



A.B.A.T.E. of Montana
American Bikers Aiming Toward Education

STATE MEETING MINUTES

Saturday September 22, 2018
Holiday Village Mall Community Center
Havre, MT

State Meeting Opening: Call to order by Coordinator, **Gary Schiller** at: 1:10 PM

Chapter Roll Call: Chapters either present or represented by proxy were: **Hi-Line** – Present, **Houndstooth** – Proxy, **Lower Yellowstone** – Present, **Prairie Riders** – Present, **State** – Present.

Officers' Roll Call: Present: **State Coordinator** – Gary Schiller, **State Treasurer** – Rod Comer, **State Membership Secretary** – CJ Erhardt, and **State Secretary** – Jean Schiller; Absent: **State Deputy Coordinator** – Scott Swanson

Quorum Present

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence for our lost and downed brothers and sisters. Please keep the family of Darren Dukart in your thoughts and prayers. Darren passed away September 4, 2018.

Introduction of Officers and Audience: **Gary Schiller**, State Coordinator, **Rod Comer**, State Treasurer, **CJ Erhardt**, State Membership Secretary, **Jean Schiller**, State Secretary. Chapter Representatives: **Lower Yellowstone:** Kristin Kennedy, Erin Lambert, Kim Rhodes, Mike Rhodes; **Prairie Riders:** Eric Oster; **Hi-Line:** Bill Arvin, Gary Fisher, Shelley Fisher, Willard Hinkle and Stephanie Marini; **Guests:** Kavemon – VNNLV MC.

Secretary's Report: The April 21, 2018 minutes were accepted as is with no corrections. Motion made to accept by **Gary Schiller**, second by **CJ**. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: **Rod Comer** gave the following information as of September 22, 2018:

General Fund: **Balance of \$13,687.26 + Savings of \$26.84**

Education Fund: **Balance of \$2,573.75**

Motion made to accept by **Kim Rhodes**, second by **Jean Schiller**. Motion passed.

Membership Report: Given by **CJ Erhardt**, State Membership Secretary. We have 281 **current members** as of 09/22/2018. Current Chapter Memberships are:

Hi-Line: 0 Members

Houndstooth: 18 Members

Lower Yellowstone: 253 Members

Prairie Riders: 8 Members

State: 2 Members

Note: Hi-Line Chapter actually has members they are just behind on submitting the membership forms.

Kim asked how we can help and support the smaller chapters. **CJ** commented that folks basically need to attend the meetings and talk with friends to help spread the word. At the State level the Officers need to pass the information on to the new officers. The Education Fund tends to cause confusion and State level and Chapter level officers need to understand the purpose of the fund as well as what qualifies and does not qualify to be paid out of the fund; specifically funds cannot be given to a member from the General Fund or the Education Fund. Donations from businesses can be used to have a benefit to earn money for a member. No dice are allowed to be used on poker runs. Resources and Suggestions would help tremendously as well. To also help increase membership **Kristin** will put a promotional membership form on the internet. Motion made to accept by **Gary Schiller**. Second by **Rod Comer**. Motion passed.

Newsletter Report: **Kristin** asked if we were in agreement on "BootLeg" as the name of the newsletter. All agreed on BootLeg. Kristin plans to have a newsletter after each State meeting and will send out by e-mail. She will need the support of the members to make the newsletter a success. The newsletter will include Chapter Chatter, Community Calendar, Barter, Swap Trade and Advertisements. Kristin plans to have the first newsletter out on November 1, 2018. She will need any chatter, etc. by October 15th. **CJ** will keep Kristin updated on e-mail addresses.

MMSAC Report: **Kristin Kennedy** was recommended and accepted to fill an open position on the MMSAC Board. Her term started August 1, 2018 and will end July 1, 2019. Come July 2019 Kristin can reapply. No meetings yet, but Kristin has been keeping Terry Funk and Jim Morrow busy with questions and concerns.

Products Report: **CJ** reported there is \$1,175.96 in the products account. CJ checked on a company out of Seattle on the Chapter pins that **Kim** had asked about. He noted that he would need to order 100 or more in order to get a decent price. He will continue to check on prices through other companies. CJ commented that he still has t-shirts, pins, patches, etc. If you are interested in Chapter rockers check with CJ as he has a contact in Glendive who will make as little as one to however many. She makes them as a courtesy to ABATE. Motion made to accept the report by **Rod**. Second by **Gary**. Motion passed.

State Events Report: No Report. If you have ideas on a run or event, please e-mail to a State Officer.

Safety & Awareness Report: No Report

Committee Reports: None

Correspondence & Communication: None

Short Break: 2:10 to 2.30

OLD BUSINESS

Membership Form Update: **Rod** reported that the update for a check-off box for receipt of the newsletter by e-mail does not apply. The current form has a spot for members to provide their e-mails; if it is not filled out then the member will not receive a newsletter.

Website and Facebook Update : **Kristin** has been working on the website. She created a draft web page with links using WebStarts. The website will include Calendar of Events, Links to other Chapters, Newsletter link, Legislative and Safety link as well as other links to various social media, etc. Kristin would like to keep moving on this so she needs to know what level we want to go with: Pro (4.89/mth), Pro Plus (\$7.16/mth) or Business (\$19.99/mth). **Bill Arvin** made a motion to "set up a Mid-Tier level for the website using WebStarts." Second by **Kim Rhodes**. Motion passed.

Kristin also reported that we will need a domain for the website. Did we want to use ABATEofMT.com or Abatemt.org. Discussion followed with a motion made by **Rod Comer** that "Abatemt.org will be adopted as the website name for the State of Montana". Second by **Gary Schiller**. Motion passed

Additional discussion centered on allowing members to join or renew through the website. Payment could be paid by credit card or through paypal. **Kim** noted that if using a credit card the costs depend on the bank and can range from 1 ½ to 7 percent depending on the company. Another question presented was can we charge a processing fee to cover the banking or paypal costs? Also should the products be sold on the website? Is there enough products to justify having on the website and what about shipping costs? It was decided to table this item until the December meeting. **CJ** and **Rod** will check with the bank and accountant on this. **Kim** and **Kristin** will check into the credit card and paypal fees.

Kristin is also working on the new Facebook page and should have it up and running within the next week or so. Kristin will set up a generic administration with three (3) people plus the officers having access.

MMSAC Rider Program Training Update: There was a class held in Sidney at the DOT course. All twelve (12) spots were filled. Hopefully there will be additional classes held next year and thereafter as needed.

Quick Reference Booklet Update: **Rod** handed out a copy of generic By Laws, Articles of Incorporation and How to Start a Chapter for folks to use as a basis for their Chapter. Please read and review and let Rod know of any changes or questions at the December meeting. If there are changes then we will need to update the State By Laws. Thank you Rod for putting these items together.

NOTE: All Chapters will need to update their By Laws to include the Educational Fund.

NEW BUSINESS

Middle of Montana: The Middle of Montana sent a check to close out their Chapter. Thank you Rod for helping Mike walk through the process and help him understand the Education Fund and its purpose.

Nomination of Officers: The following members were nominated for office: Coordinator: **Gary Schiller**; Deputy Coordinator: **Scott Swanson**; State Secretary: **Jean Schiller**. Nominations are open until the December meeting. If you know of someone that would like to be nominated please let an officer know. Please note that if a member is nominated they must accept the nomination.

Toy Runs: **CJ** reminded folks that the Road Dogs, and Lower Yellowstone Glendive and Sidney toy runs are fast approaching. In the past ABATE has donated \$100 to the Road Dogs toy run and \$50 each to the Glendive and Sidney toy runs, so CJ was wondering if we would like to donate again this year. A motion was made by **CJ** "that funds will be donated

to the Road Dogs and Lower Yellowstone Glendive and Sidney toy runs, annually, as long as the functions are ongoing.” Second by **Mike Rhodes**. Motion passed.

AIL: American Income Life beneficiary cards were sent out to members. If you completed the card and returned then you will be contacted by AIL. ABATE does not sell names or emails. Again, you will only be contacted if you returned the card, not because ABATE gave them your contact information.

MMSAC Support: **Kristin** asked why ABATE of Montana does not support Montana Rider Classes? Kristin is going to ask Jim Morrow the details of how to get our name on the sponsor list and/or on the website page.

CHAPTER UPDATES

Hi-Line: **Bill Arvin** reported they will be collecting money to benefit the toy run and will have their Christmas Party sometime in December or January. Also a big “Thank You” to Bill and the other members for the BBQ lunch they put on. It was delicious and greatly appreciated.

Lower Yellowstone Chapter: **CJ** reported the toy run in Glendive will be held on December 8, 2018. Not sure but he thinks the Sidney run will be held the next week. The next meeting is September 29, 2018.

Houndstooth: No Report but the 34th Annual Road Dog Toy Run will be December 2, 2018. The run will start at 1:00 pm at the Fire Hall with a chili feed to follow at the Elks Club. Friday, November 30, 2018 will be the kickoff with Jam Night at the Elks Club including a live band, auction and food specials.

Prairie Riders: **Eric Oster** reported they are planning a BBQ for National Beer Day on October 27, 2018 at Parker’s Super Store. So come on down and enjoy some great food.

Calendar of Events: No updates at this.

Next State Meeting Location & Time: Will be held in Billings on December 1, 2018 at the VFW on State Street at 1:00 pm.

50/50 Drawing: \$14 total – **Will Hinkle** won and donated his share (\$7) back to the General Fund.

Meeting Adjournment: **Jean** made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by **Gary**. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Jean Schiller, State Secretary

E-mail version of the meeting minutes do NOT contain all of the handouts that were distributed during the meeting.