

# ABATE OF FLORIDA SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

NEW WEB: [www.abatese.org](http://www.abatese.org) • HOTLINE: 954.310.INFO (4636)

ISSUE  
308

## March 2009



A MERICAN  
B IKERS  
A IMING  
T OWARD  
E DUCATION

NEXT  
CHAPTER  
MEETING  
10 AM  
Sunday  
Mar 15.2009



LET THOSE  
WHO RIDE  
DECIDE!



### 14th ANNUAL FREEDOM RIGHTS RALLY

April 10th - April 13th, 2009

State Meeting: Sun. - April 12th at 2:00pm

State Board Meeting: Sun. - April 12th at 12:00pm Noon

in Monticello at the American Legion Hall

**Ride to the Capitol Monday, April 13th, 2009  
from the Monticello KOA Campground at 9:00am**

## !! ALL ARE WELCOME !!

**Free Camping for Tenters**

**RV Hookups Available at \$50.00 for the weekend**

Located at exit 225 at I-10 in Monticello. Call (850) 997-5890 for directions only. 20 miles east of Tallahassee & 6 miles S.W. of Monticello. From I-10 at US19, proceed south 600ft., then west on C156B for 2 miles, then north of S259 for 1/2 mile, then follow signs.

American Legion Hall: Go 2 blocks west of the opera house on US90, then turn west on Waters Street. Go 1/2 mile to Legion Hall on the 15th on the right.

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## TO PLACE ADVERTISEMENTS



**You must submit print ready ads or PC compatible disk. Black type on white paper, including business cards, required. Ads and copy must be prepaid to "SE ABATE Chapter" and submitted at or before the chapter meeting to be included in that issue. Due to limited space all ads must be paid to date or they will be dropped without notification. THE ADVERTISER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL COPY AND AD CHANGES. Non-camera ready advertisements will incur a minimum \$25 layout charge and will be billed separately.**

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# Membership Due Thanks if you have already renewed

<b>January</b>	Deanna Joann Beaudoin Jeff Benedix Chas Brandau Susie Brown Jeff Bujnowski Guillermo Casanas April Colon-Pagan Benny S Daniels Daryl Dawkins Daniel Dennis Surgio Duran Rick Fasano Larry Fay Luis Gonzalez Paulette Jimison Robert Johnson Tom 'Tom Cat' Kirschenhouter Guy Knaak Marlene Koszo Terri Magan Osvaldo Mayor Jr. Osvaldo Mayor Sr	Isabel Hormilla Alton Irwin Leticia Laureiro Allen Lowry Jeanann Lowry Sara Martin-Hite MicPatricia Newman Evelyn Otero Andres Perez Dian Rattner Claude Rheauame Robert Schlien Steve Sellers Greg Solano John Soler Grace Spain Pete Wetherll <b>March</b> Melissa Allen Lee Anzelmo Charles Archer Mike Augustine Alyssa Bednarek	Stephen Benson Ronald Bond Robert Brown Joe "Sharkey" Caggiano Julie Ann Clay Steven Cohen Brian Damick Jim Dawson Ron Dawson Robert Dechant Russell Douglass Ronni Duby Barbara J Ferry Eduardo Flores Lourdes Gil Rebeca Gonzalez Jorge Hasbun Rich Herrera Debi Horlick Ken Horlick Russell "Russ" Kasmer Billy Lambert	Jamie Militana Shannon Miller Tom "Moonman" Mooney Bruno Moretti Dion Potter Luis Rayon Renee Reoli Jeff "Big Jeff" Richmond Scott Rohrbach Steve C "The Professor" Rude Sherwin Russ Marcel Smets Wayne G Smith Mike Stellabotte Gino Tassoni Kevin Vail Brian Valinski Gretchen Valinski Robert Van Donge	Chris Walden Doug Warner Kenneth Wells Eric Wise <b>April</b> Nestor Alvarez Sergio Caldas Donna "Big D" Chomiak James E Douglas Mel 'Griz' Hastings William "Bill" Howell Raymond Johnson Jorge Larriue Raymond Nelson Mark "Diver" Reed Scott Ripley Beverly Swasey David "Dave the Kid" Valeo Estelle "Gran Ma" Valeo
	<b>February</b> Mari Alexander Susan Armstrong Mark Cowan Douglas Drouin Deana Dunkelberger Ray Edwards Sara Edwards Randy Gettinger Chris Hite				

You have 30 days from the last day of your expiration month to renew your membership or be deleted from the State's List. Also (very important) be sure to notify us of any change of address to continue receiving your newsletter and Masterlink.

**Pick up your newsletter here:**

- |                      |                         |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Blue Jays            | Wheels of ManMC         | On the road again |
| Broward Motor Sports | HD Pompano              | Texas Rose        |
| Southern Fox         | HD Sunrise              | Flossie's         |
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| JP Mulligans         | HD North                | Wetz              |
| Vin "EZ" Cycle Parts | Heaven Cycles           |                   |
| HD FTL               | Lou's Tattoos (2 shops) |                   |
| VFW Post 9697        | DP's on Beach           |                   |
| Johnny Fucifino's    | Crotch Rockets to       |                   |
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| American Legion 321  | Biker's Inc.            |                   |
| Keltics MC           | Mastermailer.           |                   |
| Beer Barn            | Players Pub             |                   |
| Top Guns Cycle       |                         |                   |

## ATTENTION

When you renew your ABATE membership, you may also purchase a yearly membership pin. Shirts and patches available also .

Call Brett Gerber (561)704-2639 for details!!



*Miami Mike's*  
**Wheels on the Road**  
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SUNRISE, FLORIDA 33351  
PHONE 954-578-2900  
FAX 954-578-2929  
CELL 954-812-0479



## *President's Message*

### *Jimmy Les Lesniak*



What is it we do?

ABATE has been around for 28 years and many people only know us as the helmet law people. In my articles and by talking to ABATE members

people will say we protect your rights...we preserve your right to ride free. What does this really mean? Let me take the time to explain how it is we help the general riding public. We are your first line of defense. Our law makers in Tallahassee are always trying to enact a new law or amend an old one to either raise revenue, restrict actions or to save people from themselves. ABATE of Florida monitors what is taking place in Tallahassee to make sure what the legislators do is not too harmful or restrictive to the motorcycle community.

One example is the recently passed law that included the wording the tag on a motorcycle had to be permanently affixed and mounted horizontally. This law was aimed at a certain group of motorcyclists. In the past police could stop a person for a vertically mounted or not permanently affixed tag and issue a ticket with a fine of about \$60.00. Very few people were pulled over because they violated this statute about tags. They may have received this type of ticket, but usually it was an additional ticket given with another ticket. When the law changed, and the fine was increased to \$1,000.00, the police went to a bike night in Dade County and started writing these tickets and giving them to the people sitting in the parking lot. A friend of mine was riding with some people, when they pulled over and stopped to decide where they wanted to eat, the police pulled in behind them and wrote them tickets because the tags were not properly mounted. The cities like these large fines

because it is profitable and encourage the issuance of these tickets.

Let us now take this scenario one step further. Part of the giving of expensive tickets, is to teach the "bikers" a lesson. Because ABATE and others were involved when our legislators were passing this law, the wording was changed before the law passed. The original wording included the words, confiscation of the motorcycle. Can you imagine how easy it would for a municipality to add to its coffers, thousand of dollars in fines and thousands of dollars more with the sale of all of the confiscated motorcycles? Yes, the law would have allowed them the right to give you a fine, take your motorcycle, sell it and then keep the money from the sale. This is just one example of why I say ABATE helps the riding public. We are a defense mechanism between you and the law makers/enforcement persons. Let us examine another situation. You and a friend are riding down the road. As you travel, one of you is leading the way. Many times, when two people ride together, the lead changes back and forth between the bikes. Part of a law that passed last year stated: if two people going in the same direction were trying to get to the same destination ahead of one another this would be considered racing. If you are pulled over for racing, (changing bike positions, who is leading) then the police can pull you over, give you a ticket that carries a large fine, confiscate your motorcycle, sell it and keep the money. It would be very easy for law enforcement to target certain motorcycle groups and use this law to give them a lot of tickets and confiscate their bikes. ABATE was one of the organizations present when this law was being passed. Our objections were so strong legislators changed the law. Now the police can only issue a ticket, but if you flee from them they can confiscate the vehicle.

Once again ABATE was there. We are part of the buffer between bikers and unjust,

unfair regulations or laws. In the month of February, ABATE had its meeting and House of Representative Greg Evers from District 1 attended. In his presentation he assured us the new law regarding the vertical tags is being addressed. Hopefully this will eliminate/change that \$1,000.00 fine to a non moving violations fine of about \$125.00. Another cause Greg Evers and ABATE are addressing is to get a Stiffer Penalties Bill passed. This will increase fines and possibly include jail time if someone in a car is negligent and injures or kills someone who is riding a motorcycle. I believe we can all get behind something like this.

On these legislative actions I will keep you informed. If you need more information please send an e-mail to [president@abatese.org](mailto:president@abatese.org). I truly believe, if we were not there in Tallahassee for the past 28 years the laws in this state that effect the motorcycling community would be completely different.  
Till next month Ride Safe and Free...

P.S. To all the members of Southeast Chapter, WE ROCK!

Jimmy Les



**Dr. Lawrence J. Levy**  
Licensed Psychologist-PY7159

(561) 210-5125

298 Camino Gardens Drive Suite 207 Boca Raton, Florida 33432 <a href="http://www.LevyPsychology.com">www.LevyPsychology.com</a>	Hypnosis, Depression, Anxiety, Couples and Marriage Counseling, Grief & Loss
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**"THE PARTY BAND"**

CHECK OUT OUR SITE FOR DATES, VIDEOS, SHIRTS & MORE

*tommy-gun, henry 'hank' and thomas j.....  
the "RINGERZ" band*

**To stop delivery of your newsletter to your home email:  
[membership@abatese.org](mailto:membership@abatese.org)**

**Call to Action**

At the top in the choices on the left, click on the new selection "Legislative Info Center"

Once you are in the new Legislative Info Center, at the top left, you cannot miss the SIGN UP NOW message. Click on that and proceed with the sign up as indicated. Website at <http://www.abateflorida.com/>

## **ABATE of Florida, Southeast Chapter Meeting Minutes - Feb. 22, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10am by Sgt. @ Arms Leo the Lion with 41 members in attendance. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our Armed Forces personal. Our chaplain Tumbleweed was home sick, our meeting started after a silent moment of prayer.

### **President's Report**

Jimmy thanked all our members for coming and welcomed our new members, Steve, Pat and Sonny. On a sad note Alternative MC member James "Cadillac" Seville passed away. Our own Tracy Baker passed away in December and Mickey Michnowicz passed away in January. GBNF. We had a great time at the AOA valentines Day event, attended the State Meeting in Pensacola and had 1 heck of a successful Semi-Annual event for ourselves. Thank you to every member who had contributed so much time and effort in making the event a huge success. "What does Southeast do?" "WE ROCK" Jim announced we have 2 quest speakers today. Judith Paul who is running for Mayor in Davie, and Tom from the band Ringerz. Judith spoke on her qualifications and what she wants to accomplish if elected. She is biker friendly so all our members who are residents in Davie, come out and vote on 3/8/09. Tom from the band Ringerz has offered his band to play for our Memorial Day event, Free of charge. Thank you Tom.

### **Vice-President's Report**

Jimbo thanked all for coming out today and for everyone's hard work in making our event a huge success. We also received a plaque from the SFPC for our hard work and contribution in making the Toys in the Sun Run successful.

### **Secretary's Report**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of January's meeting as printed in the newsletter. Motion seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Alice read January's report. A motion to accept, seconded. All in favor. Motion passed

### **Sergeant at Arms Report**

Leo the Lion thanked all of our members for coming especially the old timers. He gave recognition to all his Assistant Sgt @ Arms for their hard work. They are: Old Hippy, Terry the Blindman, Sandman, Johnny Rose and LeAnn-Wildcat. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt @ Arms BARS was given special recognition for his work in the warehouse. Now we can load and unload our trailer in record time.

### **Road Captain's Report**

Jimbo reported right after today's meeting we will be riding over to the Petersons HD North for their party. 2/28/09 – First weekend of bike week. Jumbo is leaving Sat. morning. If you wish to ride, please contact him. Chuck announced he is going up on Friday 2/27/09. Come on up and stop at the campground for a great time. 2/28/09 – Orange Blossom Parade in Davie. Check the hotline. 2/28/09 – Party at Mickey's. Flyer in the newsletter and check the hotline. 3/1/09 – SFPC Benefit for the Aging Disability Resource Center. Meet at the legion at 1000am, leaving at 1200n. 3/8/09 – BBRA Benefit Smiles for Charity Run. Check the hotline. Always check the hotline for updated information

**Safety Directors' Report** Suzanne reported we normally give our training program to the schools during the summer time. For the 1<sup>st</sup> time, we have been invited to give our safety class during the school year. She thanked; Rick, Maureen, BARS, Jimbo and Pirate, Geo for their help in giving the classes. George reported on the curriculum we use especially with new members in attendance. Geo and BARS gave reports on their classes given to Flanagan High School. Our safety class was also given to students at the Miami Lakes vocational Center with much

success. We have products which we received from the state, magnetic signs, pens, key chains and assorted giveaways'. Suzanne reported we will be asking our local city elected officials to proclaim May or any month they wish to choose as Motorcycle Awareness Month. Any proclamations received will be displayed this year in the capitol rotunda at April's Capitol Ride.

### **State Reps' Report**

The state meeting was held in Pensacola. Full details of the meeting will be printed in the Masterlink. Suzanne reported our State Sgt @ Arms, Frenchy Mooreland and our Safety Director, Lana Lang have both resigned their positions. Dennis "Mudder" Rudio has been appointed as Sgt @ Arms, Tom Nugent appointed as Safety Director. We sold all our bike tickets. Discussion on moving the run to the capitol either 1 week forward or back to remove it from Easter weekend. There will be a ringing of the bell ceremony in Tallahassee, if you know of any biker who has passed and want them recognized, please contact any board member. We have 7811 members statewide and 5981 of them are registered voters. We have 2 by-law changes which need to be voted on.

1.. Proposed increase of life member dues. Motion to accept, seconded. Lengthy discussion. Vote. All in favor – none. Opposed – Unanimous. Our delegates will vote no on this proposal on behalf of the chapter at the next state meeting

2. Proposal for Support Membership. Motion to accept, seconded. Lengthy discussion. Vote.-All in favor -11, Opposed 24, Abstain 2. Our delegates will vote no on this proposal on behalf of the chapter at the next state meeting.

Next state meeting is the run to the capitol to meet our legislators. If you want to make a state meeting, this is the one.

### **Products Report**

Brett reported we did outstanding selling our products at our event. We need to get rid of the older stock. Come on over and make him an offer. We have the new ABATE lighters going quickly. If you need anything you do not have to wait for the monthly meeting. Just give

him a call. His number is in the newsletter. Brett thanked Leo the Lion for all his help in getting the chapter inventory done and sent to the state.

### **Membership Report**

Connie was not present. Paul reported we have 647 members on the state list. If you know of anyone on the list in the newsletter who has not renewed, please get them to renew. Reminder, when filling out the application form, PLEASE WRITE OR PRINT LEGIBALLY.

### **Newsletter Editor**

Suzanne reported due to an increase in advertising revenue this month, we will be increasing the size of our newsletter. To help save the chapter on the cost of mailing, if you want to receive your newsletter electronically, please e-mail her. With today's costs, every little bit will help.

If you have any articles, pictures for the newsletter, please have them to her no later than Monday as we are going to press on Tuesday.

### **Legislative Report**

Jim reported on the following: HB 6908, Cell phone use in a school zone, SB968 which is a stiffer penalties bill and the vertical license plate law.

### **Advertising**

Suzanne reported we need advertisers. No matter where you go to shop ask them for an ad. We have the best advertising rates out there and we have a monthly distribution of over 1600 copies. A lot of advertising for such a small cost. Also very important is to support our advertisers. Make sure you tell them, you say their ad in our newsletter.

### **Events Coordinator**

Rick thanked everyone for their help at our event. We are looking for a location for our Memorial Day event and are in preliminary talks. The event will be held on 5/24/09. Since we only do 3 events a year, we must make every event a success. We will need your generous help again. Jim handed our pins of

appreciation to the following members for their efforts at our last event: Rick, Maureen, Hope, BARS and Old Hippy. Remember our event was a huge success due in part to the support of the local clubs and MC's. You know the saying, "We support them, and They support us". Whenever you attend an event for a club or MC, make sure you sign in that you are from ABATE Southeast.

### **Social Directors Report**

Karin reported last night's birthday party was held at Big Dawgs. What a great time. 42 members came out and enjoyed themselves. If you want to have your birthday in the newsletter, you must contact her. We do not have a list of everyone's birthdays. Next month's birthday party will be held at "Lukes" on 3/21/09. Remember "It's on the way home"

### **Quartermaster's Report**

Jim thanked Bob for bringing his motor home to our event and for cooking for our members. Shaky Bob has been working on rebuilding our cooker. It is almost finished except for the top grills. Shaky and partner Jim have been doing all the work and will donate the grill parts to the chapter. Thank you

### **Photographer's Report**

Axman was not present. Jimmy Les reported all pictures are up and on our web-site. If you wish to purchase any of the pictures he has taken check out his web-site at axmanpictures.com

### **Web-Master's Report**

Tank was not present. Jim reported Ricky Mouse is working on a new and improved web-site.

### **Trash master's Report**

Aaron was not present. Jim reported we will be setting up another collection date in February. We will keep you posted with meeting time and date. We need your help, so please come on out. Check the hotline for updated information.

### **Old Business**

Jimmy Les reported all old business has been taken care of and addressed.

**New Business** No new business to report.

### **Good of the Order**

Marti reported the legion will be having a bake sale on 4/11/09. If you bake and would like to donate your fresh baked items, please see her. Also on 5/2/09 the legion is holding a yard sale in the parking lot. 10.00 Per table. Table will be available while they last.

Chuck reported he is in need of plants and trees. He would like to purchase from one of our members. If anyone is in the nursery business, please contact him.

Leo the Lion thanked all our members for an extremely orderly meeting.

Paul reported if going to Daytona, D & L House of Leather and Plus Two fast Hook Inc are offering ABATE members 10% off all merchandise during bike week. Just show your membership card.

Meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm.

These minutes summarized and

Respectfully submitted

*Paul A. Melcer*  
**Secretary**



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# 14th ANNUAL FREEDOM RIGHTS RALLY

## April 10th - April 13th, 2009

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**from the Monticello KOA Campground at 9:00am**

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**Free Camping for Tenters**

**RV Hookups Available at \$50.00 for the weekend**

Located at exit 225 at I-10 in Monticello. Call (850) 997-3890 for directions only. 20 miles east of Tallahassee & 6 miles S.W. of Monticello. From I-10 at US19, proceed south 600ft., then west on C158B for 2 miles, then north of S259 for 1/2 mile, then follow signs.

American Legion Hall: Go 2 blocks west of the opera house on US90, then turn west on Waters Street. Go 1/2 mile to Legion Hall on the Hall on the right.

*Reservations for RV Hookups (for pop-up campers, Van, RV's) need to be made through the state office (386) 943-9610. RV sites are limited*

**Super 8 Hotel - Monticello I-10 at exit 225**  
 Reservations: (800) 800-8000 or (850) 997-8888

**Days Inn - Monticello I-10 at exit 225**  
 Reservations: (800) 329-7466 or (850) 997-5988

For further information please contact:  
 ABATE of FLORIDA, INC.  
 State Office: (386) 943-9610

Donations to Abate of Florida, Inc., are not deductible for Federal Tax Purposes.  
 ABATE of Florida, Inc., does not condone drinking and driving.



**BIG DAWGS SPORTS BAR ..... EVENTS FOR MARCH**

**MARCH 2nd 2009 MONDAY NITE**

**TEXAS HOLDEM TORNAMENT FOR CHARITY  
GIRLS SOFTBALL TRAVEL LEAGUE. \$50 BUY IN. 1&2  
& AND 3rdPLACE. 8 PM WITH FREE BUFFET**

**MARCH 17, 2009 TUESDAY NIGHT**



**ST. PATRICK'S DAY**



**BUCKET SPECIALS, GREEN DRAFT BEER \$2.00  
BEST DRESSED COUPLE, BEST ALL AROUND,  
CASH AND PRIZES..... 7 PM TO MIDNIGHT.....**

**CORN BEEF , CABBAGE & POTATOES \$5.95**

**MARCH 22,2009 SUNDAY AFTERNOON**

**5th ANNUAL FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL BIKE RUN.  
MEETING AT THE ELBOW ROOM,FT.LAUD.REG.  
8-10am,THEN RIDING TO BIG DAWGS FOR BBQ,  
BANDS,CELEBRITY APPEARANCES,VENDORS,  
JAGER GIRLS & MORE!!!! CALL MIKE FOR MORE  
IMFORMATION 954-274-6910**



**BIKE NIGHT -SUNDAYS.FREE BUFFET,FREE POOL,BAND,8PM**

**BIG DAWGS SPORTS CAFE 954-435-2901**

**CORNER OF PALM AVE &JOHNSON ST. PEM.PINES**

# PAPA BEAR'S DEN

**Thursday Night Legends**

**BIKE NIGHT**  **Is Back!**

**Live Entertainment**

**\$10 Bud, Bud Light & Miller Buckets**

**\$3 Cosmos & Appletinis**

**\$8 Bush Buckets**



**Saturday, March 14th • 7 pm**

**BIKER APPRECIATION NIGHT**  
**ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY**

**Live entertainment**  
**50/50 & Raffle Drawings**

**Don't forget to stop by on St. Patty's Day - March 17th**  
**for a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner Noon-10PM**

*Papa Bear Says... "Come try my food once and you'll never stop coming back!"*

**Come Talk To Us About Your MC Events, Parties & Catering Needs!**

**4645 Gun Club Road | West Palm Beach, FL | (561) 478-4227**

## Old Hippy's Corner

I am writing this before Bike Week and hope that the ones that were able to make it had a good time. Hopefully the weather and law enforcement didn't put a damper on the event.



Bike Week is one of ABATE of Florida's state sponsored events. It takes, just like the 3 SE Chapter does a year, a lot of different volunteers putting in a lot of time trying to make it a successful event for everybody.

Coming up SE Chapter has our Memorial event and there is already a group of volunteers behind the scene working on it. That's one of the differences between a MC and an organization. Without people willing to donate their time to help this and any other chapter of ABATE, it would be very difficult to work to accomplish the goal of Organization, which is listed in the newsletter. Without the help of the volunteers and advertisers the newsletter would either be non-existence or at least reduced to near nothing.

I ask for all SE ABATE members to try and help out when possible, especially at the Memorial event. This will not only help our Chapter and cause, but will also help share the work load on some of our brothers and sisters.

I just got to tell ya, some guys get lucky and this time I just happen to be one.

LynnHara, (for those who don't know is the "call girl" for our chapter and also happens to be "my ole lady"), did something that I'm still in shock about for Valentines Day. Marjorie who is a sales person for Rick Case Honda and also an ABATE member, informed me that they just got in a beautiful 07 Screaming Eagle Ultra in, with low miles and I need to come take a look. Well, I took a look and boy is it a pretty! Only had 1300 miles on it, all the bells and whistles, not counting a 110 cu inch engine, made me kind of drool. I told LynnHara about it and we went by to see "her". Next thing I knew she pulled Marjorie aside plopped down some cash to hold it and said I'm buying it. It caught me by surprise some much that my face went blank and everybody kept coming up to me and asking if I was alright. I'll hopefully be able to get "her" around the tenth.

Enough of my stuff right now ... time to get back to what I spend a lot of time on and don't get paid for.

There is a bill proposed in the Senate, sponsored by Senator Rudy Garcia Republican from Dade County, District 40 that would impose a stiffer penalty for drivers that cause an accident involving a motorcycle. This would also include mandatory jail time. It is HB 968, and here is a brief rundown:

- 1) A person convicted of a moving violation that causes serious body injury to a person riding a motorcycle will be second degree misdemeanor shall pay a fine if not less than \$500 and serve a minimum of 30 day in jail and have his license revoked for not less than 30 days. (*Makes sense, he or she will be in jail anyway*)
- 2) A person convicted of a moving violation that results in the death of the rider, it becomes misdemeanor in the first degree, and shall pay a fine of no less \$1000, serve a minimum of 90 days in jail, attend an advanced driver improvement course, plus lose there license for not less the 1 year.

This proposed bill spells out that it is for motorcycle involved crashes, which I feel will impede the bill's progress in house and senate with its wording alone. I hope that at least if they modify the bill, they do what I have seen in other states. They have a right of way bill, where any vehicle infringes in your right of way and caused an accident the fines will be increased. These right of way infringements examples are, turning in front of you, lane changes, pull out in front of you and so on.

In the national level there a few things going on that we should keep an eye on.

**Cont. on next page**

The National Transportation Research Board (TRB) had their annual meeting and there were several sessions aimed at areas of motorcycle safety and research as well as a meeting of the Motorcycle and Moped Committee of the TRB.

Some of the topics discussed were the aging community and motorcycling, eye tracking research, conspicuity, anti-lock brakes and exposure.

Also there, was the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety which gave a brief report on their studies that explored ABS systems (they work) and one that definitely got my attention, "damageability" of specific motorcycles. Clearly tired of paying expensive repairs for damages that is the same no matter if involved high speed motorcycle crash or just tipping while parked. This study will, undoubtedly rate motorcycle on their sturdiness, so expect to pay more for insurance depending where your bikes rates on the forth coming list.

US House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is chaired by James L. Oberstar, Democrat from Minnesota. We have several representatives from Florida which hopefully will keep the Motorcycle communities interest at heart.

They are:

- Corrine Brown, Democrat representing the 3<sup>rd</sup> district ( Jacksonville/Gainesville area)
- John L. Mica, Ranking Republican Member representing the 7<sup>th</sup> district (Orange/Flagler area)
- **Mario Diaz-Balart Republican representing South Florida district 25**
- Vern Buchanan Republican representing 13<sup>th</sup> district (Sarasota area)

Of great importance to us is this committee will draft the next version of the highway bill. This is the bill that has fueled motorcycle safety funding, the creation of the Federal Highway Motorcycle Advisory Council and the NHTSA lobby ban. On the other side, this bill has also been used as blackmail, by holding highway funds where states do not have mandatory helmet laws in place.

Personally, I have seen the ground work in place, all the changes in helmet identifications and construction, requirement for DOT certification, leads me to believe that has been a well planned endeavor by Government to snatch another right. **"THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE"**

On a good note, with the passing of HR 1 we get a little break in the purchase of a new ride! In this bill, tucked away is a provision that will give us ability to deduct all state and local taxes from the purchase of a new motorcycle as long as you make less than \$125,000 and the bike cost less than \$ 49,500 (I think most of us fit in this category)

To Quote from Will Rogers (1879-1935)

***I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts***

***Keep the shiny side up and the greasy side down***

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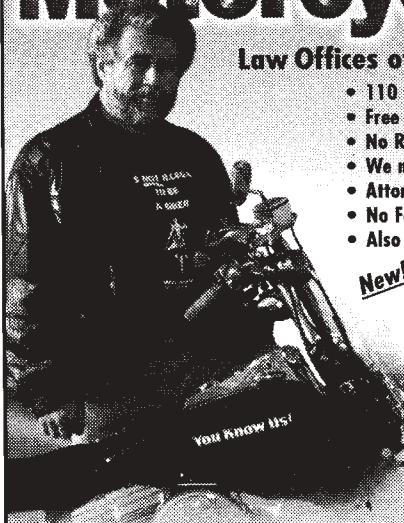
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**Birthday Greetings -= if you want to be recognized in the Newsletter  
 Birthday greetings contact Karin with your information  
 Happy Birthday!**



Our February Birthday Party at Big Dawgs had 42 of you celebrating your fellow members special day. Thank you for being there! We had great music by the Ringerz, great food - cake and service thanks to Dee Dee and all the staff. It was a pleasure to be there! The Birthday Party for the March "Babies" will be at Luke's on University Dr in Davie on March 21st, we'll meet at the same time as always between 7-8 pm. For directions listen to the hotline I hope to see everybody there and have a wonderful Birthday!

- Oswaldo Mayor Sr.
- Charles Corso
- Chris Sharpe
- Leo "Leo the Lion" Brault
- Pat "Pat" Scrogam
- Bill "Big Bill" Pessiman
- Eddie Diaz
- "Gnarly Charlie"
- Maureen Hernandez "MGM"
- Anthony Bechan "Tony"

Remember if you name is not mentioned please contact me at 954-430-0487 or [socialdirector@abatese.org](mailto:socialdirector@abatese.org)  
 Till next month, Ride Safe and Free  
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## 2009 CALENDAR

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### JANUARY

- 4 - States MC 14th Annual Blessing of the Bikes
- \*11 - *Wings of Gold MC Appreciation Day*
- 18 - SE ABATE Semi-Annual Rights Rally
- \*25 - *Der Krueger MC Annual*
- 31 - Alternative FL Land MC Annual (moved to Nov 1st)

### FEBRUARY

- \*1 - *Third Tradition Annual*
- 7 - Alternative WPB Party
- \*8 - *States MC Lake Worth Annual*
- \*15 - *AOA MC FL Land, Valentines Day Annual*
- \*21 - *Wheels of Man MC Deerfield 36th Annual (4PM)*
- 21 & 22 Harley-Davidson of Miami's 55th Anniversary

### MARCH

- Feb 27-March 8, 68th Annual Daytona Bike Week
- 1 - Aging and Disability Resource Center Party
- 8 - BBRA 2nd Annual Smiles Charity Ride
- \*18 - *Keltics MC Annual*
- \*22 - *Piasco Brothers Annual*
- \*28 - *Outcast MC Annual*
- \*29 - *States MC Pompano Annual*

### APRIL

- \*5 - *AOA MC West Palm Annual*
- 4 & 5 - Peterson's South Anniversary Weekend
- 11 - Hermandad MC Party
- \*12 - *CMA Annual*
- 18 - Mystic Seven MC & Mojo's Birthday Party
- \*19 - *Wings of Gold MC FL Land Stars & Stripes Annual*
- 24, 25, 26 - Leesberg Bikofest

### MAY

- \*3 - *Southern MC Annual*
- 16 - Wings of Gold MC FL St. Lucie Party
- 17 - USMVMC West Palm Party
- 24 - SE ABATE Memorial Day Party
- \*31 - *Soldiers for Jesus MC West Palm Beach Annual*

### JUNE

- \*7 - *AOA MC Treasure Coast Annual*
- \*13 - *New Attitudes MC Annual*
- \*14 - *Wings of Gold MC West Palm Annual*
- 21 - Peterson's North Shore Fathers Day Event
- 21 - Alternative Epilepsy Run & Party
- 27 - Palm Beach ABATE Annual Event
- \*28 - *Wings of Gold MC Miami Annual*

### JULY

- 5 - USMVMC South Broward Party
- 12 - States MC Lake Worth Party
- 18 - Wheels of Man MC Chili Cook-Off & Party
- 19 - AOA MC West Palm Party
- \*26 - *Black Pistons MC FL Land, Annual*

### AUGUST

- 5-9 69th Annual Sturgis Bike Week
- 14, 15, 16, - 14th International South Florida Tattoo Expo
- 16 - AOA MC 42nd Anniversary Party
- \*23 - *Wings of Gold MC Fort Saint Lucie Annual*
- 30 - US Military Vets MC Pompano Party

### SEPTEMBER

- 12 - Outcast MC Party
- 13 - States Pompano MC 16th Key West Tuneup Party
- 18-20 - Phil Peterson's 37th Annual Key West Poker Run
- 27 - Southern MC Teddy Bear Run & Party

### OCTOBER

- \*4 - *Mystic Seven MC Annual*
- 11 - AOA MC Treasure Coast Party
- 15-18 - Daytona Bikeshowfest
- 25 - SE ABATE 29th Annual Motorcyclists Rights Rally
- 31 - Wheels of Man MC 36th Annual Halloween Party

### NOVEMBER

- \*1 - *Alternative FL Land, MC Annual*
- \*8 - *USMVMC National 22nd Annual*
- 14 - Soldiers for Jesus MC West Palm Beach Party
- 15 - Wings of Gold MC Palm Beach Party
- 22 - CMA Memorial Event
- 29 - Keltics MC Miami Party
- 29 - Heaven Cycles 32nd Anniversary Party

### DECEMBER

- \*6 - *22nd Annual SFPC Christmas Toys in the Sun Run*
- 12 - Drawing for the Toy Run bike at H-D of Miami
- 13 - ABATE West Palm Beach Party
- 19 - SFLCOC Christmas Dinner Party
- 20 - Calvary Chapel 10th Annual Christmas Service



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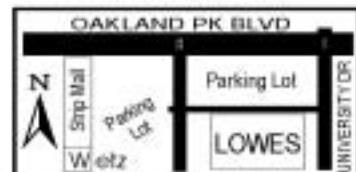
## Here's the Deals in March!

- 6th - Live Music by Hat Trick plus Chef Joel's FREE buffet 9PM
- 8th - BBRA Event with Southern Rock Society & the Fabulons
- 13th - Mike & Jimmy guest bartend (you got to see this!)
- 17th - St. Patty's Day Party with FREE corned beef & cabbage  
Plus Green Beer upon request for those who like to party!
- 27th - Slip & the Spinouts plus Chef Joel's FREE buffet 9PM
- Mon - 5-4-\$10 Domestic & \$13 Import 8-close
- Wed - Pool League starting at 8PM • Thurs - Free Pool
- Fri - Live Music 5-8PM
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# Vice President

Nominations are swiftly approaching. As I have mentioned many times this is your chapter. I think I can safely say there is not one member of the board who is not proud and honored to hold our respective positions. However, I also feel we would all agree that new blood and fresh ideas are always welcome. If you feel that you or someone you know has the time and desire to help keep this chapter's status as one of the elite chapters of ABATE of Florida it may be your time to step up. The hours and energy you donate are rewarded by the knowledge that your chapter and ABATE of Florida are making a difference. So when nominations are called for, keep in mind that you are more than welcome to join the leadership of the Southeast Chapter. If elected you will be working side by side with some of the most dedicated and hardworking people you will ever meet. If running for office is not for you there are many other ways to help the chapter. Never feel that you have nothing to offer. Feel free to contact any board member with any questions or concerns.

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## News & Notes

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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

### March 2009

News & Notes is a monthly publication compiled and edited by the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) Government Relations Department. Designed to inform motorcyclists of 'rights'-related issues and events around the world, News and Notes welcomes your input. Suggestions and contributions can be sent to Sheila Andrews, AMA Legislative Assistant, by e-mail at [sandrews@ama-cycle.org](mailto:sandrews@ama-cycle.org).

**Omnibus Public Lands Bill:** The U.S. House of Representatives could vote as early as next week on a wide-ranging bill that could shut off-highway motorcyclists and all-terrain vehicle riders out of more than 2 million acres of public land. The measure, Senate Bill 22, also known as the Omnibus Public Lands Bill, is actually a package of more than 160 bills that were melded together to create a single bill of more than 1,300 pages in length.

Every AMA member, off-highway motorcyclist, ATV rider and everyone who supports responsible outdoor recreation is urged to immediately contact their Congressional representative and ask them to reject this bill. The measure should be defeated because it unreasonably bans motorized recreation on 2.1 million acres of public land and inappropriately designates it as Wilderness. Also the procedure used for fast-tracking this bill through the U.S. Senate and House violates the spirit of open and democratic government. For the full release and a link to a rapid response letter on this issue go to: <http://www.amadirectlink.com/news/story.asp?id=592>

**An interview series with the AMA's President and CEO Rob Dingman** has been posted to the AMA's website. In it he discusses the challenges, and opportunities, that lie ahead for the motorcycling community. In the first of the three-part series, Dingman discusses how the AMA and the AMA's sister organization the ATVA (All-Terrain Vehicle Association) are fighting to preserve OHV (off-highway vehicle) access to America's public lands. Part two discusses the challenge of

excessive sound, and part three (to be released Feb. 11) explains the AMA's comprehensive approach to rider safety, helmet laws and rider education To see the full text of the interviews, go to: [www.AmericanMotorcyclist.com](http://www.AmericanMotorcyclist.com) and select News.

**Motorcycle tariff taken off table in beef trade dispute.** The U.S. trade representative has decided against imposing any tariffs on certain motorcycles imported from Europe in a trade dispute over beef. The AMA, its members, the Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC), individual manufacturers, dealers, and others had contacted the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative opposing the idea of possibly imposing a 100 percent import duty on certain European goods — including motorcycles with engine displacements between 51cc and 500cc.

The proposal was put together in retaliation to the 27-member European Union's continuing import ban on American beef treated with growth hormones. EU officials haven't lifted that 20-year-old ban despite a World Trade Organization order to end it.

*Source:* <http://www.amadirectlink.com/news/story.asp?id=564>

**The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** is soliciting funds from state departments of transportation to help fuel the Motorcycle Crash Causation Study. The Transportation Pooled Fund Program is an opportunity to augment federal initiatives by requesting additional monies from states that may have a surplus in certain budget areas. A request is made to the program when researchers find themselves unable to undertake a study because of financial restrictions.

The FHWA is requesting states to contribute a minimum of \$15,000 per year for three years with the desired level of funding at \$50,000 per year for three years. The total required commitment from states is \$1.5 million. New York and Texas have already promised a total of \$225,000, but the solicitation closes March 31, 2009.

In an effort to support this initiative, the AMA is asking individuals to request that their local and state transportation officials contribute to the pooled fund. The solicitation details and a description of the Motorcycle Crash Causation Study can be found at [www.pooledfund.org](http://www.pooledfund.org), solicitation number 1221.

**New York and Pennsylvania recently announced** that the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) has been awarded the contract to run these state's motorcycle safety programs. The MSF programs, which deliver training to more than 100,000 students annually, are also used by the Armed Services to train military personnel worldwide. The MSF is a not-for-profit organization sponsored by BMW, BRP, Ducati, Harley-Davidson, Honda, Kawasaki, KTM, Piaggio, Suzuki, Triumph, Victory and Yamaha. For RiderCourseSM locations, call 800.446.9227 or visit [www.msf-usa.org](http://www.msf-usa.org).

**Stimulus Bill to include tax incentive to purchase electric motorcycles?** An effort is underway to include a tax credit for purchasers of electric vehicles. To comment on the provisions and let legislators know whether or not you believe it's a good idea go to [http://action.pluginamerica.org/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=516](http://action.pluginamerica.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=516) to send a letter to your representative.

**The AMA recently wrote to the New Hampshire House Transportation Committee** in opposition to the proposed on-highway motorcycle exhaust system legislation, House Bill 95. A update on the legislature's website indicates that the bill is "inexpedient to legislate." Quoting from the February 6 House Record: "This bill would create an economic hardship on motorcycle riders and also on the State of New Hampshire with loss of millions on this summer event in the Lakes Region. Also, the bill prohibits adding after market equipment in one place and in another place it mandates adding the after market equipment."

The Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC) also weighed in and requested the proposal be delayed until early spring when a new stationary sound test procedure for on-highway motorcycles will be available. This test procedure, SAE J2825, is currently being finalized and will provide a quick, easy, economical, and science-based tool for accurately identifying motorcycles with excessively loud exhaust systems.

*Source:* [http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljournals/calendars/2009/houcal2009\\_11.html](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljournals/calendars/2009/houcal2009_11.html)

**Saint Paul, MN: Trail-based recreation enthusiasts** welcomed a recent court decision rejecting the Sierra Club's challenge to the 2004 Revised Superior National Forest Plan. The All Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota (ATVAM), along with the BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC), both recreation advocacy groups, intervened in the case on the side of the Forest Service. The lawsuit included challenges to the analysis of potential impacts to the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area, as well as the accuracy of the road and trail inventory used by the Forest Service. The decision ruled in favor of the Forest Service and concluded that the agency had not acted arbitrarily or capriciously in adopting the broad prescriptions of the Revised Forest Plan.

*Source:* <http://www.sharetrails.org/releases/media/?story=629>

**The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Volume 22: A Guide for Addressing Collisions Involving Motorcycles**, has been published by the Transportation Research Board. This guide is part of Report 500- Guidance for Implementation of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Strategic Highway Safety Plan. AASHTO's goal is to move away from independent activities of engineers, law enforcement, educators, judges and highway safety specialists and toward a more coordinated effort. An electronic version can be found at: [http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp\\_rpt\\_500v22.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rpt_500v22.pdf)

**County sues to ensure Camp Rock Road access.** San Bernardino County is suing the federal government in hopes of establishing its right-of-way on a road crossing federal land between Lucerne Valley and Daggett. The county is seeking to officially establish its ownership of Camp Rock Road, a county-maintained road that covers about 42 miles between Lucerne Valley and Daggett. In April 2003 the county filed an application with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a "recordable disclaimer," which would establish its right-of-way on the road and give the county a legal record of its ownership. The application has never been processed,

so the county is now asking for a court order that would force the BLM to proceed.

*Source:* [http://www.desertrdispatch.com/news/county\\_5313\\_\\_\\_article.html/road\\_federal.html](http://www.desertrdispatch.com/news/county_5313___article.html/road_federal.html)

**Americans for Responsible Recreational Access (ARRA)** recently joined with 25 other recreation groups including the AMA in urging House and Senate leaders to support including \$300 million in funding for local trail projects through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) in the economic-stimulus package being considered for action in early 2009. The additional funding would be separate from and in addition to regular funding authorized for the program.

To view the ARRA letter, go to: [http://www.arra-access.com/arra/economic\\_stimulus\\_letter.html](http://www.arra-access.com/arra/economic_stimulus_letter.html). RTP projects are ideal for economic stimulus as a distribution system for the funds is already in place. Many are ready for construction immediately. They are typically small scale (\$50,000 or less). The RTP leverages federal funds with state, local, private and in-kind matches. To send your own letter, visit [http://www.arra-access.com/campaign/advocacy\\_rtp\\_stimulus](http://www.arra-access.com/campaign/advocacy_rtp_stimulus)

**Powersports Industry is greatly troubled** by the new Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) lead levels requirements for children's products. The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), scheduled to take effect February 10, was intended to apply to children's toys but will also apply to smaller ATV's and motorcycles unless a specific exemption for these products is granted. View the AMA letter outlining its concerns to the CPSC at <http://www.amadirectlink.com/news/story.asp?id=595>. The agency has a number of rulemaking proposals under way intended to provide guidance on the new lead limit requirements. However, the comment deadline occurs after the Act's effective date. Visit the CPSC website at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) for more information.

**The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)** is trying to improve its website so that residents can access information more easily. The RCO creates and maintains opportunities for recreation (motorized and non-motorized) statewide, protects the best of the state's wild lands, and contributes to the state's efforts to recover threatened salmon populations. During the 2005-2007 biennium, the office managed the award of more than \$305 million in grants

for more than 1,000 projects. Go to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=SLIz4panYgZN\\_2bIG9DAJygA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=SLIz4panYgZN_2bIG9DAJygA_3d_3d) to take the survey.

**Trail riders are encouraged by a recent decision** on the Mississippi National Forest.

Motorcyclists and other off-highway-vehicle users are optimistic their voices will be more clearly heard in the on-going development of a U.S. Forest Service plan that outlines the future use of the Mississippi National Forest. In response to an administrative appeal filed by the Memphis Motorcycle Club (MMC) and the BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC) with the support of the AMA, the Forest Service has withdrawn a Travel Management Plan for the Mississippi National Forest. In a statement, the Forest Service said the move would allow the "consideration of additional analysis to be documented in the project record."

The Forest Service sought to implement the direction of the national 2005 Travel Management Rule, which requires units of the National Forest System to transition to a managed system of vehicle use on designated roads, trails and areas. The September 2008 Mississippi Forests travel plan decision designated approximately 127 miles of roads for off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, as well as approximately 144 miles of motorized trails, but refused to even consider for official designation the hundreds of miles of trails that have previously been created and traveled under prior "open" forest management but never included in the forests' formal transportation system.

*Full release:* <http://www.amadirectlink.com/news/story.asp?id=587>

AMA Government Relations *News & Notes* is a monthly service compiled and edited by the AMA Government Relations Staff to keep motorcyclists informed of happenings around the world. We welcome your news & views. Please submit all material to Sheila Andrews, Legislative Assistant, 101 Constitution Ave., NW Suite 800W, Washington, DC 20001; fax (202) 742-4304 or e-mail to [sandrews@ama-cycle.org](mailto:sandrews@ama-cycle.org).

## Mar-09

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daytona Bike Week Aging Resource Center Benefit	2	3	4	5	6	7 Daytona Bike Week
8 BBRA Big Smiles Benefit Daytona Bike Week	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 ABATE BOD & Chapter MTG Keltics Annual	16	17	18	19	20	21 ABATE B-day Party at Lukes
22 Fiasco Bro. Annual	23	24	25	26	27	28 Outcasts Annual
29 State Pompano Annual	30	31				

## Apr-09

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Petersons Anniversary weekend
5 AOA WPB annual	6	7	8	9	10	11 ABATE Tallahassee weekend Hermandad Spring Fling
12 Easter ABATE State mtg. CMA Annual	13 ABATE ride to the Capital	14	15	16	17	18 Mystic 7 Mojo B'day
19 ABATE BOD & Chapter Meeting WOG FTL annual	20	21	22	23	24	25 Leesburg Weekend
26	27	28	29	30		

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ROADNAME \_\_\_\_\_

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## RIDE OUT TO THE END OF BROWARD & PARTY!

## **Count US In by Don Johnson, Hot Wash, 2008 Election (Voter Rights Organization Advertisement)**

We live – and if we hope to avoid an untimely Darwinian end – We learn.

### **What we did**

During the run-up to the 2008 elections, Count US In pressed hard for publicity for the issues of minuscule military voter participation and simplification of the voting process so that military voting could even occur. As the election cycle got closer, we pushed for Veterans, Friends, and Family to mobilize and assist military voters in getting properly registered, voting, and in the processing of those votes.

### **What actually happened**

A well-meaning but naïve press ignored our pleas for publicity until just before and just after the elections in November 2008. At the last second, when it would least help our cause, the media saw a story with human interest and pathos – Our Military Can't Vote. Their interest lasted about 45 days in all, and ended abruptly just past the election. Since we didn't get the publicity we needed early enough, we were not as successful as we hoped in organizing our grass roots support effort of Veterans, Family and Friends, and were unable to provide all the support we wanted to servicemen who came to us for information on the voting process, local candidates, and local issues.

### **What we have learned**

What we learned from the 2000, 2004, 2006 and 2008 elections, is that military voters are disenfranchised, and no effective effort is being undertaken to change that. (Witness Sen. Cornyn's bill's failure, the Florida debacle with military absentee votes in 2000, tossing out military absentee votes in two DC area counties of Virginia, and possibly more of the same in the recount in Minnesota).

We also learned that the media gives us play on the days before and after the elections (when it is least useful to the service members). We just feed them excitement for ratings, not for results.

### **What we're going to do**

We're going to re-target. Our re-targeting effort will focus on amplifying our grass roots efforts. We need to help our troops participate under whatever system they face in their election districts—you need to vote where you live. And, we need to raise amazing amounts of hell at the local and State levels to get them to take extraordinary measures to count the votes of our servicemen and women. The system is flawed, there are lots of good people working on it, but it's going to take time to move the bureaucracy off dead center. But, until then, the military still must vote to be heard!

We can't organize this effort from the top down. We need a grass roots organization. So, here's the plan. We'll push for volunteers to be Election District Directors (EDD) – yes, we'll come up with some other name for that post – don't want any of the older vets thinking about some other dysfunction. All you gotta do to become one is raise that hand. These volunteers can raise \$\$ for Count US In within their districts, and we'll try to use that to pay for things like mileage for EDDs (I know, change it).

Our goal is simple and clear – Get military votes in, then, get them counted.

### **The bottom line**

Because of the low participation, the military vote is seen as inconsequential, so no one really cares about addressing the complex problems associated with straightening out the system. Yes, they pass laws which create more bureaucrats and do nothing to solve problems. Politicians just aren't mission oriented – except for the mission of getting re-elected. You do the math. Do the party lawyers have a tendency (2000 in FL, 2004 in OH, 2008 in N VA and MN) to discount military absentee votes (from APO and FPO addresses)? Yes. But, there are so few votes that none of the parties really gives a damn.

So, for any politician to care about the military vote, we have to increase the number of votes. If we do that, one of the political parties will start to dance to your tune (whatever that is - I find I agree with soldiers much more often than I agree with lawyers). Mostly, politics is about money, but sometimes, the votes actually matter. In those cases, any bloc that delivers has power (examples - blacks, women, unions, the religious right—whatever). Just look at the party platforms and you can see how those voting blocs influence the party's stand.

If the military voted, they'd have power. Unfortunately, they don't do either. They don't vote, and therefore they don't have power. Aren't you ready to change that?

Can you become an EDD (yes, the name will change)? Are you associated with a Veteran's chapter that you are willing to recruit to our mission? Do you know a soldier you want to help? Want to help a relative who is in the service?

Count US In is "all in."

The election of 2010 is just around the corner. To influence State legislatures in time to force improved legislation, we need to mobilize NOW! To be represented, our military needs power. To get power, they have to vote. To vote, our military needs your help.

We want to Count YOU In!

Volunteer, Donate, Call or Write. We need YOUR voice to be heard!

Don

Don Johnson and Count US In want all our military personnel to exercise their right to vote, and we want their families, friends and other veterans to help motivate and facilitate those votes. Your comments, suggestions, donations, and input are welcome at [www.countusin.us](http://www.countusin.us). Count US In doesn't care how you vote – we just want you to vote – period.

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MIAMI CHAPTER

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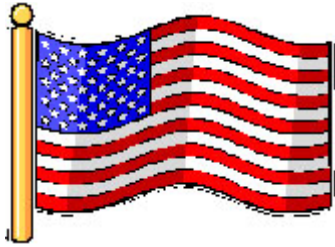
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all Wars

A Grateful American  
Barbara "skyl ark" Bain



## Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

**1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?**

21 steps: It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

**2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?**

21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1

**3. Why are his gloves wet?**

His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

**4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and, if not, why not?**

He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

**5. How often are the guards changed?**

Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

**6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?**

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5'10" & 6'2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30. They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way.

After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb.

There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

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watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are

and where they are interred. Among the notables are:

President Taft,

Joe Lewis {the boxer}

Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII of Hollywood fame.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.

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## **THE AIM/NCOM MOTORCYCLE E-NEWS SERVICE**

is brought to you by Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM), and is sponsored by the Law Offices of Richard M. Lester. For more information, call us at 1-(800) ON-A-BIKE or visit us on our website at <http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com>.

NCOM BIKER NEWS BYTES Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish,

National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM)  
MOTORCYCLISTS REAP REWARDS FROM  
ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Motorcycling will reap some benefits from the historic two-year, \$787 billion economic recovery and stimulus bill recently signed into law by President Barack Obama. Language in HR 1, the largest spending measure ever enacted by Congress, provides for a tax credit for people buying new passenger cars and light-duty trucks, and now thanks to eleventh hour lobbying efforts by motorcycle groups and manufacturers, federal tax relief will extend to purchasers of new motorcycles as well. Section 1008 of the legislation includes motorcycles as “qualified vehicles”, and individuals purchasing a new motorcycle will be allowed to deduct the sales and excise taxes on their 2009 tax returns.

Four senators successfully lobbied for including motorcycles in the compromise measure: Bob Casey, D-Pa.; Christopher Bond, R-Mo., Russell Feingold, D-Wis., and Herb Kohl, D-Wis.

“The issues of consumer confidence and tight credit markets have not evaded motorcycle dealers,” the four senators wrote to congressional leaders who put the finishing touches on the stimulus bill. “The effect of the downturn not only impacts the dealers - it has hurt manufacturers as well.”

Expansion of the tax credit should attract more motorcycle buyers, Feingold said in a joint press release with Kohl. To be eligible for this “above the line” tax deduction, you must make less than \$125,000 (\$250,000 for those filing jointly) and purchase a new bike in 2009 for up to \$49,500.

### **GET THE LEAD OUT**

With Congress saying “get the lead out,” motorcycle manufacturers and local businesses are wondering if common sense gets chucked along with it. Retailers across the country are yanking shoes, toys and any goods marketed to children from shelves to comply

with a strict lead law enacted nearly unanimously by Congress.

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, which went into effect February 10, 2009 is meant to protect children from lead-laden products, but unintended consequences of the new legislation are decimating the industry as thousands of motorcycle and recreation vehicle retailers across the country scramble to obey the federal law: all of them had to cease selling small off-road motorcycles and ATVs designed for kids, because according to a provision of the Act the machines are dangerous not because a child might have an accident on the diminutive machines, but because if a child develops an appetite for the vehicle’s brakes or battery terminals and decides to nibble on the ATV or motorbike, lead poisoning may result.

The ban encompasses some 19 models from just Yamaha, Honda, Kawasaki and Suzuki. The economic impact of the CPSC’s ruling will be substantial for both dealers and manufacturers in an already weakened economy. The regulation takes an estimated \$100 million worth of inventory off the sales floors of some 13,000 dealers immediately. It also impinges on manufacturers, makers of aftermarket equipment and everything from racetracks to distributors.

Honda has already informed dealers that their inventories of new and used youth motorcycles and ATVs will become worthless and legally unsalable effective Feb. 10. “In fact, under the terms of the Act you cannot even display these models on your showroom floor, distribute brochures, or advertise them on your website,” Honda told their dealer network.

According to motorcycle and ATV industry sources, most motorcycle and ATV components are compliant with the CPSIA’s lead limits, but some components unavoidably contain small quantities of lead in excess of the CPSIA’s limits. However, the nature and location of these components suggests a very minimal exposure risk. Industry reps say the lead used in motorcycles and ATVs is embedded in alloys but is not easily transferred to humans through typical use, the way lead in paint or infant toys would be.

Motorcycle riders, activists and enthusiasts are requested to contact their Congressional representatives and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and ask them to exclude youth model off-highway vehicles from the final rule governing the law.

## SALES OF DUAL PURPOSE MOTORCYCLES AND SCOOTERS OUTPACED CRUISERS AND SPORTBIKES

While cruisers and sportbikes were wondering the consumer love went, dual-purpose motorcycles were riding off the showroom floors in 2008 according to tentative numbers from the Motorcycle Industry Council. Dual-purpose bikes as well as scooters were the brightest spots in last year's MIC Retail Sales Report, which reveals percentage growth or decreases among all categories of bikes last year. Scooter sales through December were up 41.5 percent compared to all of 2007. Dual-purpose bike sales jumped 22.8 percent last year for the major brands tracked. No other categories in the report showed an increase.

"Overall, motorcycle sales were down 7.2 percent, not nearly as sharp a decline as many other consumer products in today's economy," said MIC President Tim Buche. "We'll look at 2008 as a big year for scooters, dual-purpose bikes and small-displacement motorcycles. If it was smart-sized, offered great value and high fuel mileage, then chances are it was a sales success."

The MIC Retail Sales Report compiles U.S. sales information every month from 12 leading motorcycle distributors: BMW, Can-Am, Ducati, Harley-Davidson/Buell, Honda, Kawasaki, KTM, the Piaggio Group, Victory, Suzuki, Triumph and Yamaha. It provides an indicator of market trends. Among these 12 Retail Sales Report brands, the on-highway segment slipped by just 5.6 percent last year. This includes cruisers, sport bikes, touring bikes and traditional or standard motorcycles.

The off-highway market dropped 30 percent among six leading brands.

As it seemed to several times in the past, a rise in gas prices may have pumped up sales of smaller, more economical motorcycles. Preliminary findings from the 2008 MIC Owner Survey suggest that Americans are looking at motorcycles more for transportation, not only recreation.

## CONSUMER REPORTS TESTS MOTORCYCLES

Fueled by painfully high gasoline prices, 2008 saw many consumers looking for new alternatives to big-bucks fill-ups at the pump. With rising consumer interest in lower-priced two-wheelers that sip rather than guzzle gas and thousands of new riders on the road, Consumer Reports has tested small motor scooters and motorcycles for the first time since 1981.

"When fuel prices crossed the \$4.00 per gallon mark, some consumers shifted gears and two wheels became a cost-saving alternative," said Rik Paul, automotive editor, Consumer Reports. "And, despite current low gas costs, interest in scooters and motorcycles may continue to increase, especially in urban areas where parking space is at a premium."

Consumer Reports tested a total of eight fuel-sipping, small-displacement motorcycle and scooter models. Like Consumer Reports in-depth auto testing process, scooters and motorcycles were subjected to an extensive sequence of standardized tests to determine their performance in categories such as acceleration, braking, fuel economy, noise/vibration, top speed and comfort.

The full report is available in the March 2009 issue of Consumer Reports and online at [www.ConsumerReports.org](http://www.ConsumerReports.org).

## MAKING NOISE ABOUT NOISE

As states like New York and New Hampshire wrestle with anti-noise legislation that would prohibit modifications to factory-installed exhaust systems, the Motorcycle Industry Council is seeking to postpone further legislative action pending their development of a new sound test.

In comments to the N.H. House Transportation Committee, the MIC stated that they and the Society of Automotive Engineers are finalizing a new stationary sound test, SAE J2825, which will provide a quick, easy, economical, and science-based tool for accurately identifying motorcycles with excessively noisy exhaust systems.

"Our goal is to provide a consistent tool nationwide for identifying excessively loud exhaust systems without failing those that pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency federal sound limit," said Pamela Amette, vice president of the MIC. "This sound test will effectively achieve the sound control goals of New Hampshire, and other states and municipalities, and more so than some of the proposed legislation currently being considered. On a national level, it will eliminate a lot of the confusion and frustration for motorcyclists when they ride through different jurisdictions."

Amette said that California, numerous local jurisdictions, and Canada have expressed interest in the new test that was developed through extensive sound testing during 2007.

## ROW BILL FILED IN NEW MEXICO

A Failure to Yield the Right of Way bill has been introduced in New Mexico by State Representative

Rick Miera, a longtime motorcyclists' rights advocate and member of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists Legislative Task Force (NCOM-LTF). The bill will increase the penalties imposed for Failing to Yield the Right of Way. The current penalties for Failure to Yield is a fine of \$25.00 to \$50.00 no matter the severity of the accident. Careless driving which also falls under the Failure to Yield Statutes is only a \$125.00 fine! HB 290 would increase the penalties to \$200.00 or 30 day suspension of driver's license causing NO great bodily harm or death. Great Bodily harm would hold a penalty of \$500.00 or 30 day suspension of driver's license. Failing to Yield causing Death would hold a penalty of \$1000.00 or 6 months suspension of driver's license.

HB 290 is now headed to the Transportation and Public Works Committee, and concerned riders are being asked by the New Mexico Motorcyclists Rights Organization, ABATE and the Confederation of Clubs to contact their legislators seeking support for the proposed ROW legislation. Your state rep can be contacted by calling the switchboard at (505) 986-4300.

**WEIRD NEWS: MOTORCYCLE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM INSTALLED IN U.K.** A new surveillance system installed on eight routes in Derbyshire, England designed to track movements of motorcyclists on the roads will be operational by Easter.

The technology can tell motorcycles apart from other vehicles, measure their speeds and will be able to read number plates under plans. Data such as the routes taken by individual motorcyclists along with time and date will be collected and kept even if they have committed no offense.

The project has prompted civil rights groups to express grave concerns about the potential for invasion of motorcyclists' privacy.

Speed camera bosses behind the scheme have named it the "motorcycle data project" and the equipment a "motorcycle detection system". It will scrutinize movements of motorcyclists in particular and be switched on to coincide with the start of the riding season in April, they say.

The Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership said the aim was to "gather intelligence" to "prevent motorcycle casualties" through measures such as speed warning signs, extra police patrols and safer roadside barriers.

But Isabella Sankey, Director of Policy for the civil rights group Liberty, said: "The road to massive-scale

real-time surveillance is paved with good intentions. We have no problem with ANPR being used to locate vehicles whose owners the police firmly suspect of having committed an offence but it shouldn't be used as a tool of mass surveillance."

**QUOTABLE QUOTE:** "The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground."

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), American philosopher & statesman, 3rd U.S. President

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Winn Dixie & Walgreens on the corner. A map is published on the Leesburg Bikefest's web site. <http://www.leesburgbikefest.com>

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(Left to right) Attorneys Harold Rosen and Bob Switkes  
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### **GOALS & PURPOSES OF ABATE**

**To** print a newsletter to keep all bikers informed with regard to legislative actions and events around the state and throughout the country.

**To** become a powerful and viable political force in legislative matters concerning all motorcyclists rights.

**To** provide a lobbyist to represent ABATE of Florida, Inc. on the state and national level.

**To** promote voter registration and motivate members to write their legislators.

**To** promote safe riding habits without infringing on individual rights.

**To** educate the public about motorcycle awareness.