

Tennessee Motorcyclist



242 West Main St. #195, Hendersonville, TN 37075 * info@cmtabate.com 615-566-9936

February 2020

Badlands, South Dakota



Who has been here? Please send me a picture and I'll put it in the next newsletter!

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of CMT/ABATE Inc. or the Tennessee Motorcyclist. CMT/ABATE, Inc. and the Tennessee Motorcyclist reserve the right to refuse or edit any article, photo, letter or advertisement they decide is not in the best interest of the organization and its members. Readers, although CMT/ABATE supports its advertisers, it does not guarantee the service of those advertisers. Please use the same discretion you would with any business. If in doubt, contact the Better Business Bureau.

Contacts Corporate Level Phone: 615-566-9936

Corporate Director	Scott Smith	423-571-6608	cmtabatedirector@gmail.com
Asst. Corporate Director	Joel Jernigan	615-391-7624	
Corporate Secretary	J. Robert Forbus	615-390-5645	Robert.forbus@robertforbus.com
Corporate Treasurer	Bette Stewart	615-579-6035	cmtabatetreasurer@gmail.com
Legislative	Danny Youngs	615-818-4171	Dannycmtabate@yahoo.com
Activities	Mark Waters	214-938-5405	MarkaWaters555@gmail.com
At Large			
Chaplain	Jack Jones	615-579-4112	jdj32k@yahoo.com
Membership			
MRF	Ed Domine	931-774-9413	ed.d@juno.com
Newspaper	Shannon R. Gregory	615-479-2684	keeblerg@yahoo.com
PR/Communications	Shannon R. Gregory	615-479-2684	keeblerg@yahoo.com
Products			
Safety & Education	Carol Simpson	615-944-9797	csfreedom@aol.com
Sergeant at Arms	Bullet	615-758-8267	

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	Terry Presley 615-642-8025 presley7290@yahoo.com	Last Sunday of the month @ 4 pm, 107 N Fairview Ave., Gordonsville,
Dickson/Humphreys/Hickman	Terry "Bub" Davis 615-969-3673 terrybubdavis@yahoo.com	3rd Thursday @ 7, VFW Dickson
French Broad	Mark McCaw 309-582-4863 rooster15108@gmail.com	1st Sunday of the month @ Screwballs Bar and Grill, Sevierville, 4pm
Montgomery County	Roy West 931-627-1917 kountrycrazy@gmail.com	1st Tuesday @ 7, Jackie's Country Kitchen, 1578 Zinc Plant Rd, Clarksville
Music City	Wendell Baldwin 615-838-1490 wiggles1202@yahoo.com	1st Sunday @ 2, Skully's Old Hickory
Nashville	Jack Jones 615-579-4112 jdj32K@yahoo.com	3rd Wednesday @ 7, Bikini Beach Bar Antioch
Robertson County	Roland Verchota 615-533-6368 Verchotaw@bellsouth.net	1st Tuesday @ 7, Piggy Pit Springfield
Smith-Wilson-Stones River	David Marlin 615-319-8915	1st Sunday @ 2, The Roost Lebanon
Sumner County	Jeff Hollins 615-808-1618 jlhollis@yahoo.com	3rd Thursday @ 7, VFW Hendersonville
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

Welcome back folks. Here it is, the second month of 2020. It's looking like it's really going to be a fantastic year this year with so many things that are going on right now. Here is how our Assistant Corporate Director and our Corporate Secretary spent the day in Nashville. On opening day all Representatives were sworn in. They meet a lot of old friends and made some new ones. It turned out to be a very good day for the both of them; and that's exciting news. I would like to make a personal challenge to all members of CMT/ABATE and that challenge is that each member to sign up just one person in the month of February and one person in the month of March. I will also participate in this challenge as well.

My personal goal is to sign two people up as members during the next two months. I'm looking forward to seeing how this will turn out. I have not received the results from the New Year's kickoff party yet but it should soon be coming in. As soon as I hear I will let everybody know how it turned out. The Board of Directors meeting will be held where Skully's used to be, it is now called The Full Throttle Bar and Grill. So I look forward to seeing everyone there in March at 1:00 PM central standard time. That's all I have for now so I'll talk to everyone later if you have any questions give me a call or send me an email and we'll see what we can do for you.

Scott Smith
CMT/ABATE INC
Corporate Director



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

Asst. Director's Column

To all CMT/ABATE members.
First I would like to thank the BOD for electing me to office of Assistant Corporate Director.

I will try my best to do the office justice. I hope that all had a good holiday season. Mine was spent mostly doing Physical Treachery on my knee replacement. But it's all good. As I settle into this new roll of being retired and having time on my hands, I have been thinking of my goals in this new office.

I would like to ask all Charters to send me your ideas or let me know things we can do, or have done in the past to attract new members. As we all are getting older, we need to get some younger blood interested in our cause.

Let's not forget our day on the hill in February. Let's show up in force and show them know we still exist and are still active.

That's about all for now Ride your own ride.

Joel Jernigan.
Assistant Corporate Director.



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ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTER

Do you know a business that could benefit from some affordable advertising to motorcycle enthusiasts each month? Tell them about our newsletter.

Full Page—\$130/mo.

Half Page—\$70/mo.

Quarter page—\$45/mo.

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YOUR RIGHTS YOUR RIDE



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

OUR MISSION:

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

We are a 501C3 Corporation. Please donate -- your donation is tax deductible. To donate, go to our website listed at the bottom.

Motorcycle Riders Foundation Awareness & Education (MRFA&E)
2221 S. Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202
(202) 546-0983
www.mrfae.org

- ☐ Annual Individual Membership \$35
- ☐ Annual Joint Membership \$60
- ☐ Annual Sustaining Membership \$100
- ☐ Annual Industry Council Membership \$100



- ☐ 3-Year Individual Membership \$95
- ☐ 3-Year Joint Membership \$140
- ☐ Sustaining Membership Club \$100
- ☐ Freedom Fighter Donation \$10 \$25 \$_____

Motorcycle Riders Foundation
2221 S. Clark Street, 11th Floor, Arlington, VA 22202

Phone: 202.546.0983
www.mrf.org

Fax: 202.546.0986
mrfoffice@mrf.org

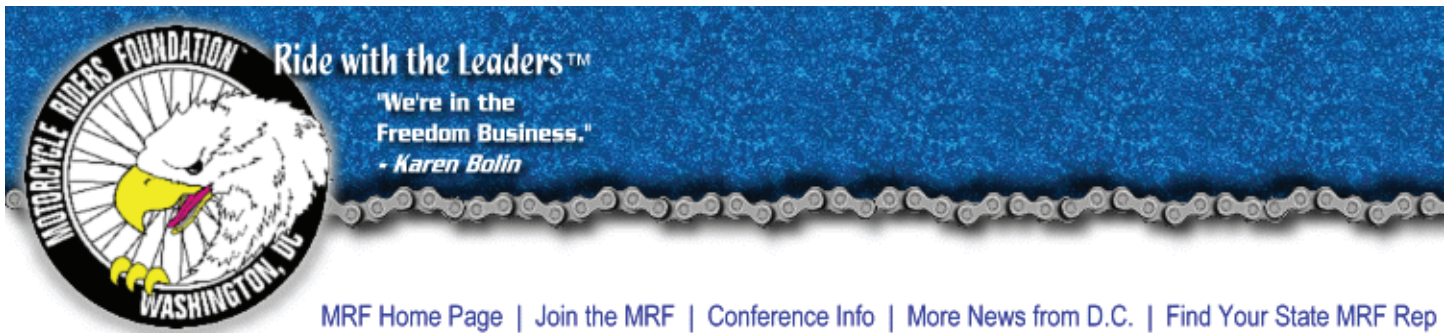
It's time you did something more to protect your rights!
Join and Support Motorcycle Riders Foundation...

- ☐ New
- ☐ Renewal
- Referred by _____

- ☐ Please Check if you are a US Citizen
- ☐ Check here to NOT receive Patches and Pins
- ☐ Check here to NOT receive MRF Email Alerts
- ☐ Check here to receive MRF Reports electronically (email)



Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx
Card Number _____
Expiration Date _____ CVV _____
Signature _____ Date _____



[MRF Home Page](#) | [Join the MRF](#) | [Conference Info](#) | [More News from D.C.](#) | [Find Your State MRF Rep](#)

MRF State Rep Report –

“Take time to deliberate, but when the time for action has arrived, stop thinking and go in.”

– *Napoleon Bonaparte*

This newsletter has been providing updates to you on various issues affecting motorcyclists, both here in Tennessee and on a federal level. This month will provide the most recent information. However, there comes a point where you have enough information, and the time comes to act on it. That time is NOW!

With 125 cosponsors of our anti-profiling resolution, the MRF is putting on a push to pass H. Res. 255 early this year, before everything stops as the elections draw near. If your US Representative has already signed on, thank them (so far, only Representatives Chuck Fleischmann and David Kustoff have done so for Tennessee). For the rest of us, please contact your US Representative and ask them to sign on as a cosponsor of H. Res. 255. If you sent a letter to them last year, do it again this year. If you haven't yet, what's stopping you?

You can send the letter directly from the MRF Legislative Action Center, at:

www.mrf.org

It's time to stop “thinking and go in”. Let's start this New Year with a positive action to ensure we can all continue to...

...Ride Free,

-- Ed



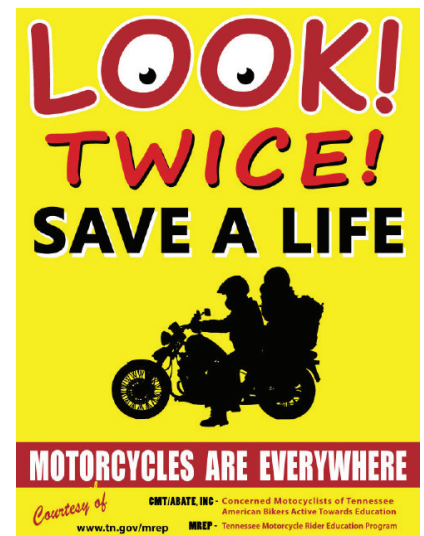
Ed Domine
MRF State Rep
CMT/ABATE

CALL TO ACTION - END MOTORCYCLIST PROFILING SUPPORT H.RES.255

As we move into the second half of the 116th Congress, we still have more work to do to advance our 2020 legislative priorities. With your help, we can make sure that Congress takes steps to help end the unfair profiling of motorcyclists around the country.

Let's keep the momentum going and ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join their colleagues in the U.S. Senate to pass H.Res. 255. If you have answered our previous calls to action over the past year on motorcyclist profiling, please make sure you click the take action button for our updated profiling engagement! We currently have over 125 bipartisan cosponsors and we would like to increase that number to signal to Congress that this issue is still important to the bikers in America. If your representative is already a cosponsor, the system will send them a thank you on your behalf which also encourages them to ask their colleagues in the House of Representatives to join them.

TAKE ACTION NOW: Tell Congress that targeting a motorcyclist because of his clothes, cut or motorcycle is discriminatory and needs public attention. Support H.Res. 255.






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MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION THAT SUPPORTS YOU!!
Our hearts and minds are in the right place, but our bank account is nearly empty.
HELP TODAY!!



BE A TENNESSEE MOTORCYCLIST **BOOSTER!**
CMT/ABATE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT AND WE

THANK YOU!

CMT/ABATE, Inc.
242 West Main St.
#195, Hendersonville,
TN 37075

BASIC BOOSTER \$10 _____

BRONZE BOOSTER \$25 _____

SILVER BOOSTER \$50 _____

GOLD BOOSTER \$100 _____

OTHER \$ _____

*You can also be a booster and pay online with PayPal at

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

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: keeblersg@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 keeblersg@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!

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2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS CMT/ABATE OF TENNESSEE

Feb. 11, Lobby Day at State Capitol in Nashville.
Feb. 22, Upper Cumberland Broomstick Tournament & Chili Cook Off.

Mar. 7, Caney Fork Turkey Shoot.
Mar. 10, State Capitol Day 10am to 2pm.
Mar. 14, SW/SR Look Twice Save a Life Poker Run.

Apr. 4, French Broad Spring Shake Down Poker Run.
Apr. 5, SWSR Meeting Easter Egg Hunt & in house Poker Run.
Apr. 11, Caney Fork Rodeo. (First State Points Rodeo)
Apr. 25, Sumner County and State Swap Meet.

May 2, French Broad International Female Day Ride.
May 8, Liberty Rally and Rodeo. (2nd State Points Rodeo)
May 9, Wheels of Thunder Strawberry Ride
May 16, SW/SR Memorial Day Ride
May 16, DHH Tattoo & Bick Show

June 6, Nashville Ride
June 7, Wheels of Thunder Cat Fish Ride
June 13, Upper Cumberland Corn hole tournament
June 14, SWSR Meeting & Flag Day Poker Run
June 27, Veterans Honor Ride in Wilson Co.
June 27, Caney Fork Humane Society Ride.
June 27, French Broad Summer Kick off Poker Run.

July 11, Caney Fork Tab Run.
July 11, Upper Cumberland Memorial Ride

Aug. 8, Caney Fork Fire Dep. Poker Run
Aug. 28, Southern Thunder Rally. (3rd State Points Rodeo)

Sep 12, SWSR Final State Points Rodeo.
Sep. 12, Robertson County Memorial Ride.
Sep. 24, MRF Meetings of the Minds.

Oct. 3, Caney Fork Izzy Benefit.
Oct. 4, Caney Fork Memorial Ride.

October 31, Caney Fork Truck our Treat
Oct. 31 DHH Toy Run

Nov. 7, French Broad Fall Fun Poker Run
Nov. 14, Caney Fork Turkey Shoot

Dec. 5, Caney Fork Toy Drive & Swap Meet
Dec. 5, Robertson County Toy Ride
Dec. 19, Music City Christmas Party

ABATES PAGE OF SERVICES

"ABATE members helping ABATE members"

Robins Nest Tattoos
Hilham, TN 931-265-1972

Handgun Carry Permit Class
615-473-6493

Midtenn Motorcycle classes
Midtennmotorcycle.com

Family BBQ (Catering)
Dickson 615-521-1481

If you have a business or service you would like listed here, please email publisher@cmtabate.com and we'll list it!

CHARTER EVENTS CALENDAR

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 MuCi/UpCu SWSR/FrBd	3	4 MoCo	5	6 WOT	7	8
9	10 MoCo	11 Lobby Day	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Nash	20 DHH SuCo	21	22 UP CU Broomstick
23 CaFo	24	25	26	27	28	29

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MuCi/UpCu SWSR/FrBd	2	3 RoCo MoCo	4	5 WOT	6	7 CaFo Turkey shoot
8	9	10 Capitol Day	11	12	13	14 SWSR Poker run
15	16	17	18 Nash	19 DHH SuCo	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 CaFo	30	31				

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NEWS & EVENTS (MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

DICKSON/HUMPHREY/HICKMAN

12 souls said the pledge to our flag to start the December meeting of this fine charter. Bub welcomed everyone and started off telling us of what went on at the last B.O.D. January 18 is the New Year kickoff party in Nashville. February 11th is legislative day up on the BIG HILL. State acct. wants us to do a rodeo in west TN with the Wheels of Thunder charter. Parker's Crossroads was mentioned as a possible place for this. We will get with W.O.T and figure something out. The 2020 S.T.R will be back in Adams. We also received a check for \$300 for working the gate at last year's S.T.R. We now have new watermarked by-laws.

Money report was about the same. With all the t-shirts sold from our Toy Run, we cut checks to the White Bluff Fire Department, Humphreys County Sheriff's Office, and Help Center of Dickson.

Other things happening-
Forbidden Shields had their Christmas Party the 21st.

Cotton Donegan is in the hospital.
Leon ain't getting his CMT newsletter.

Big Rick Verese had a bike wreck with a car. The bike is fixable, but Rick lost his foot. He was in Vanderbilt but is now in the hospital in Dickson. We wish Rick a nitro quick recovery.

A very proud new poppa, Gene Woody told us about his new baby girl, Haddie Wes. Welcome to the world, Haddie! Congratulations to Bub Davis, who received his 40 year pin from the Operator's Union in December.

January 1st was our 17th Blue Balls & Hard Nips Run. We had 40 motorsickles show up at the VFW and ride to the world famous Picadilly Club, to start off 2020!! Woody won the hat drawing.
Nuff said, We scattered
Beefy #757

FRENCH BROAD

Charter Meeting January 5th, 2020
Held at Screwball's
CALL TO ORDER: (16:15) By Stan
ROLL CALL: 8 members and 1 guest present
ANNOUNCEMENTS: A friend of the Charter was injured in an accident when a car ran a red light and hit him on his motorcycle. A large group of friends and members got together and donated materials and time to build a 40-foot wheel chair ramp at his residence. The turnout and effort was a tremendous display of humanity and unity

for a good person. Pictures will be in the upcoming newsletter. A big Thank you to those involved! This was a great way to represent what bikers are about and a good deed looking out for a friend.

TREASURY: We contributed \$250 to the state for normal operations. We have also reimbursed Sana for her purchases of patches and materials. We have no further outstanding debt due and our balance is \$553.34.

MINUTES: All approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Corrine: January 18th is the State party. April 14th is the next planned poker run. June 6th and July 25th are proposed dates for fundraisers. All present voted in favor. Charter membership is approximately 35 people, haven't received an updated list from state at last meeting.

Homes for Heroes have headed up the Veterans Cold Weather Coat Drive, this was a great success on our part and donations are still being accepted, you can drop off coats at Screwballs. Great job to all involved!

NEW BUSINESS: Corrine: Fundraiser ideas and recipients? Members suggested the following;

- The local Boys and Girls club
- Smokey Mountain Home for Children
- Vets-Home for Heroes
- Safe Space

We had good turnout at Toys for Tots fundraiser at Lads N Lass. Our efforts provided a large cache of toys as well as some good outreach from the charter in to the Knoxville area. The Chili cook off raised more funds and provided some good food and fellowship. Great Job All!

OPEN FORUM: We have a downed rider, Martin Ramsey. We will pass the hat for him at the next meeting.

We are working on a charter newsletter, more to come on this and inputs are welcome. If you aren't receiving the state newsletter let Mark know.

Mark proposes changing the next meeting to February 1st due to the super bowl. Jack, our gracious host says his establishment is available, all members approve.

LEGISLATIVE: Sean: Danny Youngs is our state legislative coordinator. He has said not much in the skid-lid freedom world is going on at the moment. The state did agree to eliminate emission inspection requirements statewide, so that's good at least.

I recommend each and every one of us get to know our elected representatives.

Research them and their voting records. They are supposed to represent us, the only way for them to know our opinions and desires is to call their office, write them an email or letter. I say this because those of us that tend to believe in freedom tend to trust others. While those that wish to impose their anti-freedom ways do so under the cover of keeping out of the public eye. They lobby in Nashville directly to elected representative and donate to their re-election campaigns. How do you think that's gonna pan out? The very least we can do is let our reps know we are paying attention and give them our thoughts.

NEXT MEETING: Feb 1st, 1630

ADJOURN: Motion by Sana, 2nd by Billy
Submitted by Sean

MUSIC CITY

Minutes January 5/2020.

Meeting called to order at 14:00 hours.
17 members and 1 guest in attendance.

Pledge lead by Shaun.

Prayer lead by Doc.

We had a letter from bridgeway Connection thanking us for our support over the past year. We donated a total of \$200.00 the months of November and December. Plus some canned goods.

Motion by Bob /Second by Wayne To pledge \$25 dollars a month to the state as our Bank account has gotten low.

We will be taking donations of bottles for the raffle at Kickoff party on the 19th. We will pull raffle tickets one at a time till all are gone.

Discussion on having a swap meet In April we will be contacting other charters to see if they want to participate. We have the venue already.

Some info on STR. We will be selling Coffee and possibly biscuits for breakfast more info to come later as we finalize plans.

Bob won 50/50 Donated all but 3 dollars to church fund.

Motion by Bob /Second by Doc to adjourn.

Ride your own ride Joel.

CANEY FORK

MONTGOMERY

NASHVILLE

SMITH /WILSON /STONES RIVER

SUMNER COUNTY


WHEELS OF THUNDER

UPPER CUMBERLAND

ROBERTSON COUNTY

Our meetings are held the 1st Tuesday night of each month at 7:00pm at The Pit in Springfield. Bull lead us in The Pledge and Johann lead us in prayer. Roland thanked everyone for coming. Treva went over the treasury report. Everybody mark your calendars for STR Southern Thunder Rally on August 28-29 at Red River in Adams. Hope everyone can attend CMT Abate New Year Kick Off Party Jan. 18th at The Clarion in Nashville. We always have a great time with good food, music and Chinese auction. Johann went over the legislative news. Vickie Verchota won the 50/50 and donated back. Hope to see everyone at our next meeting on Feb. 4th. Connie Jones

**LOOK!
TWICE!
SAVE A LIFE**



MOTORCYCLES ARE EVERYWHERE

Courtesy of **CMT/ABATE, INC.** - Concerned Motorcyclists of Tennessee
American Bikers Active Towards Education
www.tn.gov/mrep **MREP** - Tennessee Motorcycle Rider Education Program



Want to be a part of this amazing organization?

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Member ☐ Renewal ☐

Member Number: _____

Type of Membership Desired:

Full Member \$30 _____

Couple Member \$40 _____

Associate \$10 _____

Junior \$10 _____

Lifetime Membership \$300 _____

*a mailed paper is \$30 a year

Change of Address: ☐

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Charter You Would like to Join: _____

Are you a Registered Voter? Yes No

How would like to receive your newsletter?
Email US Mail

Please mail to:
CMT/ABATE, Inc.
242 West Main St. #195
Hendersonville, TN 37075
615-566-9936

OUR MISSION:

Promote awareness and education in the motorcycling community to improve riders' safety, and educate non-riders globally in the interest of all riders' safety.

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CMT/ABATE, Inc. 2020 Events and other popular motorcycle events

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May 16, 2020 SW/SR Memorial Day Ride
May 16, 2020 DHH Tattoo & Bick Show
May 28, 2020 MRF Bikers in the Beltway & National Motorcyclists Lobby

June 6, 2020 Nashville Ride
June 7, 2020 Wheels of Thunder Cat Fish Ride
June 13, 2020 Upper Cumberland Corn hole tournament
June 14, 2020 SWSR Meeting & Flag Day Poker Run
June 17, 2020 June Bug Boogie
June 27, 2020 Veterans Honor Ride in Wilson Co.
June 27, 2020 Caney Fork Humane Society Ride.
June 27, 2020 French Broad Summer Kick off Poker Run.

July 11, 2020 Caney Fork Tab Run.
July 11, 2020 Upper Cumberland Memorial Ride
July 16-19, 2020 Little Sturgis

Aug. 8, 2020 Caney Fork Fire Dep. Poker Run
Aug. 28, 2020 Southern Thunder Rally. (3rd State Points Rodeo)

Sep. 3, 2020 Hog fest Pelham Tn.
Sep 12, 2020 SWSR Final State Points Rodeo.
Sep. 12, 2020 Robertson County Memorial Ride.
Sep. 17, 2020 Harley Drags Bowline Green, KY.
Sep. 24, 2020 June Bug Boogie two.
Sep. 24, 2020 MRF Meetings of the Minds.

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Oct. 4, 2020 Caney Fork Memorial Ride.
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October 31, 2020 Caney Fork Truck our Treat
Oct. 31 DHH Toy Run

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The Bikers Rights Machine - Unstoppable –

Kirk “Hardtail” Willard MRF President

In both my professional world and my biker world I often find myself discussing the many successes those of us involved in motorcycle rights have enjoyed over the years in the political, regulatory, and bureaucratic arenas. The discussion often leads to how we do it. How we stop federal helmet amendments dead in their tracks, how we get federal grants for motorcycle safety to the tune of 25 million dollars, how we prohibit federal agencies from lobbying with our taxpayer dollars, hinder motorcycle specific discrimination, how we get an audience with the top officials in the country and in some cases the developed world regarding important motorcycle issues such as health insurance, motorcycle safety recommendations, motorcycle manufacturing regulations, how we get exceptions to regulations no one else gets, how we create federal motorcycle advisory councils, how we get into all those important meetings in the United States and Europe regarding anything motorcycle, how we have achieved unequalled access to local, state, and federal politicians with a wide reaching and impactful influence? And on top of the federal victories are literally hundreds more biker victories each year back in our home states. I love explaining how the system works, both the process and the relationships key to it, and the fact that we can and do routinely get laws made or stopped on our behalf. Myself like a majority of you live and breathe this stuff and realize this all comes from twenty and in some cases thirty years of the most dedication, fiercest determination, highest level of passion and integrity, and the strongest desire to do the right things for motorcycles, but how does one explain that to those not in the arena.

Well, I saw a couple specific things happen at Legislative and Officer Training events as I traveled around the country recently to State Motorcycle Rights Organization (SMRO) events while representing the Motorcycle Riders Foundation that simply but pointedly illustrates how we can be unstoppable as a movement. The first example was an ABATE Officers Training the first of this year where all local, regional, district, and state officers within the organization are expected to attend a two day seminar over a weekend where the tone, organizational and legislative strategies, events, training materials etc. are laid out and discussed for the coming year. I realize this happens all over the country but what amazed me was the fact that the attendees then paid for the event themselves. They have a crazy tradition where they auction off the same ugly green ABATE T-Shirt year after year and I watched these people en-masse literally empty their wallets in a district versus district competition to buy the shirt; I am talking thousands and thousands of dollars from the people in the room. And then after the winning bidders picture was taken with the shirt I watched them carefully fold the shirt up and donate it back to the state office for the next year and all the money tossed in by everyone there went to pay for the event, the bidders that didn't win left their money on the table and donated it anyway. The second event a few weeks later had about 400 people in attendance and I saw a couple things. One was an impressive District by District sponsorship that helped pay for the event and then they had a donation line-up where thousands upon thousands was donated to a Political Action Committee (PAC) fund. It was said that this PAC has nearly \$50K for use in the upcoming elections to support biker friendly candidates. These events reminded me of the Meeting of the Minds (MOTM) where I have seen bikers pay thousands of dollars for a collectable knife at auctions to support the MRF, as was the case last year it has even happened more than once during the event. I recall a lengthy discussion with the General Secretary of the Federation of European Motorcyclists Associations (FEMA) trying to explain why a biker would bid \$10K for a knife and he was even in our movement. To this day I don't think he understood this type of commitment that he saw repeated several times on his visits to the MOTM. What other movement or organizations can you see things like this where people pay for their own training to further their own organization, and bid thousands of dollars for knives and other auction items that we brought ourselves. It seems funny to explain events like this to people outside our movement because they simply cannot imagine that level of dedication and passion that we bikers have. This is why we are unstoppable.

I don't believe we can ever be stopped but we can at times get slowed down. I will draw from my history while growing up in North Dakota for an analogy. My early days are filled with western adventures, cowboy stories, and I especially liked the romance of the gunfight. And it was said that friends should never get into a gunfight with friends, only their enemies. Because when friends fire on each other at best they both miss but lose some of their steam and influence in the process. Worse is the case where one or both of them shoot each other and whether it be one or both, they along with many other associated people lose, sides get chosen and new enemies and distractions pop up when that happens. Where is this going you ask? Well as I travel around the country I see a growing trend within our movement, I see friends drawing and shooting at friends and taking their eye and focus off the enemy. We need to take a look at whom and when we are drawing our guns. We are unstoppable when drawing and firing all together on the enemy, much less so when bikers end up firing at other bikers.

There is another thing that perplexes me in my daily work on motorcyclists' rights. All the national motorcycle organizations to include the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, the American Motorcyclist Association, and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists have government relations departments, a legislative task force, legislative teams and in some cases more than one of these. The Motorcycle Riders Foundation has nearly 100 years of legislative and lobbying experience on our legislative team, our Board of Directors has over 300 years of combined experience, and when we draw up our legislative agenda for the coming year we involve our SMRO partners at MOTM at the Legislative Strategy session which likely brings in another 1,000 or so years of experience in this area. I also know for a fact each of our SMRO partners have Legislative and Government Relations teams that also have several hundred years of experience on each of them. So I must say with all the heavy horsepower in this area I am amazed that as a movement we at times spend energy on statements and positions that aren't coming from our own organizations with all these years and years of experience.

Bottom line here is that I know as you do what power and influences we have when we stick to what we do; we can be and in fact have shown repeatedly that we are unstoppable. To always be that unstoppable force we must refrain from drawing and shooting at each other and from being distracted by issues not coming from our organization's years and years of experience in the legislative, political, and legislative arenas.



January 11, 2019 RIDING FREE FROM DC: 2020 Outlook

With 2020 now officially underway, Congress has returned to Washington D.C. after a three-week break. The 2nd session of the 116th Congress opened formally on Wednesday, January 7th and will run through the end of 2020. In January 2021, a new Congress will be sworn in and any legislation that was not passed in the previous two years must be reintroduced. Therefore, the MRF D.C. team is committed to a full-court press to pass our legislative priorities this year.

It goes without saying that D.C. is a town built on politics, and a presidential election year only amplifies that. One of the most obvious ways that an election year and specifically a presidential election year impacts Congress is the calendar. Politicians up for reelection want to spend more time back home shaking hands and kissing babies and less time in Washington D.C. In 2020 the House of Representatives is scheduled to be in session for only 112 days. The Senate is planning on spending slightly more time in D.C. with a scheduled workload of 142 days.

This compressed schedule means that we at the MRF need to make the most

of our opportunities to educate lawmakers, advocate for our priorities and most importantly, demonstrate the strength of our movement.

First and foremost, Bikers Inside the Beltway is a fantastic opportunity for MRF members to meet with lawmakers. Nothing gets the halls of Congress buzzing like the sight and sound of hundreds of bikers pulling up to the U.S. Capitol. Make sure to mark your calendar for May 19th and join us for a critical day of lobbying in D.C.

Secondly, over the next few weeks, you will be receiving calls to action on different pieces of legislation Congress will be dealing with this year. Answering a call to action is the easiest way to reach a Congressional office and let them know that you care about motorcycle issues. Please keep your eyes peeled as we roll these out leading up to Bikers Inside the Beltway. Your participation is critical to demonstrating just how many motorcyclists care about these issues.

Finally, since Congress wants to spend their time at home, you should have no problem seeing them at parades, picnics and other civic events throughout the year. Don't be afraid to introduce yourself, tell them you are a rider and ask them to support our priorities.

This year presents motorcyclists with

both challenges and opportunities for our community. We in D.C. are excited to navigate the next 12 months and deliver victories for our membership. We are immensely proud to represent you every day here in Washington and to "Ride with the Leaders."

Happy New Year, let's get to work! Regulatory News - DOT Releases AV Guidance 4.0

In conjunction with the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas this week, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao released Ensuring American Leadership in Automated Vehicle Technologies: Automated Vehicles 4.0 (AV 4.0). The current guidance takes the approach of showing the unity of the Administration and other government agencies about looking towards the future of autonomous vehicles.

The current guidance has not changed the hands-off approach of the DOT on AV regulations, and we at the MRF will continue to engage with Congress on the importance of meaningful AV legislation. The House and Senate continue to work together on draft legislation and we will let you know when it is introduced.

About Motorcycle Riders Foundation
The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) provides leadership at the federal level for states' motorcyclists' rights organizations as well as motorcycle clubs and individual riders. The MRF is chiefly concerned with issues at the national and international levels that impact the freedom and safety of American street motorcyclists. The MRF is committed to being a national advocate for the advancement of motorcycling and its associated lifestyle and works in conjunction with its partners to help educate elected officials and policymakers in Washington and beyond.



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Why Should I Care?

Why should I care about bikers' rights? For that matter, what the heck are "bikers' rights" anyway?

Well, bikers' rights affect everyone who rides on two wheels. If you like the freedom that riding brings and you would like to be welcome in all public places while riding your bike, then you already care about bikers rights and you should take that next step and actually start supporting bikers rights.

We do not want other citizens discriminating against us. We all know that bikers are no less educated or intelligent than any other group of citizens. However, off-road riders face public land use bans even though those riders pay taxes to use those lands. Street riders are not always welcome in all hotels, condos, and public places. Restaurants and bars have "no back patch" policies. If you would like to continue riding without more restrictions placed on you as a rider, then you already care about bikers' rights!

Now that we have concluded that you do care about bikers' rights, then the next question should be: How can I, as a motorcyclist, get involved in the political process and be aware of political activities concerning riding? Here are some things you can do to help yourself and all the riders in your state:

- 1) Learn where candidates stand on motorcycle issues before voting and then vote.
- 2) Write letters to the legislators that represent you so they understand your position on current biker related legislation.
- 3) Arrange meetings and talk to your legislators in person. They will remember your meeting when considering biker legislation. Don't forget, they work for you.
- 4) Arrange your personal and work schedules so when there is a biker lobby day in your state, you can go in a show of support for biker legislation. Please understand that a bill must undergo three readings in each of the two chambers, pass several committee meeting votes, as well as be approved by the Governor before it becomes law. Biker representation at each committee meeting and chamber vote is important to get that legislation passed.
- 5) Join a state motorcyclist's rights organization (SMRO) and also join a federal MRO like the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF). They will help you get involved in bikers' rights and you will also expand your circle of friendships and riding opportunities.
- 6) Take the rider safety courses in your state for your own safety and to reduce injury stats. Fewer accidents equal more favorable statistics, which equals more legislative power for bikers.
- 7) Make it a priority to have motorcycle insurance and medical insurance. If you don't you will be labeled a "public burden" and be part of the problem, not the solution.
- 8) Please don't ride impaired. It will eventually catch up with you in the way of a DUI, an accident, or you will kill yourself or someone else. It also sets a bad example for younger riders and causes all bikers to look irresponsible.

Getting involved in bikers' rights will help yourself and all bikers. That's why you should care!

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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 242 West Main St. #195, Hendersonville, TN 37075. Include the ad you're paying for and how long paid ad will run.