

Tennessee Motorcyclist



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

January 2016



ALL MOTORCYCLISTS WELCOME

CMT/ABATE, Inc.'s 18th Annual

NEW YEAR KICK-OFF



BANQUET/DANCE/PARTY

Social Hour 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m. Band 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, January 16, 2016

Clarion Hotel, Spring Street, Nashville

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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	Terry Presley 615-642-8025	1st Tuesday of the month @ 7, Caney Fork Motors, 378 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	Jerry King 615-364-1378	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

There wasn't a lot happening last month. It was quality over quantity. Caney Fork had a yard sale at the car shop on 70 North. I got there early to hang out and socialize. They had about anything you could imagine. I particularly liked the knives and the rings. Being right there on the highway, there was a lot of stop in traffic, and there was plenty of parking next door. It worked out very well for them. I heard later they made over a thousand dollars. We can probably look forward to this again next year.

The very next day was the Smith/Wilson/Stones River toy run. This is a must do event for me every year. They took everything down to Lebanon to the single mom's home. Any willing child gets a short bike ride down a side street. Needless to say, the kids eat it up. Some of them don't want to get off. It's a real hoot. Then it's back to the Roost for the annual chili cook off. A line of pots full of the best stuff you ever put in your mouth. Even homemade cornbread to go with it. I wouldn't miss this for anything.

A couple of weeks later, I took some gifts over to the Robertson County toy run. Unfortunately, mother nature would not cooperate that day. Just as they fired up the bikes, it started to rain. At least the faithful didn't have far to go.

One thing I need to mention. At the March BOD meeting, we will have elections for State Director and State Secretary. According to the By-Laws, resumes must be in to the office 60 days in advance. This gives a deadline of January 13th. I certainly hope Becky runs again. She does a great job and I depend on her. As for myself, I am willing to serve as long as I can.

Thank you

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



torney General on the constitutionality of excluding Tenn-Care. This was the first time I have ever seen the powers that be scared that one of our bills might pass.

We are now past the safety argument and will only be talking money. When it comes down to it, money is the only thing the government gives

caused by the drivers they insure. Maybe I'm crazy, but it makes more sense to get the bad drivers off the road than to punish all motorcyclists for being victims. Here is where things get interesting, Rep. Charles Sargent is chairman of the House Finance Committee and also a triple A award winning insurance man. (If this were a court case, an honest judge would recuse himself due to a conflict of interest.) We have met with Chairman Sargent and he is looking at the information we presented, but he definitely wasn't happy with the fiscal note. If you enjoyed last year's roller coaster ride through committees, you best get in line for the next.

Tenn-Care has told us it would cost too much to permit adults to ride without a helmet. The **MEDICAL INDUSTRY** says it will lead to "**UNCOUNTABLE CASES OF BRAIN TRAUMA.**" The **DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY** claims "**DEATH AND DESTRUCTION**" on Tennessee highways. Gloom despair and agony on me. Deep dark depression, excessive misery. Sorry about the HeeHaw flashback, but that is exactly what testimony from the opposition has sounded like. We have given the State a bill that makes money, eliminates the financial responsibility of Tenn-Care and restores the stolen rights of adult motorcyclists in our State. We have basically given them what they asked for and many still aren't happy.

This truly is a fight and it is your fight. we have to let our legislators know how we want them to vote on the issue. If they refuse to support us, then by all means we need to remove them from office. 2016 is an election year and you will be deciding who stays in office and who goes. We will be publishing how every member votes on **HB700/SB925**. We have the best shot ever of modifying the helmet law. Time to git'er done.

We are about to have another year behind us of wearing helmets in Tennessee but, with your hard work, that might all change come July. **HB700/SB925**, the helmet law modification bill (sponsored by Rep. Jay Reedy and Sen. Kerry Roberts) is gaining momentum along with co-sponsors. Rep. Glen Casada, chairman of the House Republican Caucus, has signed on as a co-sponsor. Leadership is always cautious about signing on to a controversial bill, so take time to thank him and everyone else that signs on. We still have some hard road in front of us but, if we all work together, it will be worth it.

Just where are we with the helmet bill? As you know, we made it through transportation in both houses after more twists and turns than a rabbit through a briar patch. The bill landed in Senate Finance and House Finance Sub last session, where we rolled it to the 2016 session. This move kept the bill alive and gave us the opportunity to garner much needed support. During the session we fought off attempts to sabotage the positive fiscal note by amending the bill language, the usual safety b.s. from the medical industry and outright lies from committee leadership that had previously backed our legislation. The big question on everybody's mind came from Senator Jim Tracy's request for an opinion from the At-

a damn about. Our rights and freedoms mean nothing to them, if there is a cost attached. I sometimes wonder if they ever consider the cost in human life that it took to get us to this point in history? With that being said, you do need to be aware that many of the legislators are representing the interests of **BIG BUSINESS**, the **MEDICAL** and **INSURANCE INDUSTRY**, and those individuals capable of donating millions of dollars to campaigns, rather than their own constituents. I have listened to how they just couldn't support our helmet legislation because they would have to answer to the big hospital in their district. This is where you need to be contacting your legislators and let them know that their constituents want their voice heard. It is time to do what is right for the voter and not what is profitable for the medical industry. Other than helmet manufacturers and retailers, the only business that profits from helmet use is the medical industry. Long term vegetable storage is a lucrative and highly profitable enterprise that maintains a good source of viable organs.

We also face opposition from the largest anti-motorcycle lobbying group in the country, **AAA**. If the **American Auto Association** had their way, no motorcycles would be on the road. The reason being that they have to pay out so much money on accidents



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE GLEN CASADA SIGNS ON AS ADDITIONAL COSPONSOR OF HB700

Representative Casada serves the 63rd state district of the General Assembly, which is 1/3 of Williamson County. He is also the Chairman of the Republican House Caucus, which provides some extra “oomph” to issues that he supports. The most House sponsors we have ever had on a Freedom of Choice Bill was 24 of the 99—years ago. When a legislator signs on as a co-sponsor of a bill, it is a BIG DEAL! They are avowing their support for the bill, and, unless the bill is changed in major ways by amendments, the proponents of the bill can be almost totally assured of a “yes” vote from that cosponsor, as well and being able to ask them to help win over other legislators. Anybody up to the challenge of getting over 25 co-sponsors for HB 700?

The Senate Bill number is **SB 925**. There are only 33 Senators-----

how about we strive to get 18 SENATE cosponsors? A SENATE majority right out of the gate. Legislative Session starts January 12. Things will move VERY QUICKLY.

So, if your email is not listed in the CMT/ABATE database, and you would like to receive Call to Action emails and Legislative Updates, please send your name and email address to our PR/Communications person--cmt-abateprc@gmail.com, the legislative director, themotorsickledoc@yahoo.com, AND the legislative administrative assistant, csfreedom@aol.com. That should get you any and all updates and alerts. THIS IS THE YEAR OF SUCCESS FOR THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE LEGISLATION. In three months, don't be the lone stranger sittin' at the bar saying, "I sure wish I would have helped out with that effort—it would have only taken a few minutes/hours to make a difference. Now everyone is bragging about how they helped and I am just sittin' here alone... I have freedom of choice, but I didn't work to get it... Thanks everyone..."

Happily Married Biker

Badass Biker Bob wakes up at home with a huge hangover.

He forces himself to open his eyes, and the first thing he sees is a couple of aspirins and a glass of water on the side table.

He sits up and sees his clothing in front of him, all clean and pressed. Bob looks around the room and sees that it is in perfect order, spotless, clean. So is the rest of the house.

He takes the aspirins and notices a note on the table: "Honey, breakfast is on the stove, I left early to go shopping. Love you."

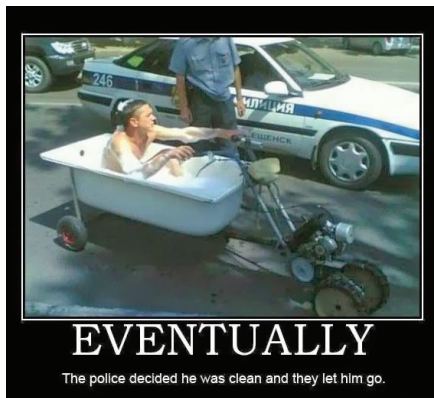
So he goes to the kitchen, and sure enough there is a hot breakfast and the morning newspaper. His son is also at the table, eating.

Bob asks, "Son, what happened last night?" His son says, "Well, you came home after 3 A.M., drunk and delirious, broke some furniture, puked in the hall-

way, and gave yourself a black eye when you stumbled into the door."

Confused, Badass Bob asks, "So, why is everything in order and so clean, and breakfast is on the table waiting for me?"

His son replies, "Oh, that! Mom dragged you to the bedroom, and when she tried to take your pants off, you said, "Lady, leave me alone, I'm married!"



A biker walks into a bar and sits next to another biker.

First biker - Hey, I'm Jimmy.

Second biker - I'm Brian

First biker - Where are you from?

Second biker - I'm from Long Island.

First biker - HEY, I'm from Long Island too! What part?

Second biker - Riverhead

First biker - WOW! I'm from riverhead too!!! I live on the cul-de-sac

Second biker - MAN, I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!!! I live in the cul-de-sac too!!!

First biker - Dude, this is getting scary. I live in the red house, next to the Wilsons

Second biker - NO FREAKIN WAY MAN!! HOW CAN THIS BE?!?!? I LIVE THERE TOO!!!

BARTENDER - OH, here we go again, the O'Connor brothers are so drunk, they don't recognize each other.

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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: **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!

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.

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS CMT/ABATE OF TENNESSEE

CHARTER EVENTS CALENDAR

January 2016

- 1/1 CaFo New year's ride
DHH Blue Balls & hard nips
SWSR New Year's ride
- 1/16 New Year's kickoff party
- 1/23 SWSR Biker bucks
- 3/13 Board Of Directors
- 3/20 SWSR Easter egg hunt
- 4/16 CaFo Swap Meet
- 4/17 TeVa Fun run mystery ride
- 5/14 DHH Bike show & tattoo contest
Liberty Rally
- 6/4 DHH Celebration of life
CaFo/SWSR State points field meet
- 6/12 Board Of Directors
- 6/18 CaFo
- 7/9 SWSR Robin Long memorial ride
- 7/31 TeVa Motorcycle awareness ride
- 8/13 CaFo Canoe run (rain date 8/20)
- 9/11 Board Of Directors
- 9/18 TeVa/UpCu Wine run
- 10/1 SWSR State points field meet finals
- 10/8 CaFo Memorial ride
- 10/15 Nash Swap meet
- 10/29 DHH 29th annual toy run

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 CaFo NY Ride	2
3 MaCo/UpCu SWSR	4 MoCo No Ea	5 CaFo RoCo	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 WOT	15	16 New Year's Party!!!
17 TeVa	18	19 Nash	20	21 SuCo DHH	22	23 SWSR Biker Bucks
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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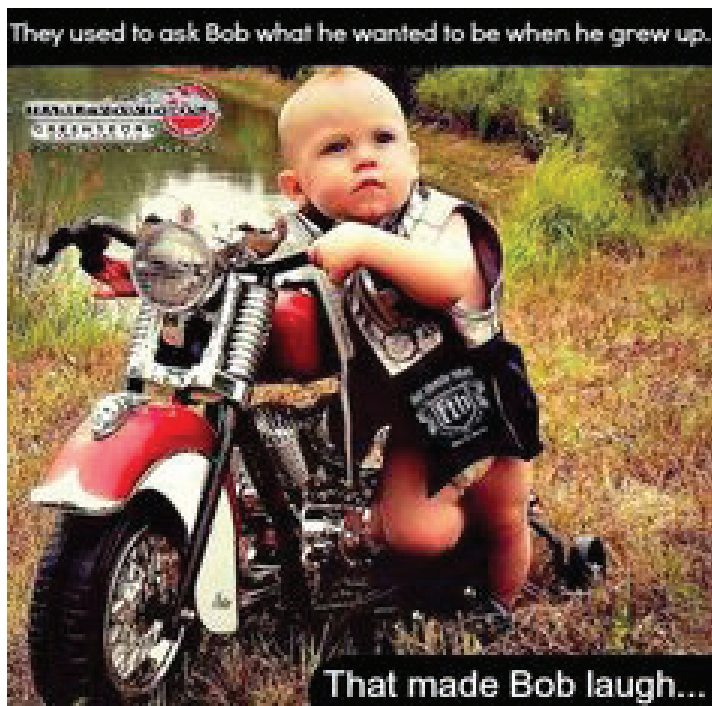
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NEWS & EVENTS (MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

CANEY FORK - Next Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 5, 7:00, Caney Fork Motors

Our meeting started @ 7:00. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jimmy Young.

Terry started the meeting with Jeff giving the Treasure Report.

Hanna Porter gave the minutes from the last meeting.

We discussed the dates for events for next year. So everyone is welcome to come to the B.O.D. meeting on Dec. 13th @ 12:00.

We also need everyone to bring a Toy and Food Donation by Caney Fork Motors by Dec. 19th for our Toy Drive.

We all voted on changing our Meeting Day to the 2nd Sunday of every month @ 5:00. The same place @ Caney Fork Motors.

Our next get together "JUST FOR FUN" we will be meeting @ RYAN'S in Lebanon on Jan. 1st @ 2:00.

Also-It is our deepest regrets to Rick "SPARKY" Perry on the loss of our great friend and his wife Teresa "HORNET" Stevens.

Sparky wanted to thank everyone for their help in the Yard Sale Benefit.

The Proceeds helped with the funeral expenses. Please keep him and family in our prayers.

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:02.

DICKSON/HUMPHREY/HICKMAN-

Next Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 21, 7:00, VFW, Dickson, TN

NOVEMBER, 2015

20 souls met at the VFW Thursday night. Mark called the meeting to order and we all rose to face the flag and Jess led us in the Pledge. Yes, that's the same Jess that was the only person to ride their motorcycle to the motorcycle meeting. We talked about the folks who are dear to us that are sick. Rosa gave us an update on her diagnosis and Jess's mom Barbara continues to smile and push forward, and we all wish them both the best in battling this disease in the upcoming months.

Discussed January, 2016, New Year's Kick Off Party. Each Charter has been asked to donate an item for the Chinese Auction and motion was made and seconded to do so. Also discussed D/H/H Charter Pledge to the State and motion was made and seconded to do so. Mark will take info to BOD in December.

D/H/H Charter plans to have an entry in the Dickson Christmas Parade on November 29. Update from Parade: Rain, rain,

rain! Mark & Becky drove the truck decorated with CMT/ABATE banners & signs and threw out candy and Member Paul T. Smith, Jr. braved the soggy weather and rode his motorcycle the entire parade!! Small in numbers, but big in heart. Stuffed animals donated and collected will be saved for next year's endeavor.

Activities Director Steve Teston discussed 2016 Calendar of Events. This is a preliminary list: January 1 – Blue Balls & Hard Nips Run; April 16 – Celebration of Life 2016 Kick Off Ride; May 14 – D/H/H Bike & Tattoo Show; June 4 – Celebration of Life Event; July 30 – D/H/H Canoe Poker Run; October 28 – Celebration of Life Poker Run & Bike Show; and, October 29 – D/H/H 29th Annual Toy Run & Food Drive.

Ed Dominique, D/H/H member and CMT/ABATE MRF Rep, explained the organization to our group and reported on his trip to the 2015 Meeting of the Minds conference.

Adjourned. 50/50

MONTGOMERY - Next Meeting: Monday, Jan. 4, 7:00, Sunshine Restaurant, Clarksville

18 December 2015

MoCo held our monthly meeting in conjunction with our annual Christmas Party at 6pm 4Dec. 2015, at the home of John & Jackie Ahlers, Clarksville, TN. There were 13 members in attendance and 2 guests. The meeting & party kicked off just before at 6 pm and the first topic discussed was food. After everyone was pleasantly stuffed we then voted on our 2016 officer slate. The following is a list of the new folks filling key MoCo charter positions for calendar year 2016;

Director – Jesse Henne 931-980-7548
Asst. Director – Wally Baez
Secretary – Tam Henne
Treasurer – John Ahlers
SGT of Arms – Sue Bartlett
Membership – Wally Baez

After the voting was finished we all sat around and socialized for a while and started to discuss our annual Spring Poker Run. The party ended about 9pm.

Hope that everyone has a safe and Happy New Year, Ride Safe & Keep the Rubber Side Down...

John Ahlers
MoCo Director

MUSIC CITY - Next meeting: Sunday, Jan. 3, 2:00, Skully's, Old Hickory

Meeting was called to order @ 2pm. We had 37 members attend!! The pledge was led by Jason "J-Bird". Wendell presented the ballots for the charter election. Rose passed them out while Amanda introduced each nominee. Motion was made to have the church member tally the votes for us and was 2nd by Joel. Thank you to all that were nominated! Results were read off by Bob and they are...

Director: Wendell Baldwin

Asst Director: Glenn Stout

Treasurer: Billy Murphy

Secretary: Sharon "Crash" Stout & Hattie Jernigan has agreed to help her out as needed. Thank you Hattie!

Sgt @ Arms: Amanda Anderson

Events Cord: Vickie Henderson & Rose Black teamed up on this one

Products: Vickie Henderson

Legislature: Wayne

We know Bob has retired from his position after 10 years as Asst. Dir! Music City thanks you Bob for doing a great job!!! Now take your seat in the back and enjoy! LOL! We all love ya!

If you're a member, please try to make our monthly meetings and bring a friend with you. A great way to recruit new members and keep everybody aware of what's going on. Meeting @ Skully's 2pm, the 1st Sunday of each month. Skully's always takes good care of us and has good food for after the meeting. (donations much appreciated). It's a good time to share your thoughts, eat, drink and enjoy some good fellowship with your biker family!

Wendell reminded everybody about the Kickoff party Jan 16th. Flyers are out so please make plans to attend and book your room early. Hope to see a good turnout by the "Party Charter"!!!

Carol Crowson brought up we need to get our events scheduled to be on the calendar and not conflict with other events.

We had several prayer request. Vickie Let us know about Peter Sands suffering from a stroke. He is @ Skyline Hospital. J-Bird will be having shoulder surgery again since the 1st one didn't take. Also Julies mother is having health issues and they will be traveling to spend time with her.

Wayne shared some topics from the legislature side. Again Wayne can't say this enough. Everyone needs to speak up and call or schedule and apt. and meet with

your reps. Let them know who you are and what you want! It's the only way to get things changed.

Armpit won the 50/50 and donated it back.

We had several members stand and share their thoughts and show support for our charter. Very good meeting!!!

Bob made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Glenn. Kay led us in a closing prayer.

Stay safe – See ya'll in Jan 2016
Sharon aka "CRASH"

NASHVILLE- Next Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7:00, Bikini Beach Bar, Antioch

ROBERTSON COUNTY- Next Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 5, 7:00, Piggy Pit, Springfield

Our CMT/ABATE meeting was held on 12/1/15 at the Pit in Springfield. John Dean lead our Pledge of Alliance and Robert lead us in prayer.

Everyone please don't forget our CMT Abate Robertson County Christmas Party on 12/11/15 at Pine and Samantha's house on Fred Perry Rd. Please bring a side dish and they will provide the meat. Also bring a dirty Santa gift if you want to participate. Everyone please keep Mrs. Bush in your prayers.

Don't forget about the New Year Kick-Off party on Jan. 16, 2016 at the Clarion Hotel on Spring Street in Nashville. Social Hour is at 5:30pm, Dinner at 6:30, and band at 7:45pm. Please let Samantha know if you want to book a room at a special rate of \$94.00 plus tax. Must be reserved by 12/16/15.

John Dean won the 50/50 drawing and

donated it back to the down biker fund. Thank you.

Connie Jones

NORTHEAST- Next Meeting: Monday, Jan. 4, 7:00, Call for location

TENNESSEE VALLEY - Next Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 17, 2:00, Call for Location Mark (Yog) 423-570-0250

There was no November meeting since no members showed for the meeting. There will be no meeting in December since Christmas and the holidays are so close to our meeting date. Charter meetings will reconvene after the first of the year.

Next meeting will be January 17th 2:00 p.m. at "Clydes on Main" in Chattanooga.

Remember life is a journey so take the long way home
Yog

SMITH /WILSON /STONES RIVER - Next Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 3, 2:00, The Roost, Lebanon

SUMMER COUNTY - Next Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 21, 7:00, VFW Hall, Hendersonville or TBA

UPPER CUMBERLAND - Next Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 3, 12:00. Call for Details, Ron 931-879-3899

Next meeting scheduled for January 3rd at Scooter's (Waterloo Rd, Cookeville) December's meeting and Christmas luncheon took place at Hawg's Barn in Cookeville. Meeting brought to order with the Pledge.

Treasurer's report was positive. T-shirts

being sold at a reduced price to deplete inventory. New T's in process.

Legislative: We were honored to have State Representative, Kelly Keisling, of District 38, speak at our meeting. Mr. Keisling informed of the Governor's 15-City Tour mainly focusing on transportation/highway systems, among other concerns relating to our State. He asked to have 2 individuals from our Charter attend as guests on the House floor in Nashville. Dean and Ron accepted.

Activities: Discussions on obtaining more sponsorships (sponsorship forms distributed to those that inquired); and the need to get started on the details for the Liberty Rally (3rd weekend May 2016).

Cliff was the lucky 50/50 winner and donated half back into the Charter. Curt came in 1st at the Poker Hand and donated back to the Charter – Thank you Cliff and Curt!! Generosity was the theme at our luncheon. Thanks to all of whom attended this year's Christmas party and for your donations given towards assisting Lynn with her recovery. Also, Trina thank you for the wonderful meal; and thanks to all that brought desserts and/or dish. Once again, the Christmas gathering was fun and Dirty Santa participants were pleased.

Next scheduled meetings: 1st Sunday of each month (January at Scooter's in Cookeville; February at Blind Zebra; and March at Whistle Stop)

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



Glenn Stout in the keg roll competition @ the liberty rally



Glenn and Sharon Stout's grandson Adam Grant loved motorcycles. He rides in heaven now due to a tragic car accident a couple month after that pic was taken.



Glenn and Sharon Stout getting ready for the cone and ball. We tell everybody that she hasn't been on the bike in so long that she forgot how to ride



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Legislative Strategy Agenda 2016

December 6, 2015

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation Releases its Legislative Strategy Agenda for 2016

At the 2015 Motorcycle Riders Foundation's (MRF) 31st annual Meeting of the Minds Conference held in Milwaukee, WI, a Legislative Strategy Session was hosted by the MRF's Legislative Committee. As has been done for the past several years, the MRF requested that it be attended by Sustaining State Motorcyclists Rights Organizations (SSMRO) Legislative and/or Executive Officers. We welcomed several representatives from our Sustaining Motorcycle Clubs and Organizations as well. The goal was to set the MRF's Federal Legislative Agenda for the 2015 Meeting of the Minds to the 2016 Meeting of the Minds annual cycle.

The MRF's SSMRO partners responded once again with a majority attendance that resulted in a healthy dialogue focused on motorcycling. The MRF Legislative Committee remains extremely pleased at the aligned and clear direction we experienced again this year from our SSMRO partners. This level of agreement continues to allow for solid action plans to be developed by our Legislative Committee and our Board of Directors that can be effectively employed by our Government Relations Department and our SSMRO partners while in Washington D.C. and in working federal issues in their home states. Additionally, we continue to see productive gains in state legislative activities that support our federal efforts when it comes to protecting on-road motorcyclists, motorcycling, and its associated lifestyle.

The MRF Legislative Committee continued the practice instituted five years ago of recording one vote per SSMRO in attendance. A full breakdown of each vote will be printed in the upcoming issue of the MRF Reports. The session this year was moderated by MRF Vice President, Jay Jackson, with support from MRF Vice

President of Government Relations & Public Affairs, Jeff Hennie, and MRF President, Kirk "Hardtail" Willard.

- FAST reauthorization (the Highway Bill) - work to include Motorcycle 2010 type Grant Funding, continuation of the NHTSA Lobbying Ban, pursue reinstatement of the Motorcycle Advisory Council (MAC) to advise the FHWA, oppose any motorcycling related federal blackmails or federal sanctions contained in the highway bill; closely monitor for any action that would negatively impact motorcycles, motorcycling, and motorcyclists; seek to include HR1861 type language to ban motorcycle specific roadblock grant funding; seek to clarify ownership of "black box" data

- SAE Motorcycle Roadside Sound Test - The MRF to NOT promote the use of the SAE Sound Test as a National enforcement standard, majority considered this a state issue

- Continue monitoring the Federal Crash Causation study and the SF Naturalistic study

- Strongly oppose any federal standard proposing stamping and certifying of motorcycle exhaust systems

- Work to discourage ALL forms of distracted driving, and oppose all forms of funding blackmails or withholding of funds as related to motorcyclists, watch this issue closely for motorcycle specific discriminatory language

- Continue participation at the federal level where the definition of a motorcycle is under review taking advantage of any opportunity available to enhance and further clarify

- MRF will oppose any motorcycling, motorcycle, or motorcyclist-based discriminatory legislation or rules proposed by the U.S. Congress or by a federal agency

- MRF to seek a legislative vehicle to in-

clude motorcyclist anti-profiling language this upcoming session

- Continue participation in motorcycle related activity in the European Union, United Nations, and Canada

- MRF to fiercely oppose any mandatory helmet or apparel standards

- MRF directed by our SSMROs to not support the use of ethanol fuels higher than E10 or any other newly developed fuel blends including alternative renewable fuels without further testing on motorcycle engines and obtaining specific recommendations from motorcycle manufacturers approving their use

- MRF to continue to ensure the inclusion of motorcycles in ongoing Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) emerging technologies

- Pursue safer roadway design strategies at the federal level

- Continue to promote our theme of crash avoidance versus safer crashing, using the principles of House Resolution 1498 urging NHTSA to focus on crash prevention and rider education

- MRF to pursue limiting funding in a relevant legislative vehicle of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for their increasing involvement in motorcycling safety issues

- MRF to monitor private organizations that oppose the legislative agenda or mission of the MRF and investigate their funding sources to make certain they are not receiving federal tax dollars

- MRF to monitor public organizations for funding sources when in opposition to our legislative agenda or mission, respond appropriately if they receive federal tax dollars

- MRF to monitor and report on non-transportation federal agencies becoming increasingly involved in motorcycling such as the Government Accountability Office

(GAO)

- MRF to continue to closely monitor the federally mandated Affordable Health Care Act for potential motorcyclist and motorcycling discrimination
- MRF to fully engage the EPA on upcoming activity on motorcycle emission regulations and motorcycle drive train mandates
- MRF to support the Black Box Protection Act to regulate black boxes in motorcycles, seek to clarify the rights of the vehicle owner to ownership of the recorded data
- MRF to monitor fair tolling concepts on federally funded roads and roads supported by federal bonds
- MRF to seek to add clarification of an "autocycle" as third class of vehicle at the federal level
- Lane splitting was discussed and decided it should remain a state by state issue with the MRF providing resources, there is no federal lane splitting initiative at this time
- Federal Agency Motorcycle Design Standards - MRF to oppose non motorcycle manufacturer mandated specific design standards
- SSMRO's by discussion and vote request-

ed the MRF engage with multiple partners to draft federal anti-profiling language specific to motorcyclists and work to include it in the upcoming Congressional session

- Request for MRF Sustaining Member Motorcycle Club Committee to lead an effort to provide resources to clarify the usage of the terms gang, club, known associate, associate when referring to motorcyclists
- There was agreement that there would be an effort by the MRF and SSMROs to get non-motorcycle powered two- and three-wheelers such as mopeds, scooters, and the various cabin-based steering wheel type vehicles removed from motorcycle crash statistics.
- There was discussion on the novelty helmet educational promotional campaign by NHTSA to the Law Enforcement Community and it was decided the SSMROs should be educating their members on the definition of a helmet as practically used in their states

With the current U.S. Congress, combined with our comprehensive and aggressive legislative agenda, the MRF Legislative Committee strongly encourages our

SSMRO partners and our MRF members to actively engage in a lively motorcycling dialogue with their U.S. House of Representative and U.S. Senate Members as an immediate priority. We will need our strong presence to continue with this Congress. If your SSMRO needs any assistance in planning a trip to Washington D.C. to begin or strengthen the dialogue with your members of Congress, contact the MRF Washington D.C. office at 202-546-0983. We would also like to encourage you to finalize your plans to attend our national biker lobby day event in Washington D.C., Bikers Inside the Beltway, on Thursday May 12th, 2016. See our website at www.mrf.org for more details.

MRF Legislative Committee Members: Dave "DAD" Dwyer, George Gorman, Lenny Holcomb, Ryan Hubbard, Jay Jackson, Jim "Legs" Korte, Boyd McFail, Bob Myers, Todd Riba, Kirk "Hardtail" Willard (Chair) Kirk "Hardtail" Willard, MRF President, kirk@mrf.org

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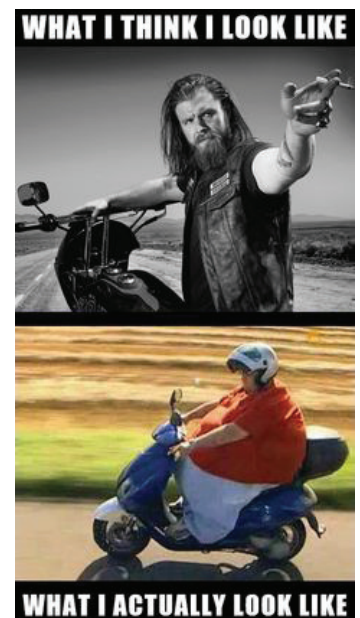
MRF State Rep Report –

This will be a short article, because the other part of what I want you to see is rather long. One of the most important items to come out of the Meeting of the Minds in September is the legislative agenda for 2016. This document is printed in this newsletter, and lists all the issues that we agreed that the Motorcycle Riders Foundations should address at our nation's capital over the next year. It is a long list of issues, some of which just require that the MRF watch what's going on, but some of them may require the efforts of motorcyclist's across the nation to contact their representatives in Washington DC. When these issue come up. I'll get the word out as quickly as I can, but anything printed in

the newsletters is probably too late. To get the most up-to-date information, please join the MRF, and subscribe to their MRF Alerts. This puts the information in your hands as soon as it is issued, and gives you a chance to act on it before decisions are made in Washington that could have a major impact on motorcycling. All the good work we do here in Tennessee could be wiped out by a single ill-conceived idea in Washington.

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History of ABATE in America - How it all started

The following material was originally published in Easyriders magazine in the early 1970's

Continued from December, 2015

ABATE formed five regions in the country, each region having about 10 states. Each region has a Regional Coordinator who coordinates information between the state ABATE organizations. Each ABATE state organization is now independent and on its own. Because of all the hassles of trying to form a national organization. The trust and funds needed, the probability of another attempt at forming a nation is most unlikely. In the meantime, ABATE people all over the country are taking care of business as always, and no matter what happens, they will be there taking care of business.

author unknown

A Brief History Of Bikers Rights In America As seen by Bill Bish , National Coalition of Motorcyclists ABATE of California Hello! My name is Bill Bish, and I'm Executive Coordinator of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists and Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M. and NCOM), and I've been active in bikers rights for over thirteen years, having served in various state and local positions within ABATE of California, including two terms as Chairman of the Board and two terms as State Director. A few years ago I compiled a "History of ABATE" article for our ABATE of California newsletter, the "Bailing Wire", which people must've enjoyed reading because it has since been reprinted in several newsletters and magazines. Soooo, for you history buffs, I'll try to piece together some of our early beginnings, with apologies to those who were there from the start. I wasn't, so this is only from my early conversations with people like Deacon, Ron Roloff and others who WERE there, as well as my own research and admittedly spotty memory. Through my involvement with NCOM and ABATE of California, I have had the privilege of traveling across the United States to preach unity and and spread important information, and I will always treasure my memories of the places that bikers' rights has taken me and the friendly face that have greeted me. Because our issue is so emotional and deeply personal, I have developed close relationships with many Freedom Fighters throughout the country who I am proud to call Brother and Sister. It was this deep sense of "Family" within the motorcycle rights community that inspired me to trace our family tree. Much has been said of the coming new millennium, and of the opportunities and pitfalls our future holds in store, but one thing is certain... "YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHERE YOU'VE BEEN TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING!" With that thought in mind, I'd like to take you on a brief trip down memory lane, as we open up our Family Album and retrace our History as a bikers' rights movement here in the United States:

Easyriders magazine editor Lou Kimzey issued a plea in issue #3, October 1971, for bikers to come together to fight impending restrictions from the National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) by joining a new national bikers' rights organization called the National Custom Cycle Association, but because of a conflict with the acronym the name was changed in February 1972 to A B rotherhood A gainst T otalitarian E nactments (ABATE). I recall Joe Teresi, publisher of Easyriders, telling me that they had a contest around the office to come up with a new name, and one of the secretaries came up with "ABATE". He told me they were on a deadline and needed a logo real fast, so they took a stylized German eagle and transformed it into the logo used by many ABATE's to this day. Easyriders began granting state charters around 1974, and Keith Ball was the original national coordinator (Keith later became editor of Easyriders until his retirement). ABATE organizations which came into existence around this same time were chartered in Kansas, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and New York; and also MMA of California, MMA of Massachusetts, New Hampshire Motorcycle Rights Organization, Rhode Island Motorcycle Association, Connecticut Motorcycle Rights Association, and the Wisconsin Better Bikers Association. Easyriders published some phone numbers and a loose knit network of bikers' rights activists began to grow.

Ron Roloff and others had already founded the Modified Motorcycle Association of California, and it's interesting too note that Easyriders' original name for their rights group was similar to MMA's because the biggest threat, aside from the original federal helmet mandates, which were instituted in 1966 by congress and later repealed in 1976, was that the U.S. DOT (Department of Transportation) was investigating ways to restrict modified or custom "choppers" which were deemed unsafe, especially extended forks. Deacon, founder of ABATE of California, once related to me that the 60's fad of ridiculously high sissy bars came about because the government started requiring "grab bars" for passenger safety, so the riders of the day flaunted the law by building them as long and garish as they could get away with. Almost every state during this time passed handlebar height restrictions, mandatory eye protection, motorcycle licensing requirements, light on laws and other equipment regulations, and many other restrictions on our "Freedom Machines" were being considered by legislators and bureaucrats to make motorcycling "safer". In most states, before motorcyclists became politically organized, the clubs were the first to fight helmet laws and other restrictions. As the rights movement grew, Don Pittsley, a member of the Huns M/C in Connecticut convinced his congressman, Rep. Stewart McKinney, to introduce H.R. 3869 to end the Federal authority to withhold highway funds from states without helmet laws (i.e., the "National Helmet

Law"). In July of 1975, Rob Rasor of the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), Ron Roloff of the MMA of California and Ed Armstrong of ABATE of Chicago presented the House Sub-Committee on Surface Transportation with convincing testimony to repeal the helmet mandates.

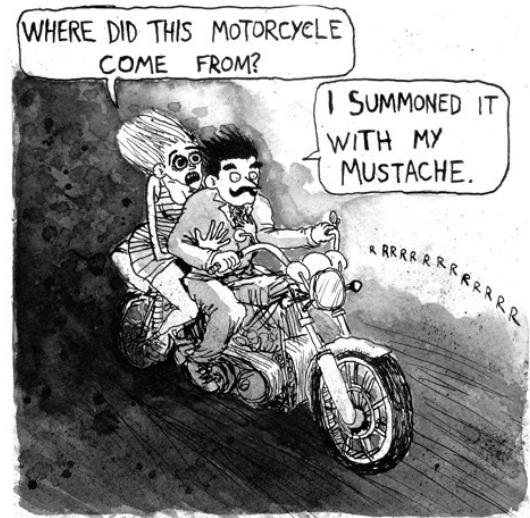
Later that year, with California being sued by the DOT because Governor Ronald Reagan refused to comply with the federal helmet law mandate, Roloff helped convince California Senator Alan Cranston to offer the language of the bill as an amendment to the 1975 Federal Highway Act, which passed with overwhelming support from the California delegation because of the impending lawsuit, and was signed by president Gerald Ford on May 5, 1976. Not bad for a rag tag bunch of bikers with little or no previous political ambitions. Spurred on by many successful protest rallies around the country following the national helmet law repeal, and the eventual repeal of more than 30 state helmet laws, ABATE, MMA and other motorcycle rights organizations sprang up in every state and are now a fixture in Capitols across America. Following several failed attempts to start a national motorcycle rights organization, including Easyriders giving up the reigns of National ABATE, in 1985 the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) hosted their first Meeting of the Minds conference, and less than a year later, in 1986, the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) held their first National Convention. Motorcycling leaders nationwide realized the need for a united voice and the necessity of networking and communicating with each other, and both the MRF and NCOM grew and have become effective partners with state MRO'S in protecting riders' rights on the federal, state and local fronts.

The concept of unity was put to the test in the early 1990's, when Congress again attempted to force states into passing helmet laws, and American motorcyclists came together en masse, and in a coordinated effort between the MRF and NCOM virtually every state sent representatives from their MRO (Motorcycle Rights Organization) to walk the hallowed halls of Washington, D.C., in search of their U.S. Senators and Representatives. The grand lobbying experiment WORKED, and in just FOUR YEARS bikers were able to persuade Congress in 1995 to once again repeal their misdirected and misguided "nanny" law and return the decision to the individual states. That same federal transportation legislation also repealed the national 55 mph maximum speed limit!

Soon afterwards, Arkansas modified their mandatory helmet law to allow Freedom of Choice for adult riders 21 and older. Texas soon followed, as well as Kentucky and, most recently, Louisiana. As a result of our newfound political clout, motorcyclists have successfully approached Congress twice over the past few years, first to grant federal protections against insurance discrimination based on mode of transportation because many companies (most notably Ruger Firearms and the Teamsters Union) were denying medical benefits to employees injured in motorcycle accidents. Then, just last session (1998), motorcyclists united to put together a pro-active agenda for bikers, and succeeded in lobbying it through Congress; included in this "wish list" for bikers was a guarantee that motorcyclists would be included during the development of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technology; ensures that motorcycles are guaranteed access to any and all roads built with the use of federal highway funds (no road bans) ; restricts anti-motorcycle lobbying efforts by NHTSA and shifts their focus from injury prevention to accident prevention; and provides \$131 million for recreational trails development and maintenance!

During this same time, many state rights groups have become proactive within their states instead of RE-acting to legislative threats. Minnesota passed our nations first law to make it illegal to discriminate against someone because they ride a motorcycle; Arizona, Iowa, Oregon and Washington have successfully repealed or modified their state's handlebar height law; Virginia and Illinois have lobbied their states to reinforce the federally guaranteed access to roads by passing laws to protect our rights to ride on any roads within their state boundaries; and several states have fought and defeated so-called "No Fault" insurance proposals that are unfair to motorcyclist. Also, now, through the work of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists, patch holders in 33 states have come together to form Confederations of Clubs to fight discrimination and police harassment judicially through the Courts...bringing the motorcycle rights network full circle with the rejuvenated interest of the motorcycle club community. While our early bikers' rights leaders paved our way, other dynamic and concerned riders have stepped forward to take the reigns and lead us into the 21st Century. But we should never forget the efforts and sacrifices of our predecessors who faced intimidation from law enforcement, indifference from legislators and animosity from a public that saw "The Wild One" one too many times. Yet they got the job done, and were it not for their perseverance and dedication, we would not have become the respected and effective grass roots lobbying group that we are today.

So, there you have it. The roots of ABATE and bikers' rights run deep in the hearts of those of us who have accepted and, in turn, passed on the torch of Freedom of the Road. To all of those who came before, we salute you! Where will the future take us? That's entirely up to you... But, I'd like to leave you with a quote from Margaret Mead; "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that has." Bill Bish AIM/ NCOM



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Updated Dec., 2015

Welcome New Members!

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UpCu	Lillian Stager
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MoCo	Sandra Barker
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What? Photo Contest

Who? Open to every CMT/ABATE member

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BOOZE IT – LOSE IT!

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.