Freewheeling

Let the People Who Ride Decide

Dedicated to Responsible Motorcycle Legislation

The Official Newsletter of Virginia’s First Motorcyclists’ Rights Organization

ABATE OF VIRGINIA INC.

Vol. 2018 Issue 2
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Editor’s Column

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Here’s hoping everyone is getting in a lot of safe, enjoyable riding this season. It finally stopped raining every day!

Our Executive and Legislative directors are working to formulate our legislative agenda to present to the board. I do not have all the details, but some of the ideas being considered are definitely new and interesting.

We still need advertisers and submissions for the newsletter. The BOD voted to reduce the hardcopy issues printed until we can get more advertising to pay for it. You can still enjoy the online (color) version at abateva.org.

A special shout out to Tarie of Purgatory Mountain and Sammy of Tazwell for their submissions and ABATE discount advertisers. They are responsible for much of the content of this issue. Also thanks to MRF-NCOM Rep John Bilotta for his contributions.

As always, this is YOUR newsletter. Please send me information and pictures to reflect your hard work and good times, along with upcoming events in your area. My ABATE dedicated e-mail address is LCHistoryTeacher@outlook.com

Ride Free,
Dave “Prof” Sutton
State Operations Director

From the Horse’s Mouth
Iron Horse Cavalry News

The IHC does most of their charitable and public service activities in the fall and winter months. This allows our members to support other groups and causes during the riding season, as well as just getting together for fun.

Members supported the Rolling Thunder chapter’s annual Ride for Vets Run, the Honor Flight Run escorting veterans to the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, and rode to support fundraisers held by other ABATE Chapters.

They also made a lemonade run to Rustburg. Landon Mason, who fought cancer for several years before passing away recently at age 11, dreamed of opening a lemonade stand to benefit UVA Children's Hospital in Charlottesville. He wanted to help the place that did so much for him help others. He did not live to see his dream, but community members opened the stand in his memory and all money collected is being donated. IHC rode to the grand opening.

On the lighter side, Prof and Shelby hosted the Meat on the Mountain cookout for the 25th Year. Thirsty Thursday Bike Night at Charley’s and Lynchburg Harley-Davidson have started up again. If nothing else is going on, someone will call a ride just for FUN.
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STATE RALLY– TAZWELL, VIRGINIA

Tazwell Chapter is incorporating the ABATE State Rally and their annual Motorcycle Awareness Rally for three days of fun in beautiful Tazwell at the Moose Lodge Campground.

Admission includes a meal Friday evening and three meals on Saturday. Camping rates are:
- Couple-Weekend Pass $40.00
- Single-Weekend Pass $25.00
- Day Passes are $15.00 per person

The Comfort Inn of Bluefield is a 15 minute ride from the campground and has 30 reserved at $90.00 per night. Call 276-326-3688 and ask for the group rate.

Friday Night - DJ Bowtie
Saturday – Motorcycle Rodeo
Broken Treaty Band
Tommy Cox Rhythm and Blues Band

Prof is hoping to ride the Back of the Dragon on Friday. Any other takers?
CHAPTER MEETING INFORMATION

CATAWBA VALLEY CHAPTER
Meets on the first Sunday of each month at 1PM at the Roanoke Moose Lodge, 3233 Catawba Valley DR (Route 311), Salem, VA

COALFIELD CHAPTER
Meets on the second Saturday of each month at 7 PM at the Comfort Inn, 22006 Riverside Drive, Grundy, VA 22006.

CULPEPER CHAPTER
Meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 PM at Luigi’s Italian Restaurant, 235 Southgate Shopping Ctr, Culpeper, VA 22701.

CHAPTER 99
Meets on the first Monday of each month at 6 PM at Chug-A-Lugs, 15225 Wards Road (Route 29 across from airport) Lynchburg, VA 24502.

FLATLANDER CHAPTER
Meets on the second Sunday of each month at 1 PM at the Towne Point Pub & Restaurant, 3558 Towne Point Rd, Portsmouth, VA 23703.

HOLE IN THE WALL CHAPTER
Meets on the third Saturday of each month at 6 PM at the BP station, located at EXIT 58 off I-77 in Bastian, VA 24314.

IRON HORSE CAVALRY CHAPTER
Meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at Big Lick’s, 4001 Murray Place (off the Lynchburg Expressway) in Lynchburg, VA 24501.

LONESOME PINE CHAPTER
First Tuesday of each month Hawg Nutz 1104 Kentucky Ave Norton, VA 24273 6:30pm.

MASON DIXON CHAPTER
Second and fourth Tuesday of each month @ 8pm Patriot’s Cafe 10376 Lee Hwy Fairfax, VA 22030

MOUNTAIN THUNDER CHAPTER
Meetings: Second Saturday of each month at 12 noon Jersey Lily’s Roadhouse 1650 Braeburn Dr Salem, VA 24153 Across from Lewis Gale Hospital

NELSON COUNTY CHAPTER
Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at the Lovingston Café Lounge, 165 Front Street, Lovingston, VA 22949.

PURGATORY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER
Meets on second Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Buchanan Moose Lodge, 534 3rd Street, Buchanan, VA 24066.

TAZEWELL COUNTY CHAPTER
Meetings: 1st Friday of the month at 7 pm. La Fiesta Mexican Cantina 504 Commerce Drive Bluefield, VA 24605

ATTENTION ABATE MEMBERS-
GOOD TIMES RESTAURANT & BAR IN BUCHANAN IS OFFERING A 10% BIKER DISCOUNT, BUT YOU HAVE TO ASK FOR IT.
TELL ‘EM BECKY SAID...
The meeting was called to order by Executive Director Stan Bryant with the following chapters represented:

**Chapter 99**: Pete Bulgart; **Culpeper**: Wendy Weir; **Flatlander**: John Bilotta; **Iron Horse Cavalry**: Stan Bryant (Exec. Dir.), David “Prof” Sutton (Ops. Dir.), Daniel Trail; **Lonesome Pine**: NR Mason Dixon; Joe Wagner (Fin. Dir.), Maryann Sowle (Membership Dir. and proxy for John Reinhart); **Mountain Thunder**: Eddie Ober, Andy Lee, Tammy, Ebe, Jamie Moorman, Marci Lyons, Tavis Moorma, Maggie Simmons, Tony Foster, David Lester, Steve Moody, Julie Swartz, John Casazza; **Nelson County**: Buddy Altizer, Diana Sigrist; **Purgatory Mountain**: Teresa Metz, **Tazewell County**: Sam Jackson, Pam Jackson. **Hole in the Wall**: NR
**At Large**: GW Peterson.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a quorum was established, with Catawba, Coalfield and Lonesome Pine chapters not represented.
Stan moved to skip the reading of the previous meeting minutes; the motion was seconded and approved.

**CURRENT NEWS**
This meeting held in side meeting room as a trial. Consensus to return to main meeting room for future BOD meetings. August BOD meeting will be at the State Rally.
Stan discussed the planning stages for the year’s legislative agenda concerning next year’s General Assembly session. This includes helmet freedom of choice legislation. He and Legislative Director G.W. Peterson are working to insure we are better prepared. They plan to be able to layout an action strategy at the August meeting.
The “Start Looking for Motorcycles” sign supply needs replenishing. A vendor has offered a price of $6.95 each with a minimum order of 100 and a one-time set up fee. A motion made to print 200 signs was seconded and passed.
Tazwell Chapter hosting the state rally at the Tazwell Moose Campground August 3, 4, and 5. Weekend and daily rates. Presale T-shirts are $10.00, $15.00 at the rally. There are no camper hook-ups. The Military Vets MC will run the refreshment concession again this year. DJ Friday night. Band Saturday night.

**OPERATIONS DIRECTOR REPORT**
Prof had sample color hard copies of the newsletter. He hopes that increasing quality will increase advertising, which will make more improvements possible. For now, printed copies will remain black and white. He reminded that newsletter is also available through a new link on the new website.
He also apologized that printed copies were not yet done. Material has largely not been submitted in a timely manner. After discussion, the board agreed on a June 21 deadline for submissions to the next issue.

We are in desperate need of an advertising manager. We have one paid advertiser and one offering a biker discount. Advertising is needed to offset printing costs and help us get our message out. Prof suggested consideration of a 10% incentive to chapters supplying paid advertising. Board also decided that current printing will be reduced to 10 copies per chapter. Individual members will be urged to view in color version on the website.

Items for future newsletters can be sent to his ABATE dedicated e-mail LCHistoryTeacher@outlook.com.

**FINANCIAL DIRECTOR**
Joe Wagner reported an available balance of $13,794.48.

**LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR**— See CURRENT NEWS

**AMA/MRF/NCOM**
John Bilotta Reported that Meeting of the Minds and Bikers Inside the Beltway are both coming up.
BOD Minutes continued

ADVERTISING
We only have one paid advertiser and one confirmed business offering biker discounts. Need someone to step up as advertising manager.

MEMBERSHIP
MaryAnn distributed the annual membership pins to chapter directors present. Joe distributed membership reports.

OPEN FLOOR
Joe mentioned that he can post event flyers on the state website. Mountain Thunder and Purgatory Mountain chapters discussed upcoming rides and events. Sammy talked about State Rally t-shirts.

ADJOURNMENT
The next BOD meeting will be August 4 at the State Rally. Stan moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m.; the motion was seconded and approved.
Jalin’s Journey Benefit Ride

We had 42 bikes on the ride. Two firepits in silent auction, won by Vicki Eubank & Sandra Thrasher. Two-night Myrtle Beach Landmark Resort was won by Mickey Helms, member of Purgatory Mountain Chapter.

With the bake sale, donut sale, donations & benefit ride, Purgatory Mountain was able to raise $7600. The Downhours needed $15,000 for the trip to California for stem cell therapy to hopeful get the little boy to walk. With all the other fundraisers, they now have a total of $13,600. –Tarie
Tales From Tazwell

The Tazewell County Chapter planned to meet at Hardee’s in Tazewell, Virginia on June 16th at 8:30 a.m., and pull out at 9:00, sharp heading to the BP station in Bastian, Virginia to meet up with the Hole in the Wall Chapter. We pulled out of Bastian at 10:30, heading to the Kanawha Valley Arena in Dugspur, Virginia to meet up with surrounding chapters in Virginia for the Mark McKee Benefit to help Chapter Director Mark McKee. We hoped to see everybody at Kanawha Valley Arena for a great day of fellowship, fun and to support Mark.

We failed to get a good group picture, but I sent Prof what I had on my phone for Freewheeling.

We had Mountain Thunder, Purgatory Mountain, Hole in the Wall, Tazewell County and friends show up for the fundraiser for Mark McKee. This is a cool little place set up like an old west town, Saloon, Hotel, Carriage House, and of the town Jail.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the State Rally in August.

Sammy

Remember– Businesses that give ABATE members a 10% discount get a free business card ad in Freewheeling, like these fine folks.
Grover Greybeard

In just the last few weeks, we witnessed three traffic light infractions, with one being a minor accident between two car drivers and the other two that could have been much worse for any biker entering the intersections.

The minor accident almost appeared to be acted out in slow motion and was the fault of a driver who appeared to somehow not notice the other vehicle still in the middle of the intersection. Once the second driver saw his green light signal, he drove forward, right into the other car.

The other two instances were red light runners, with one being a small compact car and the other being a tractor-trailer. You might have a little luck with the small car, but having that semi come barreling through any intersection with another vehicle (motorcycle) there would have terrible results.

What to do?

Don’t be blinded by the light…if you are just sitting there, staring at the traffic light, waiting for it to change so you can twist the throttle and take off, don’t do it. Instead of being cooped up in a car, use the fact that you can see all around you to your advantage and monitor the traffic coming in from the opposing direction and from the sides.

Don’t react to the changing light as a drag strip rider would and try to take off as soon as the “Christmas tree” shows a green light. Use your experience on the bike and develop the skills needed to avoid those encounters.

In addition to keeping an eye on traffic before you venture out in the intersection, think about other times you may have had a close call. As “Slider” Gilmore points out in one of his presentations, an intersection doesn’t need to be a crossing of perpendicular lanes. Highway entrance and exit ramps could be considered intersections, as can driveway or parking lot entrances to the street on which you are riding. Anytime somebody can drive their car (or truck) over you and your passenger, use your common sense and your other senses to avoid them.

NCOM BIKE NEWSBYTES
Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish, National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM)

NEW ‘A BIKER’S GUIDE TO MAKING LAW’ BROCHURE AVAILABLE FROM NCOM

The latest in a line of “BIKER’S GUIDE” brochures was recently unveiled during the Mock Legislative Session at this year’s NCOM Convention in Mobile, Alabama. Conducted by the National Coalition Of Motorcyclists’ Legislative Task Force (NCOM-LTF), the seminar was a hands-on demonstration of passing legislation, providing a perfect opportunity to unveil the new “A BIKER’S GUIDE TO MAKING LAW” educational brochure of similar topic.

The new tri-fold brochure was produced by the NCOM-LTF to explain how to get a bill introduced and lobby for pro-motorcycle legislation, and is being provided free of charge to any Motorcycle Rights Organization (MRO), Confederation of Clubs (COC), NCOM Member Group, club or organization, through Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) and the Law Offices of Richard M. Lester.

“The Biker’s Guide was well received,” said Frank Ernst, Chairman of the NCOM-LTF following the mock session on May 12th. “After we passed them out, many attendees came up and asked if they could have additional copies, and most agreed it is a valuable tool and will give people help on how to get started in the process.”

A BIKER’S GUIDE TO MAKING LAW joins previous titles in the educational series. For free copies for you and your motorcycle group, call A.I.M./NCOM at (800) ON-A-BIKE (800-662-2453).

MOTORCYCLIST FATALITIES TREND DOWNWARD

Nationwide motorcycle traffic fatalities dropped by 5.6% from 2016 to 2017, a new report shows. The Governors Highway Safety Association released a report in May showcasing preliminary data on last year’s motorcycle fatalities by state. Per the report, U.S. motorcycle fatalities dropped by 296 deaths -- from 5,286 in 2016 to a projected 4,990 last year. That’s coming off a 5.1% increase in such road fatalities from 2015 to 2016, the report states.

The figures reported are projections based on preliminary data provided for 2017 from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Compared with 2016, motorcyclist fatalities are estimated to have decreased in 30 states, remained the same in two states, and increased in 18 states.
On the way down to Mobile, Alabama for the 33rd Annual NCOM Convention, Lisa and I had stopped at a gas station in the northern part of Alabama. A customer coming out of the station remarked that he liked my vest (with the Flatlander Chapter patch). As he started to pull away from the pump, it was then that he noticed he had a flat tire. I went to help him change it and during the course of conversation, he told me that one of his ancestors was a fellow by the name of Gadsden and was the designer of the Gadsden flag. I told him that I certainly appreciated the use of his relative’s design.

This year’s convention was dedicated to the memory of Thomas “Doc Ski” Wasileski of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, who passed away in October 2017. Board member Bill Bish and his wife Darlene could not attend the convention, the first one they have not been able to attend, since their daughter was graduating from college and they had to be there with her.

Changes to the NCOM Board of Directors included replacing members Jeff Rabe and Michael “Cutter” Jay with Bob Tibor of ABATE of ND and Hessian “Spike”.

NCOM Board Chairman “Doc” Reichenbach also requested that Laddy Elkins of Louisiana be the first Board Member Emeritus.

Changes to the Legislative Task Force include the loss of David “Double D” Deveroux and Jessie McDugald. “Doc” Reichenbach said, “The in-fighting needs to stop”, and encouraged everyone to get along with each other, to organize and move forward. Sharon “Lady Ninja” Cancel said it is still difficult to get sportbikers and club members to work together.

Aim Attorney Bill Smith spoke about the trial of Jacob Carrizal during his talk about the “Waco Tragedy” of 2015. The McLennan County District Attorney Abel Reyna believed that the Bandido officer would be the best case to try first, hoping the conviction would be a “slam-dunk” and would further their cases against the rest of the bikers awaiting their days in court. Carrizal’s trial ended in a mistrial and the DA’s office quickly started dropping charges against other bikers, with over 100 cases having been dropped or refused to prosecute. The remaining 38 will face charges from rioting and assault to tampering with evidence and felon in possession of a firearm. Carrizal is slated to be back in court for a new trial in September, unless his attorney isn’t ready or the District Attorney chooses to use the court date for another biker.

AIM Attorney Mitch Proner spoke about the RICO Act and the effect on organizations, including motorcycle clubs and other motorcycle organizations. The RICO Act, (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) provides a way for law enforcement to deprive defendants of due process and can be used to seize the assets of a defendant. All it takes is two occurrences within a ten-year period by individuals within an organization. Prosecution focuses on patterns of behavior rather than actual criminal acts. One infamous case involved the Key West Police Department in Florida being declared a criminal enterprise under RICO...

The Confederation of Clubs General Patch Holders meeting was moderated by David “Animal” Reid of Dixie ABATE and NCOM Board member. During the meeting we heard that the Mongols MC would probably be going back to court again this year; several states are working on or will be working on anti-profiling bills since it is prevalent in California, Utah, Nevada; more states working on hurdlebar restrictions; Louisiana defeated a facemask problem and in Kansas they are working on a phone app that will allow live streaming of traffic stops.

Regional meetings were also held to exchange information and talk about what is working (or not) in each state. (Virginia is in Region VII, along with Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and the District of Columbia).

Slider Gilmore gave a presentation titled, “What Successful People Do”. Unfortunately, his time was shortened and he was not able to complete it as he would have liked.

Former South Dakota Senator Jim “Putter” Putnam, along with former Wisconsin State Senator Dave Zien, were to participate in the Legislative Task Force’s “Mock Legislative Session”, but were unable to attend. The presentation, showing what would happen during a committee meeting with testimony from advocates and opponents of a proposed bill was still well received, with other participants acting as committee members/legislators in lieu of Senators Putnam and Zien.

The Silver Spoke Award Banquet allowed recognition for those who have contributed toward motorcycling in various ways, from Special Recognition, Government, Media, Commerce, Legal and for the first time, a Veteran award. The Ron Roloff Lifetime Achievement award went to our neighbor in North Carolina, Charlie Boone, NCOM Board of Directors member and former President of CBA/ABATE of NC.

The 34th Annual NCOM Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida, May 9-12, 2019.
The 10th Annual Michael “Boz” Kerr Bikers Inside the Beltway in Washington D.C. was well attended by motorcycle freedom fighters from across the country as they converged on Capitol Hill to meet with their Congressional legislators. Many of the participants rode up from the NCOM Convention in Mobile, Alabama, leaving Sunday morning and arriving in Falls Church Monday afternoon/evening. Lisa and I had stopped for gas just before entering the beltway, and were surprised a few minutes later when Jim Barr of ABATE of Long Island showed up. He had taken the scenic route by riding from Mobile to Myrtle Beach, then to D.C.

A preparatory session was held Monday evening by Tiffany, Megan and “Hardtail” to discuss proposed legislation and help with talking points to be used during the meetings on Tuesday.

A group ride was held from Falls Church to downtown Washington D.C. on Tuesday morning to park the bikes within walking distance of all Senate and Congressional office buildings. Additionally, participants who did not ride were able to use the Metro or an Uber driver to get them to the downtown area without having to worry about parking a car.

As expected, bikers came from nearby states such as Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina and Virginia. But there were many from Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin and even “Big Dave” from Alaska to speak about the issues that are of concern to motorcyclists.

Next year I will just list the states that are NOT represented...

One new addition to this year’s BITB was the formation of groups with group leaders for the club members who did not have much experience doing this sort of thing. Small groups of five or six club members were teamed up with a more seasoned/experienced lobbyist to help show them how to approach the legislator or staffer.

Making their way through the House and Senate office buildings, bikers visited the offices of their Representatives and Senators to:

- Request co-sponsors to bills H.Res.318 and S.Res.154, measures that raise awareness and address concerns over profiling of motorcyclists and passengers;
- Provide better education and relief for motorcycle riders surrounding higher blends of ethanol (E15) in the nation’s gasoline supply;
- Become a co-sponsor to bring the RPM Act (H.R.350 or S.203) to the floor for a vote;
- Support the inclusion and consideration of motorcycles in regulations and laws governing highly automated vehicles (HAVs) such as in the AV START Act (S.1885).

After meeting with legislators or their legislative assistants, the bikers were invited to a local American Legion Post for pizza and beverages. The MRF and the Michigan riders presented Representative Tim Walberg (R-MI) with a personalized vest that had been awarded to him during last year’s Meeting of the Minds.

During our Lobby Day visit to Richmond in January next year, as you are walking through the building and talking to your state legislators, consider visiting the nation’s capital next May to talk to your other elected representatives and ask for their support for responsible motorcycling legislation.
Cruising the Commonwealth

Got Some Good Ride Shots? Send ‘Em In!
CHAPTER WALL
SEND A PICTURE OF YOUR CHAPTER PATCH OR BANNER FOR THE WALL

YOUR CHAPTER HERE

YOUR CHAPTER HERE
ABATE HAS HELPED DO THIS:

- Designating all money from the motorcycle endorsements on drivers’ licenses to be applied directly to the Virginia Rider Training Program.
- Establishment of a motorcyclist’s learner’s permit.
- Prohibiting state, county, and city governments from banning motorcycles from roads that use any public funds.
- Prohibiting motorcycle-only checkpoints.
- Permitting the use of headphones in helmets as part of a communication device.
- Permanently allowing motorcycles on High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes by statute.
- Allowing motorcyclists to proceed through a red light after waiting two minutes or two cycles and when safe to do so.
- Defining legal helmet standards by statute and repealing the criminal penalty of wearing a non-approved helmet.
- Allowing motorcyclists to ride in a police escorted parade without a helmet.
- Requiring all driver education programs to include motorcyle awareness training.
- Adoption of a special license plate that incorporates a safe motorcycling message.
- Allowing use of additional brake lights approved by the Superintendent of the State Police, modulating brake lights and modulating headlights.
- Defeating legislation that placed an age limit on motorcycle passengers.
- Defeating legislation that would have prohibited motorcycles from bridges and tunnels in the Hampton Roads area during periods of strong weather.
- Requiring VDOT to consider motorcycles in all roadway maintenance and planning of future roadway projects.
- Allowing the use of a facemask in public when not trying to conceal one’s identity.

(Please print legibly)

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Signature(s): _________________________________________________________

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Phone: _____________________________________________________________

E-mail: ______________________________________________________________

Preferred Chapter: ____________________________________________________

What would you like ABATE to accomplish? (We do read this.)

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

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