

American of Montana Newsletter Bikers Aiming Toward Education



The “BOOT LEG”

Volume 16, Issue 3

May - June 2011

For a complete listing of
ABATE of Montana
Chapters and
their events, please check
our website at:

www.mtabate.com

Oral Testimony before the House Sur- face Transportation Committee

March 29, 2011

Chairman Duncan, Mr. DeFazio, and members of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me to testify today on behalf of American motorcyclists'. My name is Senator Robert Letourneau and I am here representing the Motorcycle Riders Foundation which is a coalition of state's motorcyclists' rights organizations with individual members representing about 275,000 motorcyclists.

I served on the New Hampshire House Transportation Committee for 8 years and as Chairman of the New Hampshire Senate Transportation Committee for three terms. Currently I am serving as a Motorcycle Rider Education Specialist for the New Hampshire Department of Safety. Additionally, I have been motorcycle rider for 43 years.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide your subcommittee with some thoughts the MRF has on highway safety programs administered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Ad-

ministration The members of the MRF are appreciative that in the SAFETEA-LU legislation section 2010 provided \$25 million specifically for motorcycle safety rider education and motorist awareness of motorcycles. That program reached 48 States and has been extended for two additional years.

Funding shortfalls for motorcycle safety are present across the country. During this time of economic challenge and budget shortfalls many Governors are raiding the dedicated safety funds generated by licensing fees from motorcycles to pay for non-transportation programs. When states are running a deficit, they often turn to motorcycle safety funds as a piggy bank.

We pray that next reauthorization not only keep the federal motorcycle safety grant program as a priority but also keep in place the safeguards that protect these funds from being used for any other purpose.

Many non profit state motorcycle rights organizations (SMRO's) have implemented

(Continued on page 6)

ATTENTION!!!

Email us your picture/s of your “BOOTLEG” shots. We can crop them down to use them so any size will work. The “BOOTLEG” shot above DOES... belong to a ABATE of Montana Member.

So get out there and get us some pics!!



1-800-922-BIKE

<http://motorcycle.msun.edu>



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The **deadline** for the next newsletter will be **June 1st**. So please submit all your articles, ads, run dates and just about anything before this date, thank you.

The cost for ads are as follows;
Full page - \$130, Half page - \$70,
Quarter page - \$40, Business card - \$10,
Classifieds - free to members, \$5 for non-members, articles from any member are always appreciated and welcome.

Please send your requests to BOTH Editors in the same email. Thank you.

Deadlines for the year:
December 1st for the January - February issue.
February 1st for the March - April issue.
April 1st for the May - June issue.
June 1st for the July - August issue.
August 1st for the September - October issue.
October 1st for the November - December issue.

PRODUCTS:

Year Pins:

First to Ninth year - \$2.25
Tenth year - \$3.00
Eleventh to Nineteenth year - \$2.25
Twentieth year - \$3.00
Twenty First year - \$2.25
25th Anniversary pin - \$4.00

NEW!

Patches:

State Logo Patches - \$6.00
DBBNF patch - \$ 3.00

Can Coozies:

Blue or Black - \$2.00
Purchase all of the above through the Products Coordinator.

Digital Flags (\$20) and Embroidered Flags (\$40) of the State Logo can be purchased through the State Treasurer.

(All contact information is above!)



EVENTS CALENDAR

- April 30 - Hi-Line's White Water Ride, Havre, MT, (406)265-6161 Mugs
- April 30 - Bike Blessing, 1030 Euclid Ave. Helena, MT (406)475-6968 Jeff
- May 7 - Awareness Ride, Helena, MT Contact Helena Chapter
- May 14 - Poker Run to LY's Bike Show, Miles City, MT (406)234-6555
- May 14 - Lower Yellowstone 13th Annual Bike Show, Glendive, MT (406)365-5851
- May 14 - RoadDogs IRO Show N Shine 2011, Billings, MT, www.roaddogs.org
- May 14 - Big Sky Challenge Pro Hill Climb, Billings, MT www.billingsmotorcycleclub.us
- May 21 - 1st Annual SMEG Motorcycle Show, Kalispell, MT (406)857-3119 Steve
- May 27 - Reiter's Cup Motocross Series #1, Billings, www.billingsmotorcycleclub.us
- May 28 - RoadDogs IRO Fieldmeet 2011, Billings, MT, www.roaddogs.org
- June 4 - State Meeting, 1PM, Quality Inn Ponderosa/Tap House, Great Falls, MT
- June 10/11 - Montana Hope Kruz 4 Kidz, Livingston, MT (406)544-3207 Tom
- June 18 - Flat Track-Saturday Night Under The Lights, www.billingsmotorcycleclub.us
- June 18 - LY's 22nd Annual Poker Run, Hog Roast & Membership Drive, Glendive, MT
- June 18/19 - Big Muddy Motorcycle Rally, Plentywood, MT (406)765-2810
- July 29/31 - Ramble Inn Weekend Rider, Sun River, MT (406)264-5906

A RALLY TO PLAN FOR!

The last time this rally took place was just a couple days after the attacks in NYC in 2001. It is our intention to resurrect it this year for the 10th anniversary. The heart & soul of this event is to remember the lives lost on that day & the lives of our military personnel that have stood a watchful guard over our country for centuries.



Please note this is NOT a Harley-Davidson only event. This is a motorcycle event open to all riders.... heck you don't even need to ride a motorcycle to attend.

www.runtothecascades.com

Remember one thing.....

"IF" it wasn't for these brave people we would not be able to do what we do in our lives!!

More info next Issue!

CLASSIFIEDS **FOR SALE**

2005 Kawasaki Ninja 250-Brand New off the floor. It only has 600 miles on it.



Bought at \$3,495 asking \$3,200 no less than \$3,000.00 Pics speak for themselves, all miles are in-town. Thanks and if you need any other information you can call me (Dawn)

at 406-234-4092 if I'm not home leave a message or call my cell phone 406-853-2143. Other pics are available from yendor1@midrivers.com .

FOR SALE Or.... Just about anything you want to put in the classifieds!! Wanted, Will Trade, Renting, Need Work and Etc.



ABATE CHATTER

State Coordinator

State Deputy Coordinator

State Secretary

State Treasurer

These are my opinions and mine alone so do not take any of this personal, as these are questions to make us think not to answer.

Maybe there is no easy answer!

When we act as an organization we count on the jobs getting done by volunteers.

What we really want is someone to lead us into getting the job done.

We want a leader to do the work for us?

I think that we are not building leaders; we are just burning out great volunteers.

Where do we find leaders to fill those positions?

Oh yeah the word volunteer means that we will use him or her until they are burnt out!

Does this mean that volunteers are not leaders?

I think that we allow leaders to become burnt out because we do not volunteer ourselves!

So how do we build a leader without burning out a volunteer?

Good questions.

The bottom line is that we need to build leaders!

Not burn out volunteers! I realize that this may be a little tough but you may get the picture if you think our freedom is worth a little sweat.

If you think that you have any ideas, let's get them out and share them.

Thank you.

Rodney L. Comer

State Membership

Black Eagle Chapter

Helena Chapter

H-Line Chapter

The Hi-Line Chapter has been waiting for the COLD FREEZE that is called winter to go away and for SPRING to come and find us. We had a short week of nice weather and then we went back to winter. Despite the cold weather and icy rutted



roads we are already planning our riding calendar for this spring/summer hoping and waiting that it will truly come. The bikes are being readied as they sit patiently waiting in the garages around town. As soon as the weather turns we will be out riding and enjoying the wonderful spring air.

In other news we had a relatively quiet winter. We once again did our Christmas Toy Drive which was another resounding success. We can not thank all of our donors enough for their contributions of money, toys and food that allowed us to make sure that 84 kids in our community had a wonderful Christmas that they otherwise would not have had!!! We had a Holiday gathering at our local bowling alley around Christmas time that allowed our Chapter to gather, socialize, eat and in general just have a great time together. It is great that we have a Chapter that is full of people the genuinely enjoy each other and we can keep the activities going through the winter (even if we can't ride to do them :)).

>From everyone in the Hi-Line Chapter we hope that you survived this long never ending winter and we look forward to possibly joining up with you on some of your events this coming summer!!!!

Kyndra

Houndstooth Chapter

Lower Yellowstone Chapter

Northern Chapter

Prairie Riders Chapter

It has been a long hard winter and the Prairie Riders members are looking forward to sunshine and open roads. At our 4-3-11 monthly meeting it was decided to put the 2011 Bike Show on hold .

As a group we decided that instead of the show this year we would do some poker runs and maybe a Show and Shine with the local car club in September. The first run will be May 14, 2011- we will meet at Parkers Bar in Miles City





at 8AM and travel to Glendive for the Lower Yellowstone Bike Show and finish up the day at Parkers Bar, time to be determined.. All are welcome to join us.

Also, our youth member Brooke Comer made the 1st All State Jazz Festival held in Lewistown, MT on March 28 - 29.



There was only 19 kids that were accepted for the Jazz Band statewide. Brooke was one of two alto sax's accepted to this event. Brooke's dad Rod went to the Festival and was amazed that kids from all over the state came together and within one and a half days of practice put on one heck of a free concert for all.

Kudos' go out to all the kids in the Jazz Band and the Jazz Choir (17 kids). Plus the two Directors that donated their time to work with these kids to put this Festival on. Gary Funk was the Jazz Choir Director and John Combs was the Jazz Band Director.

Jerry Smith

Southeastern Chapter

OLD NEWS BUT GOOD NEWS!!

Georgia shoplifter hospitalized

Now this is what I call HONEST reporting!!!! A store manager for Best Buy in Macon Georgia, told police he observed a male customer, later identified as Tyrone Jackson of Augusta Georgia, on surveillance cameras putting a laptop computer under his jacket... When confronted the man became irate, knocked down an employee, drew a knife and ran for the door.

Outside on the sidewalk were four Marines collecting toys for the "Toys for Tots" program. Smith said the Marines stopped the man, but he stabbed one of the Marines, Cpl. Phillip Duggan, in the leg in his attempt to flee; the injury did not appear to be severe.

After Police and an ambulance arrived at the scene Cpl. Duggan was transported for treatment of his leg wound.

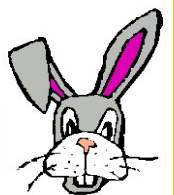
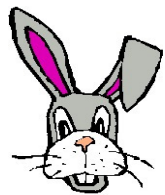
The subject was also transported to the local hospital with two broken arms, a broken clavicle, a broken leg, several missing teeth, possible broken ribs, multiple contusions, assorted lacerations, a broken nose and a broken jaw... injuries he sustained when he slipped and fell off of the curb after stabbing the Marine.

Now that is what I call a well written Police report. PLUS.....

Must have been a really high curb!!

**"Don't look, you might see.
Don't listen, you might hear.
Don't think,
you might learn.
Don't make a decision,
you might be wrong.
Don't walk,
you might stumble.
Don't run, you might fall.
Don't live, you might die."**

Connie





(Continued from page 1)

share the road campaigns and impaired riding reduction programs with private funding sources. These 2010 funds can be made available to the non profit world to help them continue these life saving endeavors. It is important to note, that due in large part of this program motorcycle fatalities dropped for the first time in 11 years during the 2008-2009 time period. The decrease in fatalities from '08-'09 was by 10%.

That same report stated that an explosion of motorcycle sales from 356,000 in 1997 to 1.1 million today is crippling the rider education programs across the country. Twenty nine (29) States have capacity problems and often have wait times for training more than 12 weeks. This is another reason why Congress needs to invest more money in motorcycle rider education via the section 2010 grant program

We ask that Congress continue this practice set for the in SAFETEA-LU. Consider this, under current SAFETEA-LU law the federal government spends \$1 dollar per motorcyclist per year and ask your self if you think that is enough.

Lastly, as a personal observation from myself who actually sees how these grants positively impact the rider training program in my state of New Hampshire, I can say categorically that without these grants it would not have been possible to expand our program that will reach many more riders that the outcome will be lives saved because of proper training. One area of concern that we are working to expand into is the returning rider (baby boomers), our data shows an increase in fatal crashes in this area and we are looking to create new curriculum to address this issue. With regard to the value of rider education

consider this example; during the first 10 years of our motorcycle education program having trained over 23,000 riders only one of those riders was involved in a fatality and we believe that that rider had a medical event. Education is the key to successfully reducing motorcycle fatalities, our experience is proof positive.

On behalf of the MRF and Americas motorcyclists', I thank you for this opportunity to present our concerns and views as you consider safety issues in the development of the national transportation system.



Biker Food For Thought



★ Our country was founded on the principle of freedom. ★ We the people in order to form a more perfect union... ★ that all men are created equal... and endowed with certain inalienable rights... life liberty and the pursuit of ★ happiness!

★ In the 1800's there was a group of people who roamed ★ this great land. They wore leather, had long hair, they ★ wore art on their skin, and some even wore an earring. ★ They were nomads by nature, wanderers if you will. ★ They gathered in great bands and traveled freely across ★ this great land.

★ The government of the day feared these people. That ★ same government gathered them together and made them ★ live in one place, a Reservation. ★ Here we are, we do wear leather, some of us have long ★ hair, we almost all have art on our skin, and yes we even ★ wear an earring. We too gather in large bands and travel ★ to the great rendezvous of our time, Sturgis, Daytona and ★ many more.

★ Does the government of the day fear us? The way law- ★ makers of today act, small restrictions here, wear a hel- ★ met there; you are not allowed to ride your motorcycle in ★ this community.

★ I wonder... will we too go the way of our friends, the ★ nomads of 100 plus years ago. Will they legislate us on ★ to restricted ground where we can only do what they ★ want, when they allow us to do it?

★ What do you think?

★ Our "Freedoms" are they worth fighting for? Or do we ★ head for the..., well you get the picture.





**State Meeting
June 4th, 2011 1:00PM
Great Falls, MT
Quality Inn / Tap House
220 Central Ave.**

**There are a lot of ways to get there
so pick the easiest way for yourself.
It will be in their Meeting room.**



REMEMBER..... ALL are welcome at State Meetings!

And., that we are asking that at least one or more elected Chapter Officer/s from every chapter show up for this meeting. So mount up, load up or fly in. Thank you.

All of the State Officers.



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Motorcycle Clubs are also encouraged to participate and support ABATE of Montana.

**Contact the Newsletter Editor's today for details
(Contact info on 2nd page).**

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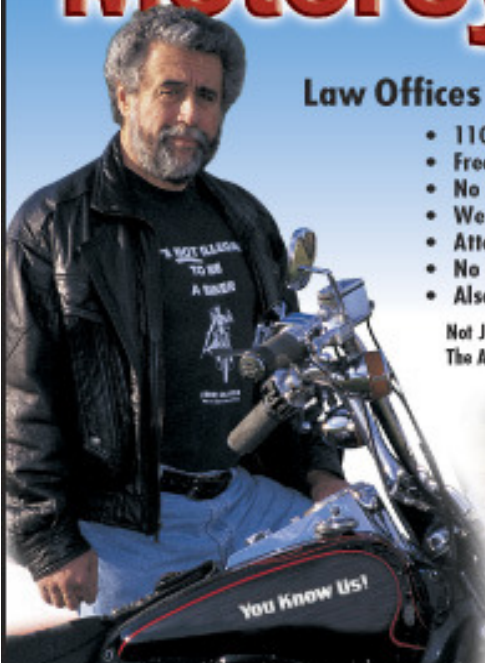
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ATTENTION ABATE OF MONTANA MEMBERS: Our nationwide network of A.I.M. Attorneys donate a significant portion of their legal fees from motorcycle accident settlements back into motorcycling by being the sole financial sponsor of the **National Coalition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



ABATE OF MONTANA



ABATE



AMERICAN BIKERS AIMING TOWARD EDUCATION
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Youth Authorization (Adult Signature) _____

Please make checks or money orders payable to the Chapter you wish to join and send to them. Choose from the Chapters to the right or just join at the State level. Thank You

Black Eagle, 221 6th LN. NE, Fairfield, MT 59436
Hi-Line, 531 11th St. Havre MT 59501
Helena, 3677 Wylie Dr., Helena MT 59602
Houndstooth, 2148 Lake Elmo, Billings MT 59105
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Prairie Riders, 517 N. Stacy Miles City MT 59301
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