

# Tennessee Motorcyclist



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

February 2021



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Newspaper	Shannon R. Gregory	615-479-2684	keeblergs@yahoo.com
PR/Communications	Shannon R. Gregory	615-479-2684	keeblergs@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
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, Full Throttle Old Hickory
Robertson County	Roland Verchota 615-533-6368 Verchotaw@bellsouth.net	1st Tuesday @ 7, Piggy Pit Springfield
Smith-Wilson- Stones River	Larry Binkley 615-417-5229 lb54panel@aol.com	1st Sunday @ 12, 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 to another edition of the Tennessee Motorcyclist. As you well know, we still are in the mist of COVID-19. But the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter as a vaccine is being distributed throughout the United States. At the beginning of January, two of our members have registered to be lobbyists in Nashville for the organization. Congratulations to Joel Jernigan, our Assistant Corporate Director and Paul Gordon, (Poindexter) our Legislative Director. Due to the restrictions at the Cordell Hall building, registered lobbyists are allowed to go in. These two gentlemen will be doing a lot of work for the organization during the next six months while legislative is in progress. They will be meeting with Representatives and Senators to lobby freedom. We also

have one other bill that we'd like to make a change to if possible. That involves TCA 55-9-302. It allows removal of head gear during body escort, processions and memorial rides, from the speed limit of 30 to the speed limit of 50. Me, personally, I do a lot of escorts up here in Northeast Tennessee and the towns in between where the speed limits in between towns are higher speed limits. This is one way you can enjoy the freedom of choice by doing these escorts, memorial rides, and processions. I enjoy this every chance I get to go on these rides. The feeling that you get, especially when you're escorting veterans is just so rewarding. So, get in touch with your local Representatives and your Senators if they support freedom of choice and the other bill. Have them get in touch with Representative Jay Ready and Senator Kerry Roberts to

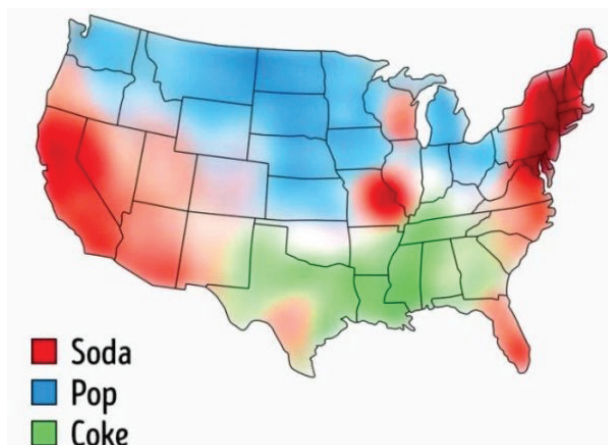
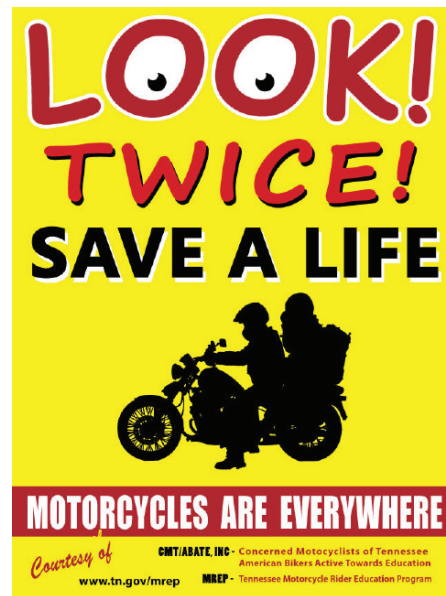
support these two gentlemen. We need everyone to participate. Your Representatives and Senators want to hear from their constituents. Remember you can sign up and renew on [www.cmtabate.com/shop](http://www.cmtabate.com/shop), its safe, simple and easy. Well, that's all I have for now until next month. Everyone be safe, take care of yourself, and if you get a chance to ride, do it in style.

Scott Smith  
CMT/ABATE INC  
Corporate Director



## Asst. Director's Column

To: All CMT/ABATE members.  
Sorry I got behind and missed last month but not much to report. I would like to welcome Paul (Poindexter) Gordon as Legislative Officer and I look forward to working with him. I do believe he will put forth the effort needed to accomplish our goals at the State House. I am looking forward to the next year and I hope we can have more activities and fellowship this year. That being said I believe we need to get out and visit other chapters during the year. Our organization does not end with our chapters, we are all members of the State organization. I did announce at the December BOD meeting I will be seeking reelection at the March BOD and I hope I can count on everyone's support. That's about all for now.  
Ride Your Own Ride  
Joel Jernigan Assistant Corporate Director.



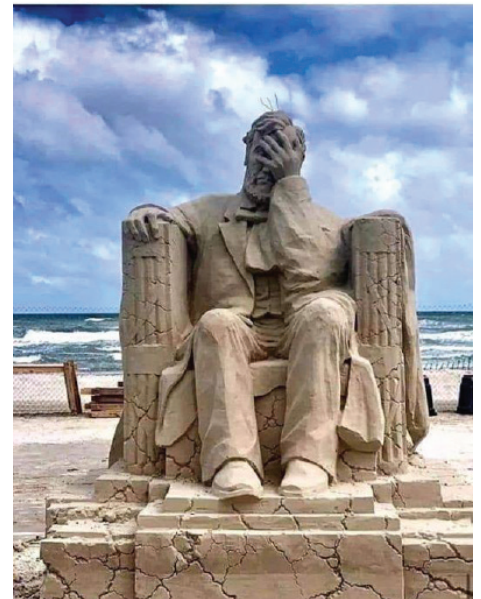
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### Legislative Director's Ramblings

CMT/ABATE is an organization dedicated to education and safety for motorcyclist all across the State. That being said, I am the newly elected Legislative Director. I live in Hickman Co. and a member DHH. Being new to the job, don't be too rough on me as it will take me a little time to get everything lined out. This year we are running with Representative Reedy's FREEDOM OF CHOICE BILL. It does not have a bill number yet as it will be going forward as a CAPTION BILL. Once the bill gets through the committees to the full floor, then it will be given a bill number. I WILL EMPHASIZE I CAN DO MY JOB AT

THE CAPITOL BUT IT WILL TAKE EVERYONE IN THE ORGANIZATION TO CALL AND TALK TO YOUR HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES AND STATE SENATORS. ASK THEM TO TALK TO REPRESENTATIVE REEDY AND TRY TO CO-SPONSOR HIS BILL.  
POINDEXTER

Paul "Poindexter" Gordon  
Corporate Legislative Director



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### MRF State Rep Report –

*"The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well meaning but without understanding."*

— Louis D. Brandeis

A new administration is being installed in Washington DC. The shift in government control will open opportunities for the new administration to enact some sweeping changes in the direction of legislation and regulation. In their zeal to reshape the country to this new vision, the impact of the decisions being made may not be understood. It becomes our role to educate the members of the legislature and the regulatory agencies on how these actions can affect motorcyclists.

The change in administration will bring some familiar faces back to DC, but there will also be some new names that we have not had the opportunity to work with before. Now is the time to start reaching out to introduce ourselves to the new occupants of these offices. You

can play a part in this effort by contacting your own Representative. If they were recently elected, congratulate them on their new position. Let them know that as a CMT/ABATE member and motorcyclist, you are concerned about issues affecting motorcycling. You don't need to address any specific issues immediately, but be sure that they have contact information for CMT/ABATE and the MRF in case any motorcycling issues come across their desk that they would like input on. Keep it short and friendly. That starts the relationship, and the next time you call (perhaps about some legislative bill that we are concerned about) they will already recognize you as one of their "motorcycling experts".

The MRF conducts this same activity, making sure the federal regulators and legislators know who the "motorcycling expert" in DC is, and using this to initiate a relationship so that the first call made is to the MRF when a motorcycling bill comes across their desk. CMT/ABATE is

the "motorcycling expert" for our State legislators here in Tennessee, but having a local name & face to put with that makes it more personal for them, and let's them know these issues affect their own constituents. Forming these relationships, and then continuing to keep in touch with your legislators, is critical in being able to educate them on the issues related to motorcycling. This is how we can temper their zeal with a bit of understanding, and it provides a pathway for ensuring our right to...

...Ride Free,  
-- Ed



Ed Domine  
MRF State Rep  
CMT/ABATE

- ☐ Annual Individual Membership \$35
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- ☐ Annual Sustaining Membership \$100
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Phone: 202.546.0983  
[www.mrf.org](http://www.mrf.org)

Fax: 202.546.0986  
[mrfoffice@mrf.org](mailto:mrfoffice@mrf.org)

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**Editor's Note:** All information for the newsletter has to be sent electronically by the 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS CMT/ABATE OF TENNESSEE

Feb. 10 Legislation Day  
Feb. 20 Upper Cumberland  
Broomstick Pool Tournament  
Feb. 27 SWSR Biker Bucks Party

March 20 Scheduled New Year  
Kick Off Party TBA  
March 27 "Don't Ride Fried" Car-  
nival at Redneck Rumble

April 3 SWSR Easter Egg Hunt  
and campout  
April 17 Sumner County Swap  
Meet  
April 24 Caney Fork Points Ro-  
deo  
April 30 SWSR Cinco de Mayo  
Campout

May 15 Upper Cumberland  
Liberty Rally and Points Rodeo  
June 5 DHH Bike and Tattoo  
show

June 11 Upper Cumberland  
Barbarossa's  
June 12 SWSR Police Dep. Sine  
Day  
June 18 June Bug Boogie  
June 26 Music City Cookout

July 15 Kentucky Bike Rally  
July 17 Upper Cumberland  
Memorial Ride

Aug. 27 Southern Thunder Rally  
and Points Rodeo

Sept. 11 Robertson Co. Memorial  
Ride  
Sept. 17 SWSR Finals Rodeo

Oct. 30 DHH Toy Run  
Dec. 4 Robertson Co. Toy Run

### ABATES PAGE OF SERVICES

"ABATE members helping ABATE members"

Robins Nest Tattoos  
Hilham, TN 931-265-1972

Handgun Carry Permit Class  
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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](mailto:publisher@cmtabate.com) and we'll list it!

## CHARTER EVENTS CALENDAR

### February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 RoCo MoCo	3	4 WOT	5	6
7 SWSR/UpCo MuCi	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Nash	18 SMCo DHH	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27 CaFo						

### March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 RoCo MoCo	3	4 WOT	5	6
7 SWSR/UpCo MuCi	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Nash	18 SMCo DHH	19	20 New Year Party TBA
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Carnival Redneck Rumb
28 CaFo	29	30	31			

## ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTER

Do you know a business that could benefit  
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Full Page—\$130/mo.

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566-9936 Deadline is the 10th of the month  
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to [newspaperabate@gmail.com](mailto:newspaperabate@gmail.com)

NEWS & EVENTS  
(MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

## MUSIC CITY

I missed sending in December's Minutes so here are December and January's. December meeting called to order at 2:00 pm and Joel led the pledge. 9 members in attendance, Reminder about Christmas Party And activities.

M/Mave S/Lisa Officers shall remain in office for another year as there were no nominations to oppose. Unanimous. M/Mave S/ Lisa due to no fundraisers this year to make our pledge 100 dollars to state treasurer for the year 2021. We shall add more if we can hold activities this year. Unanimous.

Hattie won 50/50

M/Hattie S/ Mave to adjourn.

January meeting called to order at 2: pm by Glenn and he led the pledge.

9 members present.

We presented the activities calendar from BOD to members watch for it in newsletter also.

Small discussion about cancelled kick-off Party and chance of rescheduling in March.

I let members know I was running for reelection as Assistant Corporate Director in March.

I won 50/50 donated back. M/GlennS/Hattie to Adjourn. Ride your own ride Joel

## ROBERTSON COUNTY

Our meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of each month at The Pit in Springfield at 7:00pm. A big thank you to all that come to our meeting. Johann went over the Legislative. Unfortunately still not much going on right now. Hopefully over the next several months events can come back. Really miss everyone, and can't wait until we can all get back together again. Roland won the 50/50 and donated back. Thank you! Hope to see everyone at our next meeting on Feb. 2nd. Connie Jones

## SMITH /WILSON /STONES RIVER

## SUMNER COUNTY

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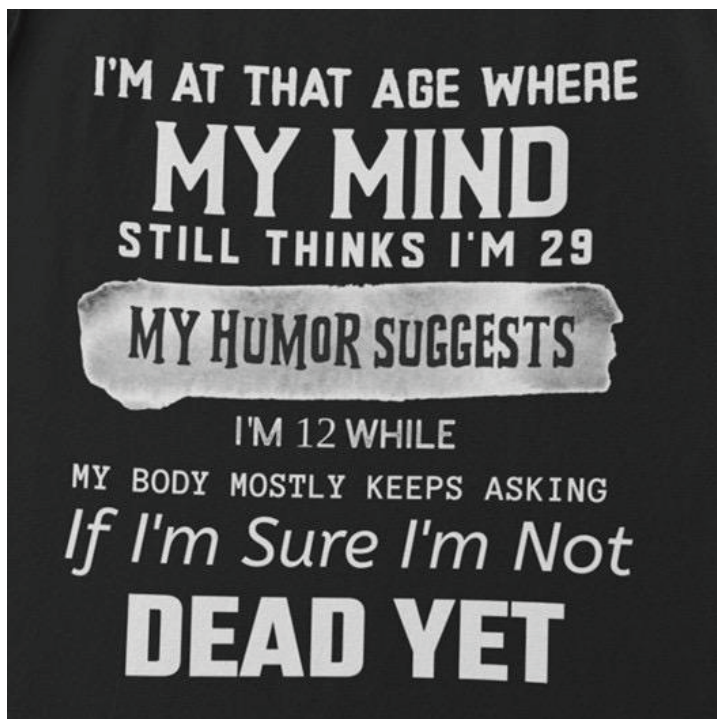
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Promote awareness and education in the motorcycling community to improve riders' safety, and educate non-riders globally in the interest of all riders' safety.

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

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



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# Tips for riding your motorcycle in winter

THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN FORWARDED IN ITS ENTIRETY FROM AN INFORMATION ARTICLE PROVIDED ON November 23, 2020 BY DAIRYLAND INSURANCE COMPANY and sent to the Tennessee Motorcyclist newsletter produced by CMT/ABATE, Inc. and submitted by Carol A Simpson, Safety and Awareness Director of CMT/ABATE, Inc.

Many riders view motorcycling as a three-season activity. Once the first sign of a snowy forecast comes around, they start prepping for winter bike storage and wonder about the sanity of riders who see winter riding as an invigorating experience.

There is reason to be cautious. Winter motorcycle riding has all the hazards of the other three seasons and introduces a few more. It requires more preparation and planning, plus a keen awareness of current road and weather conditions. That said, it truly can be an exhilarating experience, and once you're skilled at riding your motorcycle in winter, you can kiss cabin fever goodbye. Here are eight tips to help you break the ice on winter riding—pun intended.

## 1. Understand the risks of winter motorcycle riding

Being a safe motorcycle rider depends on your training, knowledge, skills, equipment, and risk management. While many view motorcycle riding as a physically low-impact sport, it actually requires a reasonable level of fitness, strength, and good health.

Winter motorcycle riding also requires you to carefully consider your risk vs. benefit assessment before deciding to ride instead of winterizing the bike. Let's look at some of the riding risks you'll need to manage:

- **Speed:** Generally, you'll need to drive at lower speeds. Reduced speed gives you more time to respond to evolving traffic and road hazards in front of you. Another benefit of reduced speed is reducing stopping distance, especially when traction is a greater issue in winter.
- **Following distance:** The normal rule for following distance is two seconds. This works well in the warm season for attentive riders. In winter consider increasing this distance. Remember to check your mirror frequently for tailgaters. Your reaction times could be slower in the cold. Plus, other road users could react more suddenly or erratically when experiencing loss of traction or traffic issues.
- **Road conditions:** Surface hazards increase dramatically in winter. Black ice—which is practically impossible to see until you're almost on it—must be expected anywhere the road surface may be at or below freezing. Morning frost, while more visible, is still very slick. Avoid ice, frost, and places likely to have black ice. Road salt, sand, or cinder can accumulate and be as slippery as ice, causing you to lose traction. Due to temperature changes, potholes develop—along with frost heaves—and snowplows can catch on the road, causing edge traps and debris.
- **Visibility:** This breaks down into two functional aspects:
  - o **Seeing:** Seeing as far ahead as possible can help you manage the increase in surface hazards and higher potential of sudden changes in traffic and traction. Seeing hazards sooner gives you more time to avoid them or stop if needed.
  - o **Being seen:** If you sometimes feel invisible to other drivers in the middle of summer, expect this to increase in winter. One of the last things car and truck drivers expect to see in winter is someone riding a motorcycle. Wearing black or dark riding gear will make you blend into the bleak barren landscape. Contrary to the assumption that it will stand out against snow, it won't. This season, wearing brightly colored and reflective gear can help the problem of being invisible to other road users.

## 2. Review the best motorcycles for winter

There are different schools of thought about what a winter motorcycle should be, leading to conflicting and confusing information. Reviewing the possible models of motorcycles for winter riding opens questions, not of brands, but of riding philosophy. At one end of the spectrum is the approach that suggests acquiring a beater motorcycle for winter riding since it's got low monetary value. The premise being, if you fall while winter riding, damage to your machine is a low value loss. Further, this line of thought accepts neglect of the machine to winter wear by elements like road salt.

The other approach is to ride a motorcycle best suited for handling winter conditions. A motorcycle with ABS and traction control can better handle the reduced traction found on winter roads. Having a robust electrical system will support better lighting for the increased darkness of shorter days, along with easier starting and power for electric riding gear to keep you warm. Low fairings or at least a windshield can help protect you from the cold wind.

Simply put, it's better to ride the best bike you can afford and take good care of it if you're hoping to experience safer and more comfortable winter motorcycle rides.

## 3. Use winter motorcycle gear

Perhaps you're planning to use the bike you've already got to ride during winter. Making some improvements to your motorcycle can help to keep you safer while riding through this season. Here are some winter updates to consider:

- **Winter motorcycle tires:** Cars can get rear-studded snow tires in winter and there are a wide variety of all-season radials or winter and snow-rated tires. For motorcycles, it's a different story. While there are a few winter or snow tires made globally, they are rarely available in the United States and come in limited sizes. Studded tires for ice racing are available but are not street worthy. There's good and bad news when it comes to winter motorcycle tires. The good news is that the thread compound is designed to be sticky below about 40° F. The bad—above 40° F they're less effective than normal tires and can deteriorate rapidly.
- **Windshield:** Windshields can do wonders to keep the frigid wind off your body. If you own a touring motorcycle, you likely have one already. If not, there's a wide range of aftermarket windshields available for almost every type of motorcycle.
- **Handlebar-mounted thermometer:** Seeing ambient temperature while riding in the winter is a great way to maintain awareness of your hypothermia and frostbite risk. Remember to factor in wind chill. They can be helpful all year long too. Summer heat, which we miss during the cold, has its own risks.

## 4. Avoid riding a motorcycle in the snow

Winter motorcycle riding begs the question, "Can you ride a motorcycle in the snow?" While there are some exceptions, like trail riding on specially prepared adventure motorcycles, or living in Finland or Canada, the simple answer is no. Acceleration, leaning to turn, and braking all require traction that is provided by two small contact patches on a motorcycle. Snow, even in small accumulations, will quickly zero out your traction.

Additionally, falling snow can rapidly cover your face shield and windshield if you have one, leaving your visibility compromised. If there is even a remote possibility of snowfall in the area you plan to ride in, stay home. After snow falls, allow ample time for the roads to be cleared and consider taking a four-wheeler for a reconnaissance drive before getting your motorcycle back out there.

## 5. Check temperatures before riding your bike in winter

Even when the skies are clear and blue and there's been no snow or other winter precipitation for many days, we still must contend with cold temperatures that make winter riding unique. So you ask, "How cold is too cold to ride my motorcycle?"

Here are several important factors for cold weather motorcycle riding:

- **Wind chill:** Wind chill is the effect of rapidly moving air to reduce the felt temperature and its impact on you. So, what feels like a warm winter day while standing in your driveway properly dressed for a winter ride, will be much colder on the road. Here's an example: An ambient air temperature of 40° F with a road speed of 65 mph translates to a wind chill factor of 24° F. Exposed skin at 24° F can develop frostbite. Here are some warning signs:
  - o Feeling very cold
  - o Developing numbness
  - o Experiencing tingling, itching, or burning sensations
  - o Displaying unusual clumsiness
- **Hypothermia:** While being exposed to subfreezing temperatures, you're at risk of developing hypothermia. This life-threatening condition occurs when your body's core temperature falls below 95° F. It is a life-threatening condition. Here are some symptoms of the onset of hypothermia you should be aware of:
  - o Uncontrollable shivering
  - o Feeling numb and weak
  - o Reduction of fine motor control
  - o Mental confusion
  - o Loss of consciousness
- **Dangerous temperature ranges:** As a rule, temperatures below freezing (32° F) are high risk. Depending on where you plan to ride, a higher temperature can still present a high-risk ride. Consider that 50° F in a valley may be fine but riding up a mountain at greater elevation can result in dramatic drops in temperature. Considering the possible temperatures not only where you plan to ride but also the time of day you'll be riding—temperatures can drop rapidly after sunset—will help you stay safe and ride comfortably.

#### 6. Wear cold-weather motorcycle clothing

Wearing all the gear all the time is best for your safety. This is doubly true in the winter. You should have two main goals in choosing and wearing your cold-weather motorcycle clothing. First is to maintain core temperature to avoid hypothermia. Second, is to keep extremities from exposure to cold air.

- **Winter motorcycle gloves:** Winter-rated gloves are an absolute necessity. They should both block the wind and have insulation to hold in warmth. It's a balancing act to find warm gloves that'll also provide good feel at the controls. Consider using electric gloves. Heated grips may help, but they don't replace the need for winter motorcycle gloves.
- **Helmet with face shield:** Your face and eyes must be protected from the cold blast of winter wind at road speed. Vision is your most powerful tool in managing all the hazards we face during our rides. The skin on your face is delicate and can get frostbite quickly, especially the nose and ears.
- **Layering:** Layering cold-weather motorcycle clothing and paying attention to avoiding gaps where the layers overlap is vital. Use a base layer that wicks away sweat. We do sweat in winter and that can make you cold faster. Next up, include a street layer that you're comfortable removing at rest stops. If you use electric riding gear, put that on over the street layer and under an insulating layer. Last is a layer that provides crash protection and stops the wind.

#### 7. Start your motorcycle before riding in the winter

While riding your motorcycle on a regular basis over the winter removes the need for storage preparation—your hidden bonus—let's not forget that winter presents challenges for our beloved motorcycles.

Cold weather can have a dramatic effect on the mechanics of your bike. Here's what you should consider:

- **Starting:** In cold temperatures, battery performance declines and the viscosity of motor oils will increase. Cold motors need more energy to turn the starter and move internal engine parts sitting in thicker oil. If your battery is getting old, plan on replacing it with one that has enough Cold Cranking Amps (CCA). Your owner's or service manual should provide a CCA rating.
- **Lubrication:** The standard specification for the viscosity of your motorcycle's oil is typically based on three-season riding. Your owner's or service manual will have specifications for changing the viscosity of the oil used for colder weather based on expected temperature ranges. Changing the motor oil to correspond with the normal range of winter temperatures can help your motor maintain its optimal performance.
- **Warm-up time and performance:** Prior to beginning your winter rides, warm up your bike's motor. This heats the oil and circulates through the top of the motor, helping to protect the high-stress components. This is especially important for motors that are built with different metals for different components—they heat up at different rates. An example would be an air-cooled bike with iron cylinders and aluminum heads. While gasket separation is not that common, it does happen, and a warm-up period helps protect your motor's service life and performance.
- **Idling without riding:** If you decide not to ride your bike for an extended period in the winter, you might wonder, "Does it benefit my bike to just run it without riding?" The answer is not really. In fact, it could do more harm than good. Internal combustion produces byproducts, one of which is H<sub>2</sub>O. While that's not harmful for the environment, it's not good in your motorcycle's systems. We've all seen water dripping from car mufflers in morning winter traffic (a great source for black ice). That water collects in an idling motorcycle's exhaust system and causes rust. Byproducts of combustion can also contaminate your motor oil, promoting corrosion. Idling just can't be trusted to get your motorcycle up to normal operating temperature. Some riders won't start their motorcycle unless it can be ridden a minimum of 30 miles or more.

#### 8. Practice winter motorcycle safety

An underlying thread in our winter riding discussion is motorcycle safety. Safety starts with planning ahead and knowing your personal limits. That said, there are some good habits you can build into your rides to make them safer during winter:

- **Make frequent stops:** You'll surely get cold and stiff after some time in the saddle, so plan some stops along your route. Look for places that offer warm food and a comfortable place to take off your outer layers and warm up. This may be harder during the COVID-19 pandemic, so call ahead.
- **Fuel your body:** Eat food that provides sustained energy for your body, like protein and complex carbohydrates. Avoid alcohol, sugar, simple carbohydrates, and junk food that can cause you to crash in more ways than one.
- **Check on fellow riders:** If you're riding with a passenger or other riders, think about their well-being. You might feel warm and ready for more miles but remember to check on them often to see if they feel the same.
- **Set riding goals:** Set a mileage and time goal for your rides to get home before the sunset.

Whether or not you decide to ride in the winter is a matter of personal choice, but with some extra planning, the right gear, and some common sense, it's possible to safely and comfortably ride your motorcycle during the winter. After all, more motorcycling is more joy. Share the good news!

Till next time, ride safe.





January 12, 2021

### **AHAS Released their 2021 State Traffic Safety Rankings**

This month, the Washington, D.C. based, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (AHAS) released their 2021 state traffic safety rankings (Report). The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) is troubled that the methodology used in studying motorcycle safety takes the flawed view that

safer crashes are better than no crashes.

The MRF has long believed that proper safety training of motorcyclists and education of other motorists is the most effective tool in protecting all roadway users. The MRF remains committed to working with our partners in the public and private sectors to ensure properly trained instructors impart skills that have a track record of creating safer riders.

Additionally, the AHAS report takes direct aim at the over 30 states that have

freedom of choice helmet laws. Recent studies show the state with the highest motorcycle fatality rate (Mississippi) has a mandatory helmet law, while the state with the lowest fatality rate (Montana) does not require a helmet for those over 18 years old. In fact, the AHAS study shows that 61% of motorcyclists killed were wearing helmets at the time of the crash. It should also be noted that the absence of a requirement does not prohibit someone from choosing to wear a helmet. The MRF firmly believes that any attempt at a federal helmet mandate or blackmail techniques designed to coerce states into enacting a helmet law is unacceptable.

MRF President Kirk "Hardtail" Willard, put it simply, "Encroachment on our personal freedoms and attacks on individual state laws goes against the foundational principles of this country." He added, "We all agree that deaths on our roadways are tragic but surrendering our freedoms in pursuit of safety is a dangerous path."

January 8, 2021

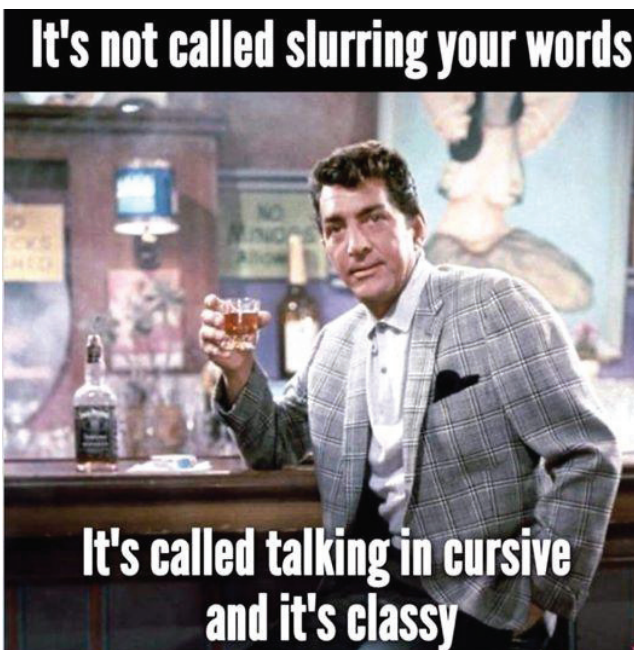
### **House of Representatives Fails to Pass Profiling Resolution**

On January 3rd the 117th Congress was sworn in and all bills and resolutions not agreed to from 2019-2020 must be reintroduced. The MRF is disappointed that, despite over 130 bipartisan cosponsors, House leadership failed to bring the motorcyclist profiling resolution, H. Res. 255, to the floor for a vote.

The issue of motorcyclist profiling continues to gain traction on Capitol Hill and the growth in cosponsors over the last 5-years is a testament to the work of individual MRF members and state motorcycle rights organizations. The first version of the resolution introduced during the 114th Congress had only 18 cosponsors. Two years later the version before the 115th Congress had 37 cosponsors while this version had 139 cosponsors. Additionally, the Highway Reauthorization bill that passed the House in July of 2020 included

language that focused on motorcyclists profiling.

Despite this setback our champions on Capitol Hill remain in the fight. The leadership of the House Motorcycle Caucus has already reached out to the MRF about plans to reintroduce the profiling resolution in early 2021. The MRF remains committed to seeing the House of Representatives do what the Senate did in 2018, go on the record about the need to end motorcyclists profiling!









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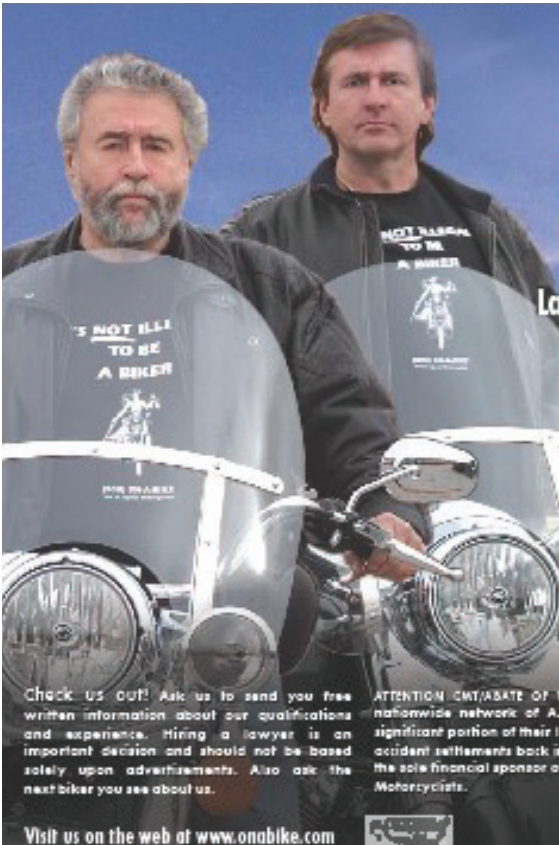
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Articles submitted after this date will be held for the next month, with the exception of time sensitive material. We welcome your opinions, comments, complaints and suggestions. Articles and photos pertaining to all things motorcycle are welcome. 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](mailto: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.