
Mopeds now must be licensed and registered
ABATE still doing rider ed despite MSF taking over program administration

SC
35th Anniversary of Helmet Choice
Lemon Law Bill – MIC opposition
Permit Bill (currently requires PARENTAL supervision – even for adults – after 8pm)
Language to change to "Licensed Operator" in Senate
Safety Survey

LI ABATE (NY)
Profiling Bill
Exhaust – looking for advice – current law prevents change
Checkpoints began in NY – working with Suffolk County to prevent future checkpoints (successful!)
PSA program using celebrities – "Watch for Motorcycles"
Monitoring Court Cases for Motorcycle Injuries and filling the courtroom with vests!



Coalition of Independent Riders (COIR) – joint membership with ABATE

OR
Must take Team OR Rider Ed for endorsement
7/10 are single-vehicle accidents in OR
Governor Resigned – new Governor is open to ABATE's ideas
Can't Stand up on pegs – repeal passed!
Dead Red Passed
Lane Splitting did NOT pass
Resigned from Governors Highway Safety Committee – anti-motorcycle

St. Croix Valley Riders (MN)
No more than 2 headlamps on a motorcycle modified to 4

MI

40% of Fatalities due to unlicensed riders
Temporary Instructional Permits
Waiver for Written Test
Checkpoints declared unconstitutional by Attorney General
Potholes Bill
Money being used for vests - \$38/vest, \$21,000 to ship government waste!
\$0 being spent on LOOK TWICE program!!!

Canada
Motorcycle Awareness National Campaign May 2014
Completed a Socio Economic Study
Website for "Everything Motorcycle" in Canada
Adopting MSF Dirt Bike Training
Held the 75th Annual Motormaid's Convention
Splinter Group took Auto Insurance Board to court, putting legislative activities on HOLD
WARNING to WATCH FOR SPLINTER GROUPS!
Land grant for dirt bikes on "Crown Land"
Free Parking for Motorcycles being revoked in Toronto
Insurance (public) rates on the rise
Mandatory Licensing for Dirt Bikes

WI
40th Anniversary
37 Years Helmet Free!
Building a relationship with DOT
Tractor Trailer obtained for motorcycle awareness
DOT spent \$750K
ABATE only spent \$1,000 on the trailer!
Joint Letter to riders regarding motorcycle registration
Presenter at Governors Highway Safety Committee
Class on "how to get 600 people to a Lobby Day"
Working with Polaris on Autocycle Bill
Black Box Bill
RoW Violations Bill – adding types of RoW violations & requiring mandatory retraining
Ethanol Letter to congress
Young Riders are priority #1
Held a Sport Bike Event, drew 400 attendees

WA
Helmet Choice did not pass
Lane Sharing almost passed – stuck in committee
No Motorcycle Insurance required – but trying PIP for Helmet Choice



Terry "Bub" Davis, pictured on the right and Beefy Ethridge on the left. Bub, past Director of D/H/H Charter and very active member, is also owner of the famous TENNESSEE THUNDER. Beefy (everybody knows Beefy) has held every officer's position in the D/H/H Charter, also one of the founding members of the FREAK SHOW", and a LIFETIME member of CMT/ABATE. They are working on a very hi-tech piece of equipment at the drag strip.



David Wayne Haskins, son of Sam & Judy Haskins, left this world much too soon. At the age of 43 in May 2010, we lost this drag racer, but he still goes down the track every time TENNESSEE THUNDER roars. RIP.

This is the TENNESSEE THUNDER. This bike has provided many thrills over the years. Most recently on September 26-27, 2015, when Thunder took 2nd place in the PRO-FUEL class at the AMRA (American Motorcycle Racing Association). Congratulations to Bub, pilot Keith Kelly (guy who rides the bike for you rookies), Kelly King and Beefy. Also to a large supporting Fan Base from Dickson County!!



Motorcycle Quotes

*Four wheels move the body. Two wheels move the soul.

*A good rider has balance, judgment, and good timing. So does a good lover.

*Respect the person who has seen the dark side of motorcycling and lived.

*Young riders pick a destination and go... Old riders pick a direction and go.

*Always back your bike into the curb, and sit where you can see it.

*Winter is Nature's way of telling you to polish.

*The best alarm clock is sunshine on chrome.

*If you really want to know what's going on, watch what's happening at least five cars ahead.

*A friend is someone who'll get out of bed at 2 am to drive his pickup to the middle of nowhere to get you when you're broken down.

*There's something ugly about a NEW bike on a trailer.

*Everyone crashes. Some get back on. Some don't. Some can't.

*Bikes parked out front mean good chicken-fried steak inside.

*Only a Biker knows why a dog sticks his head out of a car window.

*'Oh Shit!' is usually the moment when your plan parts ways with reality

*Calling upon my years of experience, I froze at the controls. ~Stirling Moss

*Most motorcycle problems are caused by the nut that connects the handlebars to the saddle.

*Got a \$5 head? Get a \$5 helmet.

*Keep thy eye on the tach and thine ears on the engine lest thy whirlybits seek communion with the sun. John 4:50

You start the game with a full pot o' luck and an empty pot o' experience... The object is to fill the pot of experience before you empty the pot of luck.

Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming, 'Wow! What a Ride!' ~Hunter S. Thompson
Never trade the thrills of living for the security of existence.
A zest for living must include a willingness to die. ~R.A. Heinlein

If you think you don't need a helmet, you probably don't.

Saddlebags can never hold everything you want, but they CAN hold everything you need.

NEVER argue with a woman holding a torque wrench.

Routine maintenance should never be neglected.

It takes more love to share the saddle than it does to share the bed.

The only good view of a thunderstorm is in your rearview mirror.

Never be afraid to slow down.

Don't ride so late into the night that you sleep through the sunrise.

Pie and coffee are as important as petrol.

Sometimes it takes a whole tankful of fuel before you can think straight.

Riding faster than everyone else only guarantees you'll ride alone.

Never hesitate to ride past the last street light at the edge of town.

Never mistake horsepower for staying power.
A cold hamburger can be reheated quite nicely by strapping it to an exhaust pipe and riding forty miles.

Never do less than forty miles before breakfast.

If you don't ride in the rain, you don't ride.

A bike on the road is worth two in the shed.

A good mechanic will let you watch without charging you for it.

Sometimes the fastest way to get there is to stop for the night.

Whatever it is, it's better in the wind.

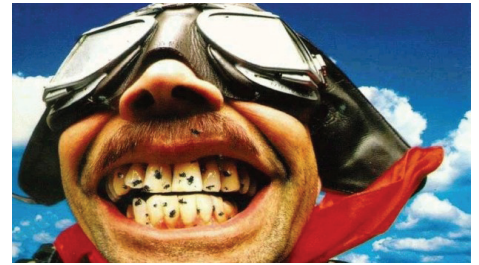
Two-lane blacktop isn't a highway, it's an attitude.

When you look down the road, it seems to never end, but you better believe it does.

A motorcycle can't sing on the streets of a city.

Keep your bike in good repair: Motorcycle boots are NOT comfortable for walking.

People are like Motorcycles: each is customized a bit differently.



If the bike isn't braking properly, you don't start by rebuilding the engine.

Remember to pay as much attention to your partner as you do your carburetor.

Well-trained reflexes are quicker than luck.

Learn to do counterintuitive things that may someday save your butt.

The twisties, not the superslabs, separate the riders from the squids.

When you're riding lead don't spit.

Don't make a reputation you'll have to live down or run away from later.

If she changes her oil more than she changes her mind follow her.

Catching a yellow jacket in your shirt at 70 mph can double your vocabulary.

If you want to get somewhere before sun-down, you can't stop at every tavern.

Don't lead the pack if you don't know where you're going.

Sleep with one arm through the spokes and keep your pants on.

Practice wrenching on your own bike.

Beware the rider who says the bike never breaks down.

Don't argue with an 18wheeler.

Never be ashamed to unlearn an old habit.

Maintenance is as much art as it is science.

A good long ride can clear your mind, restore your faith, and use up a lot of fuel.

If you can't get it going with bungee cords and electrician's tape it's serious.

If you ride like there's no tomorrow there won't be.

Gray-haired riders don't get that way from pure luck.

There are drunk riders. There are old riders. There are NO old, drunk riders.

Thin leather looks good in the bar, but it won't save your butt from "road rash" if you go down.

Always replace the cheapest parts first.

You can forget what you do for a living when your knees are in the breeze.

No matter what marque you ride, it's all the same wind.

Patience is the ability to keep your motor idling.

People are more violently opposed to fur than leather because it's safer to harass rich women than motorcycle gangs.

Never ride faster than your guardian angel can fly.

It is good to have an end to journey towards; but it is the journey that matters in the end. ~Ursula K. LeGuin

Middle age starts when you have been warned to slow down, not by a motorcycle cop, but by your doctor.

What do you call a cyclist who doesn't wear a helmet? An organ donor. ~David Perry

Life is too short for traffic. ~Dan Bellack
Patience is something you admire in the driver behind you and scorn in the one ahead. ~Mac McCleary

Remember folks, street lights timed for 35 mph are also timed for 70 mph. ~Jim Samuels
Safety is a cheap and effective insurance policy.

Accidents hurt - safety doesn't.
If you want to complain about the pace being set by the road captain, you better be prepared to lead the group yourself.

It takes both pistons and cylinders to make a bike run. One is not more important than the other.

If the countryside seems boring, stop,

get off your bike, and go sit in the ditch long enough to appreciate what was here before the asphalt came.

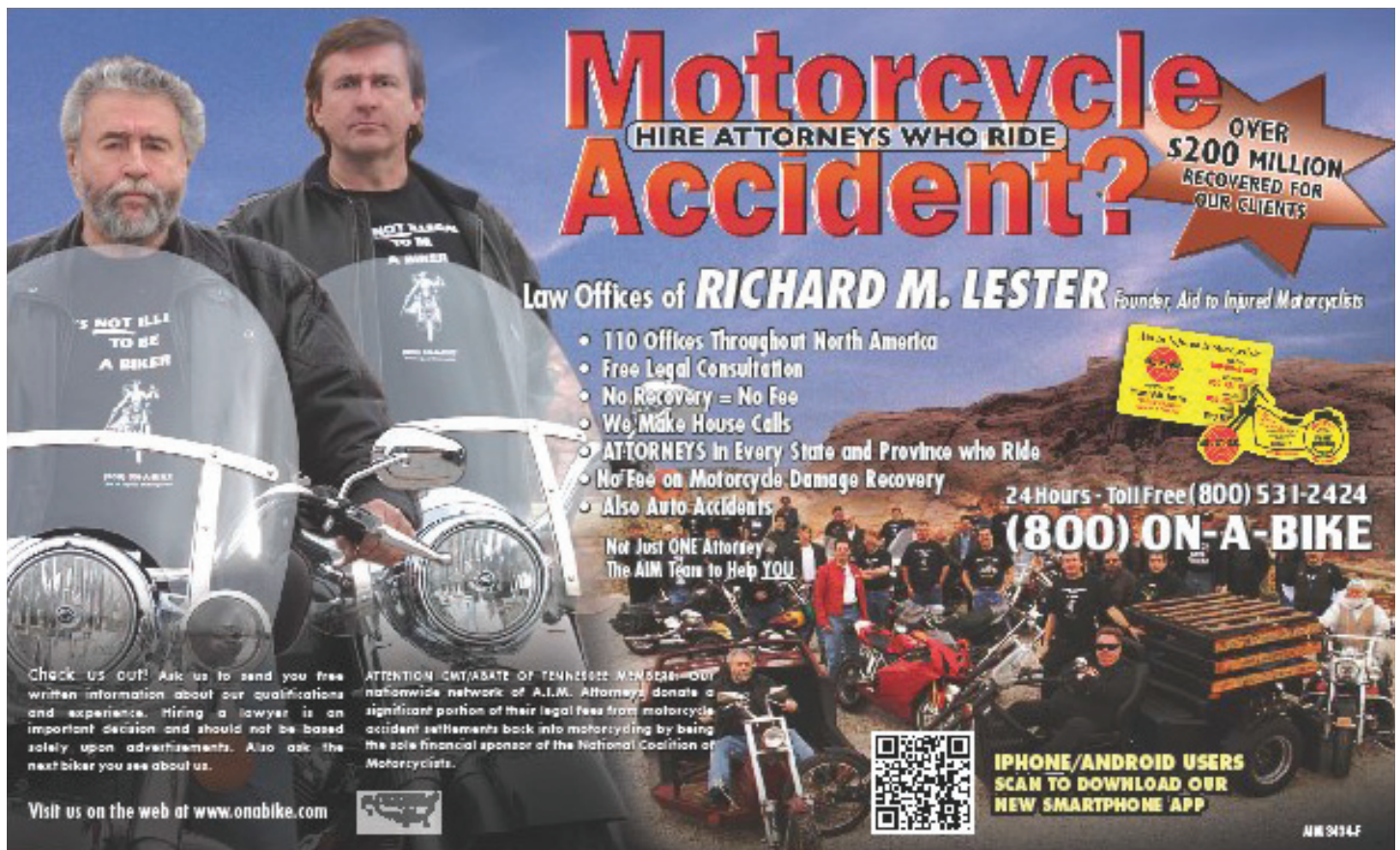
Give way to trains.
You don't stop riding because you're getting old, but you get old when you stop riding.
Remember the time when sex was safe and motorcycles were dangerous.
It's not what you ride, it's your attitude that it counts.
God didn't create metal so that man could make paper clips! ~Harley Davidson Ad.

It's a world with 20,000 television channels...get as far away from it as you can. ~Honda Ad.
Careless torque costs lives.
Ride, eat, sleep...repeat.
It didn't look that far on the map.



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Motorcycle Accident?

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Check us out! Ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience. Hiring a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. Also ask the next biker you see about us.

ATTENTION: CMT/ASATE OF TENNESSEE MEMBERS - Our nationwide network of A.I.M. Attorneys donate a significant portion of their legal fees from motorcycle accident settlements back into motorcycling by being the sole financial sponsor of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists.

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AIM 9434F



Push for Helmet Laws October 18, 2015

Right now, the push for motorcycle helmet laws is stronger than ever. Its bigger than a handful of the usual government agencies pushing for mandatory helmet laws, It is that of course too, but there is another factor at work as well. And its a very natural thing to happen, the desire to protect children. Many skate parks, bmx parks, horse rides, go carting, etc all now require helmets for youngsters, and we are ok with that. So long as that the continues the likely hood of keeping states helmet law free gets slimmer.

But it certainly is coming from agencies and departments all over the country, and its getting nasty. Recently at the State Motorcycle Administrators annual conference the Vice President of Government Relations for the Governors Highway Safety Association, Erik Strickland, touted the benefits of an Obama backed transportation plan that would have given the federal Department of Transportation back the ability to lobby state legislatures about implementing helmet laws. Then in the next breath, he referred to the language in the transportation currently working its way through Congress, and is likely to pass soon, Specifically he called the language to stiffen the lobby ban to the whole of

the federal government, state governments and local governments, "œA real pain in the ass". That bill also contains language that would commission a study to determine the best practices to avoid motorcycle crash in the first place. Saving lives instantly. Is that also a "œreal pain in the ass" Erik Strickland? Thats your governors direct pipeline for ideas for state law.

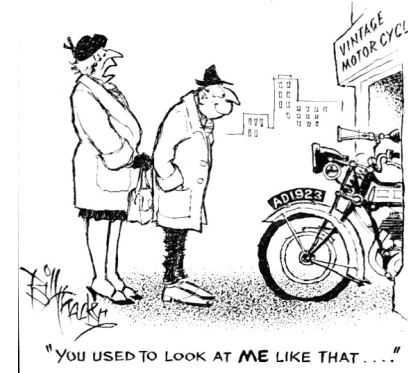
In recent publication by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety they had a two page article about the actions that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has taken to enforce helmet laws by law enforcement officers. The proposed rule by the safety agency would effectively give law enforcement the ability to pull over, ticket, or worse, any motorcyclists wearing a helmet that the officer felt did not meet the new appropriate standards with a visual test on the road. So, should this rule become final, and that is almost a certainty at this point, any helmet that appears, to a traffic cop, to be less than one inch in the thickness can pull you over for further inspection. Of course the Insurance Institute publication just echoed the same un truths that all of the other safety groups march out. It is interesting and troubling that the agencies that are charged with making things safer, most who don't ride motorcycles, do not care to listen to the very people they are trying to protect. Bureaucracy at its best.

Then, in the Wall Street Journal this week was an article where groups of bicyclists are opposing mandatory bicycle helmet laws. They say mandatory helmet laws, particularly for adults, make cycling less convenient and seem less safe, thus hindering the larger public-health gains of more people riding bikes. They think that more bicycles on the street will result in greater degree of visibility in numbers and therefore reduce injuries and fatalities. Cycling advocates are quick to say they're not anti-helmet. Instead, they're opposed to helmet laws and their unintended consequences. Sound familiar? Make strange bedfellows.

For all is not lost. We need to stay engaged and active. We, the guardians of motorcycling, must do what those before us and those before them have done. A fight is brewing and we need to be ready. The forward force to pass mandatory helmet laws is swelling. We need to push back with a tidal wave.

To start that wave you should email your new best friend, Erik Strickland, Vice President of Federal Relations for the Governors Highway Safety Association. You can reach him here: estrickland@ghsa.org or give him a ring at his direct line, 202-789-0942 x180

You can tell him the MRF sent you!
Reprinted from:
Motorcycle Riders Foundation



Tennessee Motorcyclist Boosters

GOLD

Mark Waters 11/15
Smith/Wilson/Stones River 12/15
Jim Hubbard 1/16
Upper Cumberland 2/16
Scott Allmon 3/16
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Kenn Larimer 3/16
Outlaws MC 7/16

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Jerry King 3/16
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Basic \$10, Bronze \$25, Silver \$50, Gold \$100

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RoCo		500
SWSR	75	525
SuCo		
TeVa	25	30
UpCu	25	250
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Updated Oct., 2015

Welcome New Members!

DHH	Dwain Pewitt
DHH	Jacob Smith
MuCi	Denny Vance
MuCi	Kelly Hake
UpCu	Jeff Choate

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What? Photo Contest

Who? Open to every CMT/ABATE member

When? NOW!

Where? Email photos to keeblerg@yahoo.com in jpeg format.

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Please send in photos of CMT/ABATE members doing what we love to do best... Get your photo or someone else's in our magazine!!!

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Deadline for submission will be the 10th of the month for next month's publication. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Articles submitted after this date will be held for the next month, with the exception of time sensitive material. We welcome your opinions, comments, complaints and suggestions. Articles and photos pertaining to all things motorcycle are welcome. Photos must include, taken by, who is in the photo, what is happening in the photo, when was the photo taken and where was the photo taken at. We also need the authors contact information for verification purposes only. All articles will be edited for content, clarity, grammar and spelling. All ad copy must be sent to the editor at keeblerg@yahoo.com All ad payments should be sent to the main office at P. O. Box 962 Sparta, TN 38583-0962. Include the ad you're paying for and how long paid ad will run.