

Online

FREEDOM NEWS

DEDICATED TO FREEDOM OF THE ROAD



WHAT'S NEW

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

We're moving from print to digital this month and possibly for the next few months. With events on hold, no flyers and few reports, it makes economical sense to downscale print.

ROAD SIGNS

Read all about the new ABATE road signs on [page 3](#)

CONTACT US

Find State, Chapter and Committee contacts and Meeting places on our website at:

abate-wa.org

Interested in joining? Info can also be found on our website



Above photo by Thomas Short, North Kitsap
Near Tacoma Narrows Bridge

Photo left from Andy McAfee, Spanaway

STATE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Members,

The Pandemic is making life difficult at best for everyone. Our runs are being canceled and Chapters are having a difficult time just holding meetings. Businesses continue to be shut down. Peoples' rights continue to be violated. Stay strong. Ride a lot. They have no control over that. YET??

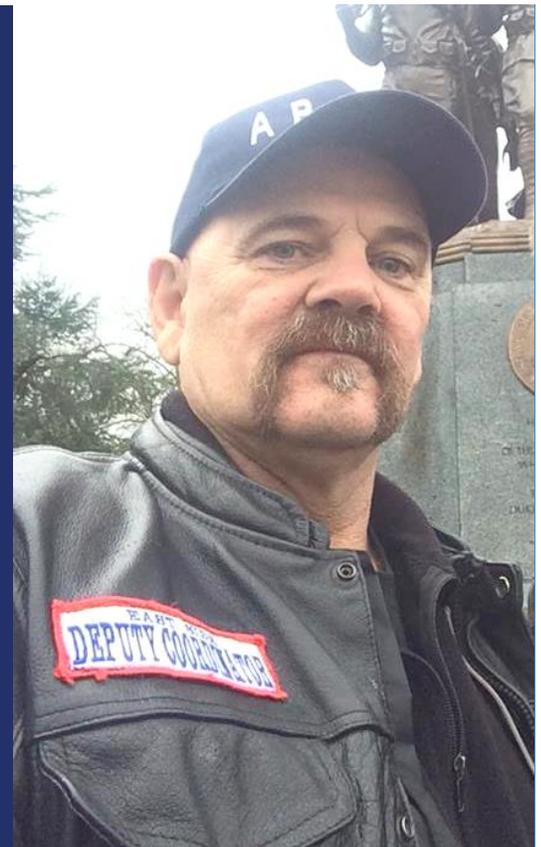
ROAD SIGNS have arrived. They are 2ft x 2ft. Will start working on getting them to chapters. They are not being bought to set in someone's garage. Talk to your city officials, Mayor's office or county Commissioners. Ask them to support our efforts to slow down the motorcycle accidents with these awareness signs. The basis of the sign is motorcycle awareness. We are trying to save lives. Motorcycle riders account for 20% of the vehicle deaths in the state last year. This has got to change, we are only 4% of the registered motor vehicles. If you know folks who own property close to the highways, ask permission to put the sign up. With all our Chapters statewide, we should have the state well covered. More info coming.

Regarding STEAM and the next BOD, working on securing a location. At this time, the Red Lion Inn in Ellensburg is not going to allow us to have the event at that location. Working on a new location.

We are going to be going digital with the Newsletter for a while. We do not have enough info or flyers to justify printing or paying to print the Newsletter. Check the web site for a copy of the Newsletter. This is another result of the Pandemic. Stand by for further info.

Stay healthy,

Scott



SCOTT ROBINSON
STATE COORDINATOR
ABATE OF WASHINGTON
509-250-2001
coordinator@abate-wa.org

ROAD SIGNS ARE HERE

BY SCOTT ROBINSON

We have received 2 ft. x 2 ft. road signs. I have been trying to get them to you as quickly as possible. Delivered some to Jenny (Products), so the folks who live in the Tacoma area contact her to make arrangements to get them. This is the beginning of our motorcycle awareness program. If this works out we can purchase another 100 signs next year with a new message. This is also a membership drive as we are putting our name all over the state.

If you have the signs you will have to be creative with how and where you put them. I suggest the first thing we do with them is put your chapter name and contact info on the back of them. If someone has a problem let them call. Explain we are trying to save motorcycle rider lives with awareness. ABATE of Washington is doing their part to reach target zero deaths. Last year 100 brothers and sisters were killed on Washington state highways. That has got to change. We do not need legislation to make this happen we just need to be proactive.

You can approach the city officials and request they allow us to put them up using existing sign post for things like no parking signs or welcome to --- etc. or approach business owners who have buildings close to the roadway. Land owners who have fences or other buildings close to the road also work. DOT will take the signs if they are on DOT posts. If for some reason you can't find a place for them please return to products. If other Chapters can use them we will pass them on. If we have to, we will sell them for approximate \$60 each. Just don't let them set in the storage shed or garage.

If anyone has a good suggestion on how to get them up in public, pass it on to the rest of us.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Check our website for a list of upcoming events:

<https://abate-wa.org/Events/EventCalendar>

OPEN POSITION

Interested in becoming our Newsletter editor? Contact Scott at (509) 250-2001

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BY LOUISE BENTLEY

The July BOD has come and gone and unfortunately, circumstances related to my car crash and injured knee caused me to miss the July BOD so the Legislative discussion and voting for this session's Bills was tabled (family issues caused Brian to miss the BOD also). I would like to thank Doug Bowers for filling in and relaying the LAO report for everyone at the BOD.

This year has definitely had a lot of challenges when it comes to ABATE members getting together to discuss our issues and plan our efforts for the year. Brian, Scott Robinson and I have "met" several times via phone to come up with a strategy to present ABATE's legislative issues to the membership. This year, a review of the possible Bills that we will run with this biennium is going to be sent to all Chapter Coordinators so that they can include the review in their meeting agendas. Hopefully, the chapter members will have a chance to discuss the Bills and vote on which ones they would like to see us present to the legislators. Following the chapter members' vote, the results should be sent via email to legislative1@abate-wa.org.

It is our decision to run no more than 3 Bills during any one legislative session and the bills that we currently have developed include:

- Helmet Pilot Bill: we should never let up with this effort, advice from Legislators who are pro-ABATE
- Lane Sharing Bill: we should always pursue this effort for our safety
- Right Lane Shoulder Riding: Allows Motorcycles to travel along the right hand shoulder if traffic is 25 mph or slower. This bill has been discussed with Legislators already and seems to have support among several of them.
- Weight Fee - allows for a weight class payment scale for vehicles that weigh less than 4,000 lbs.
- New one suggested - Handicap parking space allowance - this bill would allow more than one bike per handicap spot if at least one bike has a decal

It is recommended by the LAOs that the Helmet Bill, the Lane Sharing Bill, and the Right Shoulder Lane Bill be pursued during this biennium.

It is understood that these changes put a little more effort onto the Coordinators' shoulders and we certainly appreciate any effort that can be put forth by all members to make this a successful legislative year.

A detailed list of the aforementioned Bills will be forwarded to the Chapter Coordinators soon (most chapters will have already received it by the time this article is published)

Ride often, ride safely!!

SPANAWAY CHAPTER

BY ANDY MCAFEE, DEPUTY COORDINATOR

Well today was our scheduled Meat House Run. That was a great time last year but due to Covid we changed it to a Mystery ride. The Mystery ride went from Uncle Sam's to the Puyallup VFW where we meet up with Brotherhood United Motorcycle Association BUMA. They put on their first annual Tacos and Tailpipes 2020. Great run had by all Honored to support these veterans. Other than being hotter than a snake's ass, it was a great ride. Thank you for your service.

Our chapter is trying to get back to having meetings and socials as normal, well with masks but as normal as we can. That being said our next meeting is September 15 starting at 7pm at our normal location of Uncle Sam's. We will be taking nominations for officer for next year. We would love to have some new people get involved. It is a great group of people. Change is coming, we will be looking at all new officers in all new positions. Change is always difficult, but we look forward to the future and the challenge.

With that being said, our great and honored leader Billy Dee has decided to step down as coordinator. He will be impossible to replace. He has been the coordinator for the past eight years starting the Spanaway chapter. The biggest and best in the State. Thank you doesn't seem to cover it. So as soon as we can all get to gather again in a big group. We will be having a big thank you Billy Dee and Barb party. Stay tuned it is going to be epic. Stay safe out there take care of each other.

NORTH KITSAP CHAPTER

BY THOMAS SHORT, DEPUTY COORDINATOR

Greetings from North Kitsap! First order of North Kitsap ABATE Newsletter Business is to congratulate all of the State ABATE Officers on their new roles and thank them all for stepping up as we roll into a new era, as well as sending our heartfelt thanks to Lyle for all of his hard work and dedication during his tenure as our State Coordinator. Thank you all.

Speaking of new Officers, Chapter Officers have been nominated and will become official at our next Chapter meeting. The largest change for our chapter will be the election of our new Coordinator as Jake has decided to step away from the service commitment at this time. We are grateful for all you have done Jake! Thank you!

While we are thanking people, we would also like to thank (new State Jr. Deputy Coordinator) James McVey and his lovely wife Debbie for their hospitality hosting our Chapter meetings during COVID. So appreciated!

One strange benefit from the COVID crap and all these event cancellations is that the quarantine has given us time to think. So, our Chapter is thinking outside of the box for events and activities that will help raise awareness and promote our interests regarding helmet use and lane filtering. More to come on that later.

Keep the shiny side up!

EAST PIERCE COUNTY CHAPTER

BY BILLI BOWEN, PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Greetings from EPCC! I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful weather, staying safe, and getting as much riding time as possible. A few changes this month for us, Bubba broke his leg at work in July, so unfortunately we haven't been out & about nearly as much as usual. And after much discussion, the chapter voted to cancel Teddy Bear Rally 2020, due to all of the current uncertainties. We hope everyone understands & will join us next year for bigger & better. Stay safe & keep your head on a swivel!!



*Tony & Shirley @ EPCC 40th Anniversary
Photo by Billi Bowen*

SKY VALLEY CHAPTER

BY ROGER HANSON, DEPUTY COORDINATOR

Well this will be my last newsletter. I have stepped down as Deputy Coordinator from our chapter. I have served for a decade in that position and it's time for some new blood. I have nominated Ron Smith to take the reins and move the chapter into the future. I know he will do a great job and make the chapter proud. As for the newsletter, Randy H (The Toolman) will be taking over the newsletter and legislative position for Sky Valley chapter. I will still be in the background to help where and when I can. As for our chapter, like a lot of you we came to a halt with the virus as to having out big bike show this year. So, hoping next year we will be back bigger than ever! Hope you all have some great rides for what is left of the summer. Keep the rubber side down and I'll see you

"In the wind" ... Highwayman

COLUMBIA GORGE CHAPTER

BY KEN BOSTICK, ROAD CAPTAIN

Greetings from Goldendale!! What a beautiful time to ride. We hope all of you have been out doing what we do best! RIDING!!

Big thanks to all of you who showed up in Goldendale to the July BOD. It was well attended and some great grub provided by the American Legion. Congratulations again to our new State Coordinator Scott Robertson!!

All Washington chapters have 5 motorcycle awareness signs! Please do your best to get them up and spread the word of safety.

Again this pandemic has limited our ability to do fund raising, Our poker tournament has been cancelled. We held a Carwash on August 22nd to raise funds for New Hope Farms. As chapters of Abate we need to be flexible and thinking outside of the box in order to adapt and get through this Covid 19 issue. We will prevail. "Get Er done"

Early planning for our chapter is also in works for the Veterans Day parade here in Goldendale. 11/11/2020 @ 10:00am. Always well attended and supported by many businesses and people here to show support for ALL our veterans who have served our country as well as the Fire department, Police and sheriff's office. Join us if you can.



PACIFIC COUNTY CHAPTER

BY JOHN TSCHANNEN, COORDINATOR

NASELLE - Pacific County's last Chapter Run of the season is almost here. The Fall Run will happen regardless of "Proclamations" coming from Olympia!

We had a crew get together to ride to the BOD in Goldendale. Thanks to Scott & Micki, and the entire Columbia Gorge Chapter for their hospitality.

After Labor Day, we will rapidly go into Political Campaign Season. Remember to support those who support us (and vice versa).

We are into the best of the best riding time right now. Get in as many rides as you can. If you see a bike stopped on the side of the road, check to see if they are broken down and could use a hand. It just takes a moment, but shows some class!

Ride safe and stay sharp.

LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER

BY PAUL MORDICK, COORDINATOR

CHEHALIS - Summer weather is great. Good time for some events and rides. More events that have been planned are being canceled. This COVID thing does not want to go away. We can agree or disagree with the mask requirements and restrictions that the state requires. I know that when the government tells us we must do something, we tend to push back. We are entitled to our opinion as far as what should or should not be done. This can cause disagreements between family and friends. Each person needs to make their own choices. Decide what is best for their family and themselves. There are many experts out there with "expert" opinions. Statistics can be inaccurate. There still is a lot to learn about this disease.

The one thing that we motorcyclists have in common is motorcycles and the continued fight for our right to ride free. Sometimes we just need to remember that.

The General election is Nov. 3rd. No matter what your politics are. Please register so you can vote. Every vote counts. I believe we, especially ABATE members, have a responsibility to vote and let our voices be heard. Whether it is through our legislators or voting.

Speaking of elections. We had nominations and elections in August for Chapter officers. Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator, Treasurer and Secretary. This will be my last report. Gary Knutter will be taking over as Chapter Coordinator. It has been a real privilege to serve this chapter. I really appreciate all the help and support I have received. There is a core group of members that work hard to make our chapter and our events successful. It has been and will continue be a pleasure to work with them. The new officers will assume their duties this month.

Get out there and have some fun. Enjoy what you can this summer! You can "socially distance" yourself riding. Be safe out there and look out for those that are not. Be sure to check out our website. www.LewisCountyABATE.org

LEWIS COUNTY LITTER PICK UP AND RIDE



ABATE of Washington

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4th Annual Motorcycle Rally

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Pacific County Chapter

19th ANNUAL
FALL RUN

SEPTEMBER 12th, 2020
STARTING AT HUNTERS INN
NASELLE, WA

Sign in from 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.
Noonish at Pastime Tavern– Castle Rock
Ends at Chester Tavern - South Bend
\$10.00 Donation

Contact: Lenny 484-7226
Art 206-412-3624

ALL RIDERS/BIKES WELCOME



Join ABATE of Washington
South King County Chapter
in supporting BASH



SKCC would like all chapters join in to collect food and donations to give to BASH. There are a lot of people in need and we as a group can do a lot to support them.

ABATE of Washington South King County Chapter will collect all food and donations at the October STEAM and BOD meeting in Ellensburg October 17 / 18

NOTE: STEAM/BOD LOCATION AND DATE MAY CHANGE

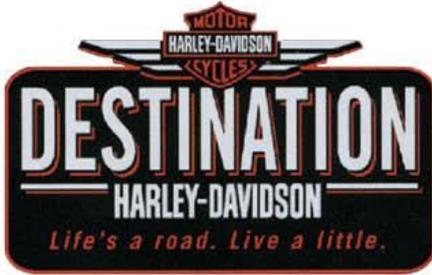
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What the Jury Doesn't Get to Hear

By Mike Myers



The rules of evidence have a big impact on what the jury gets to hear (and what it doesn't get to hear about the case). A lot of the rules are counterintuitive.

Here's what the jury doesn't get to hear in a motorcycle injury case:

1. The amount defendant offered to pay before trial. In most cases defendants make offers before trial. But at trial the jury never hears what the defendant was willing to pay and the last offer does not set a floor for the verdict.
2. The defendant has insurance. At trial defense lawyers love to insinuate their clients are going to have to pay the full amount of the verdict. Nothing could be further from the truth. But the jury never gets to hear that the insurance company will be paying the verdict.
3. When the defendant admitted fault. A lot of times defendants deny they were at fault from the day of the wreck all the way up to the night before trial. Then, almost magically, they admit fault on the courthouse steps. The jury never gets to hear that the earnest, accountable defendant denied that they caused the wreck for years.
4. The defendant caused 10 other wrecks. A lot of clients want the jury to hear that the defendant caused 10 other wrecks and is a menace to society. The rules of evidence don't allow the jury to hear about these kinds of "past bad acts."
5. The defendant was drunk or high. This is probably the most controversial. Many judges take the view that if the defendant admits he was at-fault for the wreck, the jury doesn't get to find out that he was drunk or stoned.
6. The defendant was texting. If liability is admitted, the jury never finds out that the defendant was texting.
7. The defendant was cited (or the injured person was not cited). Evidence about whether a citation was issued (or not issued) doesn't come into evidence—the jury never hears about it.
8. The defendant never checked on the injured person or asked what they could do to help. What's the best way to truly accept responsibility for hurting someone else? To try to make things right. But the jury isn't going to hear the defendant never checked on the injured person, never offered to drive them to the doctor, and never offered to pay for their medical bills.
9. What similar cases are worth. The jurors are appraisers. Their job is to figure out what the injured person's damages are worth. But the jury is never going to hear that in a very similar case the jury awarded \$1.45M. It's a little like an appraiser potentially saying a house is worth \$100,000 when the ones on either side sold for \$1.55M and \$1.4M.
10. Argument that the jury should put themselves in the shoes of the injured person. How do we typically "understand" things that happen to other people? How do we "empathize" with other people? We put ourselves in the other person's shoes. Unfortunately, the judge won't allow attorneys to encourage the jury to use this commonsense way of understanding what happened to the injured person.
11. Where the money goes after the verdict is paid. The jury isn't told the injured person has to pay back their insurance companies. Or that the injured person has to pay their attorney's fees and costs. The jury is never told that in the U.S. we don't have a "loser-pays" system and that even though defendant forced the injured person to go to trial, the defendant doesn't have to absorb the injured person's fees and costs.

These rules may not seem fair. But it's important to know about them.



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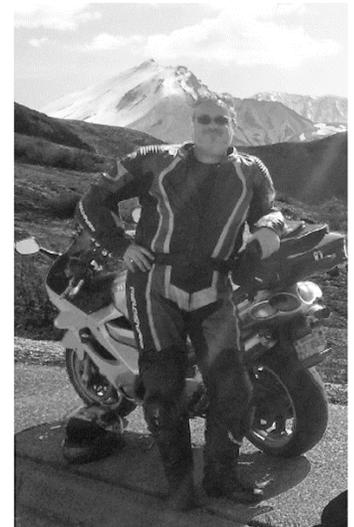
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