

ABATE of GA's

# **Rolling Wheels of Freedom**

**The Official Newsletter**



**To preserve the freedom of the road by protecting the rights of all motorcycle riders through fair and reasonable legislation, education and public awareness.**

## **In This Issue...**

- The History of ABATE – How It All Started
- The Rant by DJ Scottie
- Ten Things Cagers Need to Know About Riders
- Gearing Up for Spring from the GA Motorcycle Safety Program
- Dragon Awareness – Safety tips for riding the Dragon

# Contact Us

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## Executive Board

State Director	Position Open	<a href="mailto:state.director@abatega.org">state.director@abatega.org</a>
Treasurer	Mike Dominick	678-349-4504 <a href="mailto:treasurer@abatega.org">treasurer@abatega.org</a>
Secretary	Tim Farmer	770-881-7438 <a href="mailto:secretary@abatega.org">secretary@abatega.org</a>
Sergeant at Arms	Position Open	<a href="mailto:sgt.arms@abatega.org">sgt.arms@abatega.org</a>
Communications Director	Brian "Skinny Bob" Clifford	404-326-5671 <a href="mailto:communications.director@abatega.org">communications.director@abatega.org</a>
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Legislative Director	Wayne Overholt	478-954-1010 <a href="mailto:Legislative.director@abatega.org">Legislative.director@abatega.org</a>
Membership Director	Ann Crenshaw	229-924-7449 <a href="mailto:membership@abatega.org">membership@abatega.org</a>
Education Director	Position Open	<a href="mailto:Education.director@abatega.org">Education.director@abatega.org</a>

## State Appointees

Acting State Director	Brian "Skinny Bob" Clifford	404-326-5671 <a href="mailto:communications.director@abatega.org">communications.director@abatega.org</a>
Legal Advisor	Steve Murrin	404-221-0777 <a href="mailto:smurrin@murrinandwallace.com">smurrin@murrinandwallace.com</a>
Chaplain	Eric Shumans	912-269-3272



# Contact Us

## Board of Directors

D1 & 1W	Frank Chaney	706-694-8626	<a href="mailto:sgt.baldy@windstream.net">sgt.baldy@windstream.net</a>
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D6-2	Ralph Snyder	770-845-8148	
D7	Leigh Jester	478-319-4013	<a href="mailto:eagle58@windstream.net">eagle58@windstream.net</a>
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# Contact Us

## **ATTENTION MEMBERS**

If you have had trouble with receiving your member card, a pin or a patch, a hotline has been set up to make sure your issue will be addressed as soon as possible.

Please call the Membership Hotline at 678-753-6018. All calls will be returned within 72 hours.

You may also send an email to [membership@abatega.org](mailto:membership@abatega.org).

**Lifetime Members:** If you need lifetime member patches, Cam Mccalister from District 5N has extras. See his contact info above.



# What is ABATE of GA?

**Our mission:** To preserve the freedom of the road by protecting the rights of all motorcycle riders through fair and reasonable legislation, education and public awareness.

ABATE stands for American Bikers Active Toward Education. We are composed of motorcyclists from all over the state, from all walks of life, who ride all makes of bikes. ABATE is not a club. It is a non-partisan, politically active organization working on motorcyclist's rights. We are affiliated with national rights groups like the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM). Our focus is to keep motorcycle legislation in its proper perspective.

Uninformed legislators enact many motorcycle laws. ABATE's goal is to keep them informed of our collective position on legislation. Rider education and public awareness of motorcyclists are also goals of ABATE. We are not against the wearing of helmets, and we encourage all riders to ride safely. An informed and educated rider is a safer rider.

## Member Benefits

- Organized lobbying of state and federal legislators to make your views on motorcyclist rights known to your representatives
- Current information on all motorcycle related legislation and where your legislators stand on the issues that affect your motorcycling rights and freedoms
- Monthly newsletter with legislative updates, event dates and other useful information
- Membership card, patch, and one year pin for new members. Yearly pin for renewals.
- Admission discounts at ABATE events around the state, including Swap Meets
- Discounts at many motorcycle shops and dealers around the state
- Personal satisfaction of joining your fellow riders in promoting the great sport of motorcycling, by participation in a range of events around the state
- Spiritual consultation with the Christian Motorcycle Association for ride prayers, weddings, and visitation



# A Few Accomplishments

- Fought and stopped legislation introduced in the session of the Georgia General Assembly that would have made it illegal for kids age 10 and under to ride as passengers on motorcycles
- Established May as “Motorcycle Awareness” month through a proclamation signed by the Governor and through resolutions passed by the Senate and House each year
- Our successful lobbying efforts have:
  - Created the Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program (GMSP), our state’s rider education program that is available to all
  - Repeal of the Georgia law prohibiting use of speakers or headphones while riding a motorcycle
  - Increased funding for the Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program, in the amount of \$170,000 after the license tag rate was raised on all vehicles to \$20
  - Stopped proposed legislation that would have increased the size of motorcycle tags
  - Allowed handicapped tags for motorcycles without further enabling legislation, by bringing it to the attention of the Department of Revenue that the code section was written in such a way that it was already authorized
  - Created antique tags for motorcycles
  - Passed the “Frank-Lee” (ROW) bill to enhance penalties to those who cause death or serious injury to a motorcyclist by failing to yield the right of way
  - Created the “Tag/Title” bill SB-437 that allows for registration of kit/assembled bikes.
  - Increased maximum handlebar height from 15” to 25”
  - Defunded Georgia motorcycle-only checkpoints at the federal level
  - Allowed motorcycles to access the HOV-HOT lanes free of charge

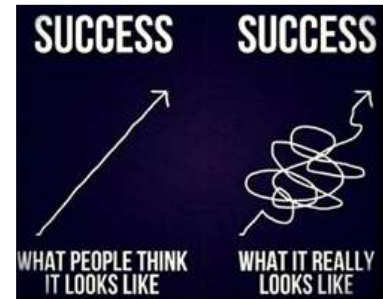


# From the State Director...



## The Long Road to Success

Howdy y'all! I hope everyone is safe and sound. As we continue to move forward with our "Back to Basics" plan, I've been thinking a lot about what success will look like for ABATE of GA in the coming months and beyond. As the picture to the right implies, success will not come easy. It will be messy and may take a lot longer than expected. Overcoming years of challenges will prove difficult, for whomever takes over as State Director.



Nonprofit management is challenging. Whoever fills the role of SD will be tested. A successful SD will have a broad range of skillsets, and the resources and time to do the job right. It's a lot to be responsible for. The duties will include, but not be limited to:

- Traveling the state, supporting 15 out of 19 districts with their unique needs (this will include finding strategic ways to fire up the four districts that are closed.)
- Actively supporting the 10 positions on the Executive Board (the State Director is expected to be able to do these jobs, if the position is vacated or an officer cannot complete their duties)
- Overseeing the daily operations of the State Office (financial and legal issues, office resources, IT technology, etc.)
- Planning and facilitating bi-weekly Executive Board and quarterly Board of Directors meetings
- Strategically growing relationships with partner organizations such as the Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program, GDOT, CMA, the clubs, the MRF, the AMA, other state ABATE's, sponsors, donors and many others
- Arbitrating disputes among members and districts
- Finding creative ways to raise money and cut expenses to support our mission
- Monitoring for and responding to threats to ABATE's brand and mission, as well as promoting it at events around the state
- Ensuring the entire organization, districts and state, maintain solid financial and legal standing in compliance with nonprofit law and IRS 501(c)(4) regulations

Quite a hefty chunk of responsibilities for a non-paid position. A successful SD will need to juggle all of these things well. It will be a learning curve for any new SD, for sure. This person will need a positive, hopeful attitude and vision for the organization. They will need a demonstrated commitment to drive forward, even in the face of very public criticism and significant challenges. We can't have someone who will give up at the first sign of trouble. The nature of a leadership role means that there is often a target on your back and you live under a microscope, with your every move being judged. This is not a job for the weak or the cowardly!

## **From the State Director... (cont.)**

Since February 4th, progress has been slow and tough. But, in an all volunteer-run organization that is to be expected. People have other jobs, families, and lives to attend to, on top of working for ABATE. But, despite this, we have been moving the organization forward. And, hey come on, I'd much rather be moving forward slowly than barreling backwards!

In the first few weeks, recovering from the former SD stepping down was the biggest challenge we overcame. Dealing with all of the questions, circling the troops, assessing resources and trying to get a handle on where we were as an organization marked the rest of the month of February. March saw us putting out a lot of fires; scrambling to gain access to all of our business accounts; accessing and updating the website, fixing serious IT, database and email issues; addressing challenges with basic processes like membership; cleaning out and organizing ABATE storage units and the office; and, completely revamping the online newsletter. This is all on top of our work down at the capital with four bills moving through legislation AND producing our largest event of the year – the Spring Swap Meet.

As we move into April, we will begin work on the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 Swap Meets. We will regroup on our legislative strategy and discuss plans for next year. We will be carefully evaluating our financial position and continuing to work the kinks out of the basic processes. The three new committees will need guidance as they are being formed. The next Board of Directors meeting is coming up and will need to be planned. And, the Executive Board members will continue to support each other and learn how best to work together and grow as a team.

As always, we ask for your continued patience and understanding as we continue to work make ABATE great again! It's a long road to success, but we will all make it if we pull together.

I sincerely appreciate all that you do for the mission of ABATE of GA. Without you all, the members, achieving our goals would not be possible. Always, remember this is your ABATE!

God bless,  
Skinny Bob



**THIS  
IS  
YOUR  
ABATE!**





# Chaplain's Corner...

Well, it's getting close to that time of year again. Yes, I mean the dreaded tax filing time. I don't know about you but for me it's not necessarily the happiest time of year. So, this past week I've been working on gathering all the necessary paperwork to prepare for this task. As I was getting this paperwork together I was taking notice of how little interest our money can make now and how the value of our homes seems to continue to decrease while the taxes for them keeps increasing. As I was pondering about all this stuff, it made think about how much value and importance we put on all of our stuff. We all seem to be in this rat race where we're running to chase the American Dream. We think we have to have all these things in our lives in order for us to be happy and we're always working hard to get more. Maybe we want another car or a nicer house or another motorcycle. This list can go on and on and when we finally get what we want then we add something else to the list that we just have to have.

The Bible has a lot to say about our so-called treasure. Matthew 6:19-21 says, "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." So, where is your treasure stored? What are the things that are so important to you? What are the things that you would die for or even die to protect? Is it family and friends or is it just all your stuff?

This month we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. That is the time when God sent his one and only son to die on the cross for our sins so, that we may have everlasting life and enjoy those treasures that are being stored up for us in heaven. That is the greatest sacrifice of all. Just think about how valuable you are in the eyes of God that he thought you were worth sacrificing His greatest treasure of all. So, I would like to ask you today that if you have not already done so, would you please consider asking Jesus to come into your heart and be the Lord and Savior of your life? If you would like to speak with someone about this then please feel free to get in touch with any of the people listed below. They would love to talk with you about this very important decision in your life.

Eric Shumans  
CMA Georgia State Coordinator



# **The Christian Motorcyclists Association**

## **ABATE of GA's Spiritual Leadership**

<b><u>ABATE Districts</u></b>		<b><u>CMA Chapter Presidents</u></b>	
<b>District 1:</b>	<b>Dalton Ellijay Lafayette</b>	<b>Robert Bearden David McDaniel Phil McGuire</b>	<b>706-581-2007 706-669-0388 706-331-7283</b>
<b>District 2:</b>	<b>Blairsville Cleveland Gainesville</b>	<b>Tom Boyland Kayse Niehoff Dan Montgomery</b>	<b>239-961-2987 478-258-3596 678-513-3763</b>
<b>District 3:</b>	<b>Carrollton Cartersville Rome</b>	<b>Paul Holder Billy Doster Sky Atkins</b>	<b>404-247-3854 678-221-8730 706-331-5529</b>
<b>District 4:</b>	<b>Duluth Lawrenceville Marietta</b>	<b>Monte Wyrick Ricky Berry Lee Brooks</b>	<b>678-485-5962 404-432-7381 770-309-3618</b>
<b>District 5:</b>	<b>Athens Conyers Loganville</b>	<b>Tracy Allen Keith Fowler John Adams</b>	<b>706-338-0655 706-816-5113 678-643-4895</b>
<b>District 6:</b>	<b>Griffin Newnan</b>	<b>Tom Spivey Sam Connor</b>	<b>770-358-2068 770-301-1937</b>
<b>District 7:</b>	<b>Warner Robbins</b>	<b>Bill Gragg</b>	<b>678-423-4330</b>
<b>District 8:</b>	<b>Augusta</b>	<b>Jimmy Goldman</b>	<b>803-507-4526</b>
<b>District 9</b>	<b>Columbus</b>	<b>Todd Newkirk</b>	<b>706-988-6574</b>
<b>District 11</b>	<b>Savannah Statesboro</b>	<b>Jim Williams Harold Piet</b>	<b>912-349-1496 912-515-9050</b>
<b>District 15</b>	<b>Brunswick Jesup St. Mary's</b>	<b>Ricky Harper Larry Madray Curt Johnson</b>	<b>912-778-4759 912-586-2384 912-674-3253</b>



# Key Announcements

## Upcoming Elections

**ABATE of Georgia's Executive Board would like to announce that we are seeking nominations for two state positions: State Director and Sergeant at Arms. All nominations must be submitted in writing to [eboard@abatega.org](mailto:eboard@abatega.org) by midnight May 5th. To run for State Director, a candidate must have been a member of ABATE of GA for two years. Only one year is required for the SAA position.**

**Nominees will be announced at the next BOD meeting May 6th. All nominees who wish to accept their nominations will announce their candidacy at the next BOD May 6th. Following that, candidates' names will be published in the June and July newsletters. They will run their campaigns until the next BOD on August 5th. Elections will be held during the August BOD meeting. If you have any questions, please contact an Executive Board member.**

### **Here are the job descriptions for each position:**

**State Director:** To preside at all Executive and Board of Directors' meetings of the organization or to designate another State Officer to preside in their absence. To have general supervision of the affairs of the organization. To appoint persons to committees to handle special events, functions, happenings, etc. To represent the organization on proper occasions and business contracts subject to consultation with other State Officers. To work, aid, and assist other workers of ABATE and other motorcycling functions. To represent ABATE of Georgia at other State and National functions. To maintain contact with other ABATE of Georgia officers and to maintain contact with other motorcycle organizations and clubs on the State and National level. To ensure each State Officer is fulfilling the duties of their office and make assistance available to any not doing so. To help the State Activities Director coordinate all dates for State and District and/or Chapter events. To supervise District and/or Chapter Officers, and intervene only in cases of impropriety or dispute and failure to report to the State. To stay in contact with District and/or Chapter Coordinators and to randomly attend District and/or Chapter meetings.

**State Sgt. at Arms:** To ensure that all Executive Board, Board of Directors and special called State meetings are run per the Constitution and Bylaws of ABATE of Georgia or Roberts Rules of Order. When necessary the Sgt. at Arms, in consultation with the State Director, shall procure the interpretation of Roberts Rules of Order. It shall also be the responsibility of the Sgt. at Arms to ask for the removal of any persons violating the above referenced rules. To staff security at State Events. To recruit District and Chapter Sgt. at Arms as needed to work State Events. May appoint, with consent of the Executive Board, temporary assistant Sgt. At Arms.



# Key Announcements

## Committee Members Needed

Committee work is an essential part of our organization. Participation is a chance to make a difference in how we are managed day-to-day and the direction we are heading. The Executive Board is seeking members to help with the following committees:

### Budget Committee

Purpose: To set and monitor the budget of the organization

Members: State Director, State Treasurer and up to two members

Time commitment: There will be some longer budgeting sessions at the beginning, but once the budget is set for the current and next fiscal years, demand on your time will be minimal.

### Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Purpose: To update the foundational documents of the organization. Required to be updated by law every two years. They haven't been updated since 2012. These documents define who we are, how we are structured and the rules we follow. The committee will draft the documents based on board feedback and submit to the board and members for review.

Members: State Director and up to three other members

Time commitment: Roughly 1-3 hours per week with occasional day-long drafting sessions. As this is such a critical committee and we need to get this done asap, time commitment will be higher here. More so in the beginning, will taper off as we progress.

### Activities-Fundraising Committee

Purpose: Help create, plan and implement statewide activities to raise money for and awareness of our mission. We need to grow, but if people don't know who we are and we're broke, that isn't going to happen.

Members: Activities Director, Membership Director, and up to three other members

Time commitment: At least 1 hour every two weeks, will increase as we get closer to events.

**\*\*Contact Skinny Bob at [State.Director@abatega.org](mailto:State.Director@abatega.org) if you are interested.**



# Board of Directors Updates

## Board of Directors Minutes (Summarized)

Meeting Date: Feb 3, 2017

Location: AP's Hideaway, Macon, Georgia

Commenced 11:19am at the direction of Harry Jones who Acted at Sergeant At Arms. Paul Kerr led us in a prayer. Motion passed for all cell phones to be turned off, or turned to vibrate. Any that ring will insure that the owner will be fined one dollar (\$1.00) to be donated to the general treasury.

Districts 2, 4E, 4W, 5 N, 6, 6-2, 7, 9, 11 reported up-to-date with insurance payments. District 3 has not yet fully re-established. District 13 having trouble establishing a checking account. Moved to allow those districts not in compliance today to have a vote today. Carried by an 8-1 vote.

The minutes taken by an attendee of the November 2016 BOD were read and accepted.

Dec 11 conference call was made to all DC's. Purpose was to vote on action to temporarily stop printing and mailing the newsletters. It carried. (*\*\*State Director note: Newsletters will be available on the website and Facebook.*)

Membership: We have dropped to somewhere around 500 members from 1,200 four years ago. We are signing up new people, but not retaining the ones we already have. People are not attending meetings. Not getting information. Trying to contact state office with complaints. Computer is down frequently due to interruption in signal from Comcast and other internal issues. Membership Director can't access the computer to update database and print cards. (*\*\*State Director note: The computer issues have been resolved. We will be catching up asap.*)

Activities: Only 7 districts are doing activities. Go to Bike Nights or other places bikers gather. Go to things being held in other districts. Should include Can Am and Slingshot machines in recruiting. A question was raised - Is it true that there is a steady decline in attendance at state events? The answer was Yes.

Legislative: There is now a bill HB38 in the legislature that while not defining a motorcycle, does state that if a machine has handlebars for directional control, it is motorcycle. If it has a steering wheel for directional control, it is no longer a motorcycle. But, a helmet is required to be worn. At this time, we have 3 representatives sponsoring bills. These include: Increased penalties for distracted drivers (sponsored by Karen Mathias; headphone/earbud use to be legal (sponsored by David Clark); Lane filtering (sponsored by Matt Gurtler). No one wants to touch a Red-light bill. The cross-over date is 30 March. Wayne wanted to know if there was any interest in a Legislative Bootcamp, where members learn the process by which legislation is passed. Gentle schmoozing and relationship building is the key, but there's a right way to do it. There are Legislative Luncheons on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

Communications: Brian Clifford reported that we have about 6,777 likes on FB page. Brian should be made either admin or editor on district FB pages to post directly. ABATE of Georgia is going to be 40 years old on 17 October 2017. Should we have a party?

District 3 now has the required number of officers to be a district. Wayne Nunez is DC. Dave Woodruffe is proxy. Treasurer is Cindy Woodruffe. Membership is Donna Nunez. Sgt at Arms is Dave Woodruffe. The motion to restart District 3 was carried by unanimous show of hands.

Junkyard: Sideways in Savannah was not so good as last year, as Chatham County was evacuated due to hurricanes and flooding. The event broke even, however. The 2017 event is being planned for 11 November.

**Continued next page...**

## **Board of Directors Minutes (Summarized)**

Brian Clifford reported no progress on updating the Constitution and Bylaws. Steve Murrin printed Legislative Packets handed out at Great American Motorcycle Show. They only have the 2017 agenda in them.

Chili Day was 3 weeks ago. David Neal and Brian Clifford cooked about 40 gallons of chili. Leftovers were donated to the Fire Department. Legislators and staff showed up.

Great American Motorcycle Show did very well. Vendors had mixed reviews, but more passes were handed out. We had a corner booth and handed out many legislative packets (which included membership applications); sold 120 raffle tickets. The 2017 raffle bike was at the back of the booth space. We had signs on the back wall stating our legislative aims; only one person asked why we are not pushing an anti-helmet bill.

State Spring Swap Meet: We are not going back to Griffin Fair Grounds, aka the Mud Bowl. We have the Blue Lot at the Atlanta Motor Speedway. With 20 plus showers, actual rest room facilities for both men and women, paved parking and no mud! AMS has its own food vendors, but David Neal was able to work a deal so we have some food vendors who have supported us for years. AMS will have the beer sales, though. How many vendors do we need? Because we charge \$40 for the entire weekend, we would need 120 vendors to break even. At this point, we have only 3 paid vendors. If you can think of any more who might be interested, please pass the information to David Neal so he can contact them. Raffle items for this year:

- 1) 2000 HD 1200 Custom – modified machine
- 2) Fat-tired minibike (ideal for campground running)
- 3) 55" Polaroid TV (for which David paid 325, not its asking price of 800)
- 4) One Drone

We need more vendors. Districts should get their vendor lists to David Neal so he can contact them all. Garage 71 has said they would charge us half-price (\$400) for the event. David has yet to see anything in writing for last year. And has as yet not received a receipt for what he had paid last year.

North Georgia Swap Meet: Scheduled for 30 September and 1 October in Helen.

State Anniversary party: Maybe 21 October. Indian Springs has been suggested. And a party/picnic/cookout has been suggested. More planning is needed.

ABATE Membership trifold: A new one has been created and updated. Amy Adams from D13 has been working on them. She handed out samples. We need a sponsor to print them, or a grant to pay for the printing. Randy Snyder from D4W said he has printing contacts whom he could contact for prices when we have an idea how many we would need. Ned Williams offered that lawyers often are willing to offer funding when they have space for their logos.

Survey 2017: Brian reported that 109 surveys were completed. Members are not happy on many levels. Of those responding, 38% have been members for more than 10 years; 19% for 1 year. Motorcycle type – 99% are cruisers/trikes/touring machines. How satisfied are you overall? More than 62% reported somewhat dissatisfied to very dissatisfied. How likely are you to recommend ABATE to others? About 50%. How likely are you to renew your membership? 65%. Newsletter: how valuable is it to you? Very 26%. Over 70% read it in print. Prefer in print or online? Both. Most common comment on newsletter: Grammar and editing could be improved. How did you learn about ABATE? Friends, previous contact. Do you value the district meetings? 83% said yes. Are they effective? 80% positive (but each DC could know more about what is going on.)

Clear majority of respondents were upset with the way the organization is run at the state level. Most members feel they are not being heard at the state level. Many suggested a change at the state level leadership. Website could be changed and updated. Other said stop supporting legislation which cannot be won. Better leadership from the Executive Board was suggested. Also, individual contact with more members. Maybe an organizational name change to indicate that we are a motorcycle rights group (and not just a group of old white men, riding Harley Davidson motorcycles, who drink beer and party.)

***Continued next page...***



## **Board of Directors Minutes (Summarized)**

The overall theme of most of the comments was that the membership feels it is not being heard nor is communication coming from the State Office. When ideas are offered, people feel they (and the ideas) are being ignored. And this breeds distrust. Of the surveys turned in, 67% were members, 22 % were district officers.

A motion was made for a Vote of Confidence on the performance of the State Director. After being seconded, discussion followed. It would be a non-binding vote, per Roberts Rules of Order. If the motion is carried, other steps will need to be taken. Vote of NO CONFIDENCE in the performance of the State Director - 9 votes. Vote FOR CONFIDENCE in the performance of the State Director - 2 votes. Abstain from vote - 1 vote.

Result: 9 – 2 – 1 vote in a vote of No Confidence in the performance of the State Director. A motion was made asking the State Director to step down.

### **District Reports:**

- District 2 is trying to raise numbers. Has ads in papers. Has 7 people at meetings, would like 20.
- District 3: meeting on 26 February at Semper Fi in Woodstock at 2 PM.
- District 4E: May 20 at Tannery Row, 554 Main Street in Buford will be a District Party. Cost is \$5 for non-members, free to members.
- District 4W: Nothing to report.
- District 5: Been taking destination rides such as the "Meat Up and Pig Out". See the FB page for details. Hold special events at district meetings such as Biker First Aid. In November, sponsored an event where people spoke about the problems distracted drivers. One of the speakers was a caretaker of a 5-year old whose mother got rear-ended and killed by a distracted driver.
- District 5N: Planning a "Presidents Ride". There are 10 cities in Georgia named for presidents. The idea is to have riders travel to each city and earn points/pins. In March, they are having a poker run. They are involved with Cycle World. American Legion Post in Statham (First Saturday in October), and Memorial Day ride
- District 6: Cherry Blossom Ride is always a great success. Found bumper stickers and patches to be good money makers. Coozies not so much. Burnout of officers is a problem (actual rotation of officers might help). Place for meetings (choices are needed). Another group ride is being considered. They would like to form a public group forum on FB. Suggested posting flyers as PDF files.
- District 6-2: Now have 47 active members. Meeting at Twilight Bar and Grill. Actively working with Coweta Area Motorcyclists.
- District 7: 18 March will be the Chili Cookoff/Challenge to be held at AP's Hidden Hideaway.
- District 9: Now have 35 members. Biggest problem - no one has cards/pins/patches. They need assistance in getting them. They work with and support CAM (Columbus Area Motorcyclists)
- District 11: They have had trouble with officers having severe illnesses. They are going to make up temporary membership cards until new members get ones from the state. Hurricane and tropical depression hurt their events. Their Toy Run only had 400-500 bikes but they raised a lot of money. Frosty Balls ride had about 170-180 people from many clubs. District brought a check for \$4,700. The annual calendar sales went well (major fund raiser). D 11 got connected to a DUI school, which will allow them to talk about motorcycle safety to students. They have been invited onto Fort Stewart to do the same. The Indian Dealership will perform a Safety Check at no charge if you ride in. The 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of June is joining with the Outlaws on a Poker Run.
- District 13: Christmas Parades are always a good idea. Rode in many for the visibility. Still waiting for information to get checking account. 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of March a Poker Run is planned. D13 goes to as many other district meetings as they can. Have a number of Valdosta riders as members.

MRF Report: RPM act discussed. The EPA thinks it can govern all motorsports – MRF knows that is outrageous. One the motorcycle council only one seat of 10 will go to those who represent motorcyclists. Follow the MRF newsletter. Ethanol – working to require separate pumps so it won't harm our engines. Black boxes on motorcycles - MRF wants the owner of the box to determine its operation. Meeting of the Minds will be in Williamsburg, VA on 21- 25 September.

***Continued next page...***

Open Forum: Question was asked: What does state insurance cover? Director and officer general liability. Covers every valid member working at an ABATE function. Does not general public, we need waivers signed.

Statement was made that we need to pay annual incorporation fees to the Secretary of State's office.

District 11 says they will have raffle tickets for their bike build at the next BOD meeting. Suggestion was made to wear appropriate clothing to the capital to present a positive image. Question was raised about the Swap Meet idea in Elko at S and E Cycles.

Legislative Director said he will issue a call to action when our bills are dropped. Will send information on fax and phone numbers. Said phone calls work. Emails and faxes don't. When calling legislators, he asked that we be polite and request they favorably consider our bills. Keep it brief.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ann F. Turner, Secretary Pro-Tem

## **BOD Meeting Dates** (2017-2018)

ABATE GA Board meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month every three months.

**May 6, 2017**

**August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**\*\*All District Officers and members are invited and encouraged to attend and observe the BOD meetings. If you wish to address the BOD, please contact Skinny Bob to get on the agenda. Otherwise, you will be given an opportunity to speak in Open Forum.**

**To promote transparency in ABATE of GA, the Executive Board will soon begin publishing its updates monthly to the newsletter.**

**Stay tuned to this space!**

# Legislative Update



## 2017 – 2018 Legislative Session

### **HB163: Distracted Driving - “Handsfree Bill”**

Makes holding a phone in your hand illegal as a method to reduce distracted driving accidents. Although this bill never made it out of House committee, Wayne Overholt, our Legislative Director is working on pushing this through for next year.

### **HB401: “Earbud Bill”**

Allows use of headphones or earbuds for any purpose on a motorcycle. It is currently illegal to use them for any purpose other than communication. Our Legislative Director reports that the bill was attached to another Senate bill, however, the bill did not pass. We will pick this up again next year.

### **HB490: “Lane Filtering”**

Makes safe, lane filtering legal. This is different from lane splitting. Lane filtering is moving between cars at low speeds or while stopped. The bill has been given a number, but has yet to be assigned to a committee. ABATE intends to continue pushing this through next year.

### **HR282: “Distracted Driving Study Committee”**

HR282 – Although ABATE didn’t introduce this legislation, the resolution passed the House and has created a Distracted Driving study committee. The committee’s goal is to come up with actionable solutions to this issue in Georgia. Wayne Overholt has been asked to participate on the committee.

# **Legislative Agenda**



**ABATE of Georgia, Inc.  
Legislative/Government Relations  
2017-2018 Agenda**

- 
- 1. End motorcycle profiling.**
  - 2. Tougher penalties if you kill a motorcyclist.**
  - 3. Increased prosecution for distracted drivers.**
  - 4. Use headsets for music on your bike.**
  - 5. Move safely through inoperative red lights.**
  - 6. Helmet use is rider choice.**
  - 7. Legalize lane filtering.**
  - 8. More ethanol-free gas.**
  - 9. Greater motorcycle use on public roads.**
  - 10. Safety and development plans include motorcycles.**
  - 11. Safer roadway repair and design strategies.**
  - 12. Lower cost for rider License-Waiver Courses.**
  - 13. Monitor organizations that oppose ABATE.**
  - 14. Support the MRF, the AMA and other SMRO's.**

# Legislative Tools

**ABATE of GA is committed to serving each rider in Georgia. Our primary goal is to promote fair and reasonable motorcycle legislation. But, ultimately, we depend on each of you. Through efforts like grassroots lobbying, you become the boots on the ground and it is your efforts that are the key to ABATE's success!**

## **What is grassroots lobbying?**

Grassroots lobbying is simply citizen participation in government. The key to successful grassroots lobbying efforts is assembling people who share common goals and concerns.



**Grass Roots  
Lobbying  
and You!**

Grassroots communications are vital in educating legislators to the concerns of the voting population in their state. If you do not share your views with your representative, then your views will not be considered by your state representative when he votes on an issue which affects you. When ABATE issues a Call to Action, you can make a difference by simply writing, calling, meeting, or faxing your representative! Don't worry ABATE will provide the contact information and a script for you to make it as easy as possible.

## **Why should you utilize grassroots lobbying?**

Grassroots efforts are our best weapon to protect your rights because it ensures that we will successfully reach and influence every member of the Georgia General Assembly. State politicians focus on what is being said by the local communities and the people. As former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill stated, "All politics is local."

It is every riders duty to let elected officials know our concerns. It is also every riders duty to educate our elected officials on how any proposed legislation will affect riders in the state. The time to act is before, not after legislation has passed that could adversely affect riders. Remember, if an issue doesn't have constituent support, the legislator may very well ignore it.

## **Why does grassroots lobbying work?**

As a voter, you have the most powerful tool available at the Gold Dome, your vote. You have the ability to hold each representative accountable to you as a constituent. Without hearing from you, your legislator does not know what is important to you as a rider. Your recommendation may be the deciding factor in a member's decision to vote for or against a bill. Your voice does make a difference!



# Legislative Tools

**Want to know how a bill is passed through the Georgia General Assembly? Here's a brief overview:**

1. Find a legislator friendly to your cause
2. Explain and educate the legislator about your cause
3. If they support you, the legislator or a staff member writes the Bill
4. The bill is sent to "Legislative Counsel" to ensure it is constitutional
5. The bill is then "dropped" into the "hopper" (aka legislation pipeline) and assigned a number
6. Then there is the "first read" with the goal of it being assigned to a legislative committee
7. If it isn't assigned to committee after the first read, there is a second read. If it is not assigned to a committee, the bill is "dead"
8. If it is assigned to a committee or a sub-committee, then the committee will meet and the legislator who introduced the bill will present it. It is at this time anyone from the public wishing to speak for or against the bill "testifies" in front of the committee
9. If it is approved by the committee, it is sent to the "Rules Committee", which sets the calendar for the following day. The bill sponsor then argues why it should be on the next day's calendar. The Rules Chairman decides which bills go to the chamber floor for a vote
10. Once approved, the bill is assigned a floor calendar date. On the floor, the sponsor speaks for their bill and answers any questions from the floor
11. Once questions are completed, the bill is then voted on. If passed in the assigned chamber (House or Senate), it is then sent over to the other chamber for a vote. For example, if a bill was started and passed in the House of Representatives originally, it will be sent to the Senate next
12. If a bill is started in the House, it will need a Senator to "carry" it for the original sponsor. The Senator who carries the bill will have the first read in the Senate. The bill then goes through the same process it did in the House
13. If the bill is passed in both houses, it's then sent to the Governor's desk. The Governor can either sign it into law, veto the bill (vote against it), or do nothing, in which case the bill passes into law after 90 days





# District Meeting Notes

**D4E** Announcement: District Four East is having a District Member Appreciation Party to say thanks for all you do! Come by Tannery Row at 554 Main Street in Buford on May 20<sup>th</sup> and see us. Cost is \$5 for non-members, free to members. We look forward to seeing you there!

**D4W** March 8, 2017 Meeting opened at 7:30 at Mazzy's on Roswell Road with 12 people present.

Treasury: We have money

DC report: Starting time of 7:30 is better. At Semper Fi on 26 February new members signed up, and took positions: Chaplain, Activities, Road Captain and Legislative person. Brian (Acting State Director) needs nominations for State Director, and State Sgt at Arms. Info/bio needs to be in next 2 newsletters.

Activities Director (Ion) - We should ponder and chose from among these, as they are suggestions. Feedback is required.

- Ride and Dive – to Lake Allatoona to end at a beach (communal feast)
- Bike Nights at various places
- Bike Rodeo; with both Bikes and Cars
- Christmas in July (similar to Dec)
- Mystery Run/Scavenger Hunt
- Bug Run ending with a bike wash
- Membership ride – just a ride for fun
- 1000 mile ride (like the Breast Cancer runs) Pledges per mile
- 25 March—American Flat Track Racing will be at Dixie Speedway

Membership Director (Josh) who is walking much better; Will take state raffle tickets to Killer Creek this coming Saturday

Legislation: Headphone bill died, as did the Lane Filtering. Separation of Slingshots from Motorcycles made it to CrossOver Day. Its fate is uncertain.

Eric Griswold was voted to hold the position of Communications person for our District. He will be responsible for Instagram and Twitter. We decided to have a Supporter of the Month – This month Tires Plus of Canton-Woodstock was chosen. Winner of the 50/50 was Ion Highsmith.

Next month, the meeting on 12 April will also be at Mazzy's.

**D5** Announcement: The D5 Crew will host a ride to Backstreet BBQ in Hartwell, GA on May 7<sup>th</sup> (KSU 9:15am) Truck stop on Unisia and 78 in Monroe. We will also be performing some road captain training during this ride, so if interested in joining D5 as a road captain, please join us. Also looking for tailgunners and sweep riders who will be trained up during the ride as well.

**D6-2** Meeting was convened March 2nd, 2017 at Twilight Bar and Grill.

Officer Reports

Sgt at Arms

- Brad not present. Meeting called to order by Forrest at 7:00PM. We pledged allegiance to the flag and Ralph led us in prayer.

Secretary

- Forrest read the minutes from the February meeting which was approved by the membership.

Treasury

- Ralph gave the treasurer's report as of 02/28/17. The Treasurers report was approved and accepted by the membership.

Membership

- Devina said there were 47 members but questioned the accuracy due to not being able to log into state. 4 officers, 8 members and 1 guests for a total of 14 people attending tonight.

Legislative

- Reb talked about the ride for St Jude in April starting and ending at Twilight with a leisurely ride through the country. Keep a check on Face-book for times. He also mentioned the CAM event being a success.
- Reb thanked Skinny Bob and Wayne Overholt with the state office for doing a great job for motorcyclist rights. He said Skinny Bob was planning on attending tonight's meeting but something else must have come up. He urged anyone that could to contact their state rep early Friday morning to ask that HB401(headsets or ear-buds being legalized for motorcycles) to be put on the calendar. He mentioned HB163 (distracted driving) and HB490 (lane filtering). Reb explained the difference in lane filtering and lane splitting.

**“Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.” ~ Ben Franklin**

## D6-2 cont...

### Old business

- It was mentioned that last month we talked about membership renewal reminder cards being made up and mailed out. Linda volunteered to help Devina come up with a post card. Kevin said when he was DC he and Georgia had a template for what we were talking about. The template was on DVD and turned over to the incoming DC. He went on to say the new DC needed to contact the old DC to recover it all.

### New business

- Jeff and Leah were out due to preparation for marriage ceremony.
- It was mentioned that ABATE had voted on joining CAM. Dues were talked about. Ralph said the treasury had not paid any money for membership. Jeff may have paid out of his pocket. The functions of CAM were questioned. Forrest read the CAM mission statement.
- Marvin asked about the penalty for killing a motorcyclist. He had a personal interest in the subject. Reb advised Marvin to contact Steve Murin concerning it.

### Activities

- Leah was out. Devina is having her birthday party on March 25<sup>th</sup> at Twilight. Band starts at 9:00.
- ABATE D6 Cherry Blossom Ride is also March 25<sup>th</sup>. Leaving Coweta county at 9:15 from Flash Foods in Senoia.
- Also on the same day the CAM JAM in Columbus. Event to be at HD dealer.
- CAM meeting is at 7:00 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month here at Twilight.
- ABATE Swap Meet is the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. Swap Meet to be held at Atlanta Motor Speedway.
- Angel City April 21<sup>st</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Moans and Groans

- Ralph asked if CAM had done a benefit for his wife.
- Jere's Cyclecraft was named supporter of the month.

Door Prizes were given out.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:39

## Help keep motorcycles off the endangered species list.

- According to NHTSA, in 2013 there were 2,182 multi-vehicle crashes involving a motorcycle. In 42% of these crashes, the other vehicle was turning left in front of a motorcycle either going straight, passing, or overtaking another vehicle.

- Roughly 40% of a vehicle's outer perimeter zone is hidden by blind spots, which are caused by improper adjustment or lack of side mirror usage.

- Motorcyclists can easily be hidden in a vehicle's blind spot. Always check mirrors and blind spots, TWICE, before signaling your intentions and changing lanes.

**LOOK TWICE - SAVE A LIFE**

**Motorcycles are  
EVERYWHERE!**



**Want to ride?**

**Ride Safe - Ride Smart!**

**REGISTER TODAY**

for a Motorcycle Training Course near you.

[www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov)

## **D11** Meeting called to order on March 12, 2017 at Twilight Bar and Grill at 3:05 p.m.

James Thrasher called the meeting to order. Jeff Cantaline led the Pledge of Allegiance and George Pollard, the prayer. Minutes are as follows:

Stephanie: The next meeting is April 9th. People at Harley Davidson signed up for membership.

Rex: Skinny Bob and Wayne Overholt great job getting resources out. We had HB163 concerning certain telecommunications devices didn't quite make it. It died at the committee, move it over to the senate seat. HB 401 would allow the use of headphones and ear buds, didn't make it. HB 490 Lane Filtering, died. AMA flash riddled with errors. Said these died and said we need more participation. We need the participation more. Get on the phone and call your legislators.

Breezy: We signed up two members at the Harley dealership. Yesterday we signed up 4 new and 1 renew members.

Junkyard: Rick Taylor went down and his neck is broken in two places, a gash on his forehead, and broke his wrist.

Junkyard: Darleen is not here so we can pass on the treasury report. Do you accept the officers' report? All voted yes.

Junkyard: Old business: Betsy retired for health issues. But, was voted in as membership director.

Polaris, makes the slingshots and wants to eliminate them having a motorcycle endorsement on the license. A little riding club trying to get them eliminated, basically a car with a motorcycle rear end. I heard that they were trying to get a vote regarding helmets. We wonder if people riding bikes had to wear a helmet that people in an open vehicle should wear helmets.

Swap meet in November, first year did real good, last year wasn't too good, we barely broke even, it was right after the hurricane and nobody had spending money. This year weekend of swap meet is also Veteran's Day. I myself think that's way too much going on that day and I would rather personally not do it this year out of respect for the veterans. State has something going on in April and September.

We have something going on in July, I'm in negotiations in Twicks County. The brothers redid the race track, the stands. Gotta see what it's gonna run and meeting in May going to see what day but I think it's gonna be hot. Thinking about the weekend we do it here, let them have that weekend and figure out something to do here in June.

Tricia: What about having it at Big Roy's?

Junkyard: We already do it at Big Roy's. We only had two vendors last time. People want to ride to a restaurant and back and don't want to go more than 50 miles. We need to have it convenient and local. Anybody else? I was thinking about off of Highway 16 and maybe having a swap meet in Harold Piet's back yard. Just joking Harold.

## D11 (cont...)

Rex: What happened to Springfield?

Junkyard: The decision about cops - said we didn't need cops but the Chief of Police said we had to have cops and they cost too much. One year, we paid out \$1,200 and the cops stood around and didn't think they were needed because it was a family outing.

I think it's funny cause now they have the Iron Order clubhouse in Springfield and another club called The Chiefs. Chiefs are like Iron Order, they are not one percenters. Y'all think about this and next meeting we will put it on the table and make a decision about the swap meet.

JimBop: Vote to nix the November thing?

Junkyard: We will talk about that at the next meeting and I can get with Randall at the speedway. I kind of have an idea of what we can do and I'll look into a swap meet and bike rodeo at the same time.

JimBop: When is the Outlaw run?

Breezy: June 17th for the Outlaws, Savannah Chapter

Junkyard: Get details down and present it at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

**D15** The April meeting will be in Nahunta this month. Brantly County has yet to be visited, so we picked Jerry J's Restaurant. Very nice place, biker friendly, indoor & outdoor dining. Address: 13754 Cleveland St E, Nahunta, GA 31553. One block East of Hwy 301 on Hwy 82. We moved our meeting to Saturday again this month, as this Restaurant is not open on Sundays.





# **NCOM Newsbytes**

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish, NCOM

## **NHTSA SEEKS TO CURB DRIVER DISTRACTIONS**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is proposing new federal guidelines to provide a safety framework for developers of portable and aftermarket electronic devices to use when developing visual-manual user interfaces for their systems. According to NHTSA and the Department of Transportation (DOT), their "Visual-Manual NHTSA Driver Distraction Guidelines for Portable and Aftermarket Devices" [Docket No. NHTSA-2013-0137] will "encourage innovative solutions such as pairing and Driver Mode that, when implemented, will reduce the potential for unsafe driver distraction by limiting the time a driver's eyes are off the road, while at the same time preserving the full functionality of these devices when they are not used while driving."

Driver distraction is a specific type of inattention that occurs when drivers divert their attention away from the driving task to focus on another activity. This distraction can come from electronic devices, such as texting or emailing on cell phones or smartphones, and more traditional activities such as interacting with passengers, eating, or events external to the vehicle.

The crash data indicate that visual-manual interaction (an action that requires a user to look away from the roadway and manipulate a button or interface) with portable devices, particularly cellphones, is often the main distraction for drivers involved in crashes.

In 2015, 10% of the 35,092 traffic fatalities involved one or more distracted drivers, and these distraction-affected crashes resulted in 3,477 fatalities, an 8.8% increase from the 3,197 fatalities in 2014. Of the 5.6 million non-fatal crashes in 2014, 16% were distraction-affected crashes, and resulted in 424,000 people injured. At any given time, an estimated 542,073 drivers are using hand-held cell phones while driving.

Currently no safety guidelines exist for portable device technologies when they are used during a driving task.

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGISLATION COULD REPEAL HANDLEBAR HEIGHT LAW**

Legislation repealing the restriction on the height of motorcycle handlebars -- Senate Bill 27, by Senator Harold French (R-Franklin) -- carried the New Hampshire Senate by a voice vote on January 19 and has been referred to the House of Representatives where most likely it will be assigned to the Transportation Committee.

The current law prescribes that the hand grips can be no higher than the shoulders of a rider seated in the saddle. Charlie St. Clair, executive director of the Laconia Motorcycle Week Association, told the Laconia Daily Sun that if the House endorses and the governor signs the bill, New Hampshire will become the 19th state and first in New England not to restrict the height of handlebars, but it's not clear whether the restriction will be lifted before the 94th running of Laconia Motorcycle Week in June.

As the host of the nation's oldest rally, which attracts visitors from across the country, St. Clair said that New Hampshire should not impose restrictions that may inconvenience motorcyclists from other states. Limits in other states vary considerably from shoulder height in Massachusetts, Maine and Connecticut, to eye level in some states and to heights above the saddle measured in inches in others. Most restrictions on high bars, called "ape hangers" were introduced in the 1960s. Although touted as a safety measure, many motorcyclists claimed the restrictions were imposed to provide police with a pretext for stopping and searching bikers.





# From the MRF

## **NEWS FROM THE HILL – Motorcycle Caucus Back in Business, Profiling Discussions Underway**

**The Congressional Motorcycle Caucus**, first founded in 2009, acts as a forum for Members of Congress who ride or are interested in motorcycles to discuss relevant issues. The Caucus has been a huge help to the MRF in recent weeks as they helped to sound the alarm when the Federal Highway Administration announced their intention to move forward with the Motorcyclist Advisory Council but neglected to include adequate representation of motorcyclists! We continue to thank the Caucus for their support on that particular issue.

However, because it is a new Congress and new Administration, the Caucus is again soliciting elected officials to be included as Members of the Caucus. The group is run by Reps. Tim Walberg (Michigan) and Mike Burgess (Texas). They recently issued the solicitation below asking for new members. Please consider reaching out to your Member of Congress and ask them to join the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus! The letter currently circulating can be found by contacting Megan Ekstrom ([Megan@MRF.org](mailto:Megan@MRF.org))

**As many of you know, in 2016, the MRF worked to get a bill addressing motorcycle profiling** introduced in the House of Representatives. However, with the November elections, a new Congress and new Administration were ushered in and all legislative proposals from 2015 and 2016 expired. As such, the MRF is again working to get a similar measure regarding anti-profiling introduced in the coming months.

The MRF and its supporters have been diligently working with both Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate in the hopes of getting a bill introduced in EACH chamber that would be both bi-partisan and bi-cameral. This tactic will ultimately help the chances of passage. Currently, the MRF has commitments from House Republicans and Democrats to introduce the bill, but we are still working on securing a Democratic co-sponsor in the Senate to help lead this effort.

If you have a positive working relationship with a Democratic Senator in your state, please contact Megan Ekstrom ASAP. Ultimately, our goal is to get this bill introduced just prior to the Bikers Inside the Beltway Event and then use that lobbying event as the jumping off point to rally additional co-sponsors and supporters. Please help the MRF with the final piece of the puzzle if you think your Senator (who aligns with Democrats) would be willing to sponsor a Senate bill addressing motorcycle profiling.

## **Motorcycle Riders Foundation Founder passes away**

It is with great sadness that the Motorcycle Riders Foundation reports the passing of Michael "Balls" Farabaugh. "Balls" was arguably the driving force behind much of the success the motorcyclist's rights movement has enjoyed. Balls was one of the pioneers of rider education in Indiana and his influence carried into many states and has certainly resulted in saving thousands of lives. "Balls" had an impact on motorcycling nationally and internationally. He actually founded the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF). His ideas and inspirational character motivated many of the leaders in the motorcycling community, and that continues as a lasting legacy. Indeed, riders around the world owe a debt to Michael "Balls" Farabaugh. RIP



# Safety Tips

## Ten Things Cagers Need to Know About Riders

Part of our mission is to educate the public about motorcycle life. Below are ten things you can do to help educate those who don't ride and increase our safety of the road:

1. Half the crashes involve cars and it's usually the car drivers fault. Look where you are going!
2. Our slim profile makes it hard for you to see us in traffic. Always check your blind spots!
3. We look farther away than you think. We could be much closer. It can also be hard to determine how fast we are going. Take your time. Look twice!
4. Stay at least 3 seconds behind us. We often slow down with no lights, engine break or just release the throttle. A rear-end accident is one of the deadliest.
5. We adjust our lane position and speed often. This is to stay out of your blind spots and to increase the space cushion between you and my bike. It also gives us more ways out if something was to happen.
6. Our blinkers are not always self-canceling. We can accidentally leave them on, so be patient and wait to see if we are going to turn or not.
7. We can maneuver quickly, but don't expect us to be able to. We can't always get out of your way! Please, give us the right of way when you can.
8. It can be hard to stop for us and we often have to stop quickly. Don't follow so closely!
9. Don't just see my motorcycle. See me! We are mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters. Please help protect our lives.
10. If you crash into us, you will likely kill us. We don't have a steel cage like you do.  
**Don't live with that regret...**

# From The GA Motorcycle Safety Program

## Gearing Up For Spring

For those of us that do not brave the cold on 2 wheels, the warm sun, the birds chirping, and the open roads are finally calling our names again. If you've had your bike in storage the past few months, it needs to be inspected before you hit the road. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) has come up with a great inspection tool to get you ready to ride. The T-CLOCS inspection checklist is a simple pre-ride plan.

- T - tires and wheels
- C - controls
- L - lights
- O - oil
- C - chassis
- S - stands



As always, ride safe and ride smart! Always wear a DOT or Snell Certified helmet, jacket with reflective patches, long pants, gloves, and over ankle boots when you're out on the open roads. This season, not only gear-up your bike, but yourself too!

- Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program

# GET PREPARED TO RIDE

## With the T-CLOCS pre-ride bike inspection plan!

**T-CLOCS** is the acronym for a simple but thorough pre-ride inspection plan created by the internationally recognized Motorcycle Safety Foundation - the same steps that our Service Consultant takes when a motorcycle comes in for a service visit.

<b>T: TIRES, WHEELS + BRAKES</b>	<b>C: CONTROLS</b>	<b>L: LIGHTING + ELECTRIC</b>	<b>O: OIL + FLUIDS</b>	<b>C: CHASSIS</b>	<b>S: SIDE STAND</b>
- Air Pressure	- Levers	- High-and-low-beam	- Fluid Levels	- Frame	- Tension Spring on Jiffy Stand
- Bearings	- Switches	- Taillights	- Leaks	- Tension	
- Tread	- Cables	+ Brakes		- Handlebar	
- Brakes	- Hoses	- Turn Signals		- Chain/belt	
- Spokes	- Throttle	- Wiring Conditions		- Suspension	



# Look for our booth at these local events!



## **APR. 1-2**

ABATE Swap Meet & Rally

1500 Tara Pl.

Hampton, GA 30228

[www.abatega.org](http://www.abatega.org)

## **APR. 22-23**

Motorama/Bikefest

1500 Tara Pl.

Hampton, GA 30228

[www.atlantamotorspeedway.com/events](http://www.atlantamotorspeedway.com/events)

## **APR. 29**

Grayson Day

475 Grayson Pkwy.

Grayson, GA 30017

[www.cityofgrayson.org](http://www.cityofgrayson.org)

## **APR. 29-30**

Xtreme Rider Anniversary Celebration

100 E. Main St.

Warm Springs, GA 31830

[www.xtreme-rider.com](http://www.xtreme-rider.com)

## **APR. 30**

Forsyth Co. Motorcycle Safety Day

235 Castleberry Rd.

Cumming, GA 30040

[www.forsythsheriff.org/8670-2/](http://www.forsythsheriff.org/8670-2/)

# THE RANT!

**By DJ Scottie**

Hey y'all! People can holler all they want about riding motorcycles and people in cars looking out for us. But, after 27 years of riding these Georgia roads, I believe it's OUR job to make ourselves seen!

We all have to be responsible enough to clearly say the words, "It's not just up to them to see us. It's also up to us to be seen!"

## **What is the value of your life?**

Like it or not, the reality is that people in Atlanta traffic are insane and they are only looking out for themselves. Cutting lanes, not watching where they're going, not checking their mirrors.

Some folks want to get smart about how motorcyclists ride stupid and cause accidents, but people on four wheels crashing into us because they are not paying attention is way too common. And it's happening more every day.

A lot of my biker friends don't like me preaching this, but we have to dress defensively! I don't care what it looks like, make yourself seen and heard! Get reflective jackets, wear bright clothes, put reflective tape on your helmet, light up your bike with LED's. Don't worry about whether it looks cool or not. Do everything you can to be safe and make it home alive. Ride safe, y'all!

DJ Scottie





# **Even More Safety Tips**

## **A Tennessee Sheriff's Office offers a friendly reminder about Dragon Awareness**

Spring and beautiful weather have arrived, and with it, the section of U.S. Highway 129 known as "The Dragon" is seeing an increase in motorists. "The Dragon" is a popular stretch of roadway popular with motorcyclists and car club enthusiasts because of its breathtaking beauty and its 11.1 mile stretch of 318 curves. The Blount County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to keeping those who drive "The Dragon" safe. During the spring, summer, and early fall months, the BCSO maintains a presence on "The Dragon" with the intent of keeping crashes to a minimum. The following are some tips to keep you and those you share the road with safe:

**MAKE SURE YOUR VEHICLE IS WELL MAINTAINED** -- gas, tire pressure, etc. This area very remote and there is NO cell phone service on "The Dragon."

**BE RESPECTFUL OF THE RESIDENTS WHO LIVE THERE.** Drive by their home the way you'd want someone to drive by your home.

**SLOW DOWN** -- The speed limit on "The Dragon" section of U.S. Highway 129 is 30 miles per hour. Remember not only your limitations on your capabilities, but also that of your vehicle.

**STAY IN YOUR LANE** -- Stay on the right side of your line as much as possible. Many crashes are caused by vehicles crossing the center line or when two vehicles are crowding the center line when they meet.

**DO NOT SIGHT-SEE WHILE YOU DRIVE** -- There are many pull-offs on that stretch of roadway. Even with the 30 mph speed limit, curves come upon you very quickly.

**KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD** -- Roadway hazards can appear quickly and unexpectedly. This area is remote and wooded, and trees, tree limbs and branches, rock slides, animals, gravel, and mud thrown on the roadway are all hazards you could encounter.

**BE AWARE OF OTHERS** -- This is a well-traveled roadway, especially as tourist season picks up. Watch for vehicles approaching from behind. If you are slowing down traffic use the next paved pull-off on your side of the road to allow the faster traffic to pass.

**DRIVE BELOW YOUR LIMITS** -- NEVER try to drive at 100% of your capabilities. Allow room for unexpected hazards and adjustments in driving conditions.



## Dragon Awareness (cont...)

**USE YOUR SIGNALS** -- Use your turn signals in plenty of time to pull off the roadway. This allows for the traffic behind you to prepare for your next move.

**THIS IS NOT A RACE COURSE** -- This is a public roadway and all laws that apply on other roadways apply on "The Dragon." The rumors are NOT true -- there has never been, nor are there any plans to close the road for racing.

**STAY OFF THE LINES** -- The yellow and white lines can become slick when wet or covered in leaves.

**OUT OF AREA RIDERS** -- Simple fact: Almost all of the serious injuries and deaths that occur here are from out of state where the roads are straight and flat. Take your time and use extra caution.

We are dedicated to saving lives, and the concentrated patrols we have provided on "The Dragon" over the years have helped. But we need YOUR help and cooperation to keep "The Dragon" safe for everyone.

For additional safety tips, statistics, state laws, and other information related to "The Dragon," please visit our Dragon information website at [www.dragonawareness.com](http://www.dragonawareness.com).

Source: [www.dragonawareness.com](http://www.dragonawareness.com)



## The Tail of the Dragon!

Source: [Smokeymountainrider.com](http://Smokeymountainrider.com)



# **The History of ABATE**

## **Where it all began...**

**The following material was originally published in Easyriders Magazine in the early 1970's. Each month we will feature another section of the publication. We hope you enjoy this great piece of history!**

You, as an individual, can stand on your roof-top shouting to the world about how unjust, how stupid, and how unconstitutional some of the recently passed, or pending, bike laws are - but all you will accomplish is to get yourself arrested for disturbing the peace.

Individual bike clubs can go before city councils, state legislatures, and congressional committees, but as single clubs, and unprofessional at the game of politics, their efforts are usually futile.

Scattered, unorganized, individual efforts have little if any effect against the power structure - it's like hunting big game with a bolt-action .22 rifle.

It takes numbers to command respect, to be heard over the din created by the anti-bikers, and worse, the anti-chopper forces.

The major problem is not any particular anti-bike movement or organization - the problem is that the people who make the laws are people who know nothing about bikes. The little old lady writes her congressman and complains. There is no one offering rebuttal-intelligent, professional rebuttal-to her unfair charges. The congressman, who doesn't hear any arguments against what the old lady said, but does want to please everybody and does want to get elected again, introduces a bill to ban whatever was bugging the old lady. The bikers in the area don't see the small item, buried in the back of the newspaper along with the hemorrhoid cures, announcing the proposed law for all bikes to have roll bars. Since no one sees it, no rebuttal is offered, and the law is passed. Or if it is seen, and a club or two protest, it isn't a loud enough protest, or it is a disorganized protest, or an unprofessional protest, and as a result the law is passed.

An oversimplification, yes. But that basically is the problem broken down into its simplest terms.

We need a national organization of bikers. An organization united together in a common endeavor, and in sufficient numbers to be heard in Washington, D.C., in the state legislatures, and even down to the city councils.

We must offer strong, organized rebuttal to all unfair legislation, no matter what the level. To stop or modify an unfair law in one state is to stop or impede it in another. If it's wrong, it's wrong, and only constant, relentless pressure will stop the trend against bikes. Today it might be Arizona, but tomorrow it might be your state.

## **The History of ABATE (cont...)**

We must start now to put a stop to bad laws. We must educate the people who make the laws. We must present our side of the story, and we must present it from a position of strength, and in a professional, dignified manner.

Already the Government has indicated they are going to press for national custom bike laws ("Safety Standards") for, you guessed it, our safety. The Department of Transportation has already issued printed warnings against the "danger" of extended front ends, lack of front-wheel brakes, "and other hazardous features of customized motorcycles."

We're not saying they are all wrong-nobody is all wrong. But what we are saying is that we, us, you and I, bike riders. Chopper builders, chopper manufacturers, everyone with an interest in the future of bikes, must present our side, we must see to it that any laws that are passed are just. We must present our case and defend it vigorously.

What can you do? Join the National Custom Cycle Association (NCCA). Let's get together in a mass, so that our voice means something, has the weight and strength of numbers.

The NCCA is a non-profit organization, sponsored by Easyriders magazine. It's not a scam. If what has been said above doesn't get you off your ass, if you don't see the pending arbitrary laws, if you don't see that an organized protest is much more effective than a shotgun approach, then what else can we say?

When you join the NCCA, you'll receive a decal, membership card, and NCCA's monthly bulletin bringing you up to date on all bike laws, pending bike laws, and reports on NCCA's progress and activities.

Send \$3.00 for a year's charter membership, to the National Custom Cycle Association . . .

Do it now, for as Satchel Paige said, "Don't look back, sump'n may be gaining on you."

© Copyright 1971 Easyriders Magazine (October)

**Daytona Bike  
Week 2017 -  
Can you guess  
where this is?**



# **What's Happening?**

## **District 1**



**1ST Bike out 1:00 PM**  
**American Legion Chatsworth Ga**  
**Last Bike in 4:00 PM**

**\$10.00 PER HAND OR 3 HANDS FOR \$20.00.**  
**GOOD FOLKS AND FUN,FUN,FUN!!**  
**INFO: TAMI 706-980-0574**



# What's Happening?

## District 3

**This is not an ABATE event, but District 3 will be setting up a membership table there. We need volunteers! Free admission!**

**SMOKIN BUTTS DIRT DRAGS**  
**BBQ Cook Off & Rally**  
**May 19-21**

284 Kraftsman Rd. sw Rome  
NO COLORS

Gates open at noon Fri.  
live music fri. nite by  
ROADHOUSE ATLANTA  
Saturday events -  
BBQ cookoff judging from 12-2  
Biker Games at 2-4  
Test and Tune 4-6  
Live music Sat. nite by  
SOUTHERN EXPOSURE  
tattoo contest  
Sunday Races at 1:00  
sign ups 10-12

Classes:  
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125-400 Knobby  
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10 \$ age 6-14  
5 and under FREE  
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30 \$ campers  
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# What's Happening?

## District 3



40<sup>th</sup>

### DISTRICT 3

#### Open Meeting

WHEN: April 23, 2017  
TIME: 2:00pm— 4:00pm  
PLACE: American Legion Post 145  
6449 Bankhead Hwy,  
Douglasville GA 30134

Fun — Prizes— 50/50 Raffle



American Legion Post 145

**Bike Night** will start at 3:30 pm  
**music, food, vendors.** Ham-  
burgers and Hot Dogs will be  
available so plan to join the fun.



#### MISSION STATEMENT

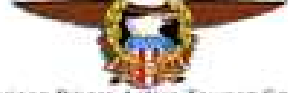
\* To preserve the freedom of the  
road, by protecting the rights of all  
motorcycle riders through fair and  
reasonable legislation, education  
and public awareness



# What's Happening?

## District 11

**ABATE of Georgia**



American Brewers Active Toward Education

**District 11**

[www.abatega11.org](http://www.abatega11.org)

### **Jr. ABATE Fishing Derby 2015**



**MAY 13, 2017 10:30-4:00**



@ Pat's Place, 226 Godley Road, Bloomingdale, GA 31302

2 ¼ Miles down Stagecoach Rd. 2<sup>nd</sup> road west of Jimmy Deloach Parkway on Hwy 80 in Bloomingdale. Look for the American Flag with the yellow ABATE sign & the Fishy sign across the road.

**Hot Dog LUNCH will be served and  
we will have a Fish fry too!**

Sodas, tea, & Kool-Aid provided, BYO Adult Beverage or Special Requests.

**Prizes for the Biggest Fish & the Most Fish**

**Cost is \$5.00 admission for each adult,  
which includes meal(s). Kids 16 and under are free.**

(If you don't wish to fish, you can still purchase meals for \$5.00.)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO JR. ABATE ACTIVITIES. THANK YOU for coming.

Feel free to bring your own pole and/or your own bait if you like.

We will have a few extra poles and some bait on hand.

Questions? Jr. Abate Liaisons Tricia & Jeff @ 748-5266, 507-1516, 429-4595



# Out and About



**D5  
and  
D5N**







**D13**







# From the Motorcycle Safety Foundation

## QUICK TIPS

### PRETEND YOU ARE INVISIBLE

If you ride a motorcycle, you know that out on the road you might as well be transparent, because car drivers often look right past you. They might notice the car or truck behind you, but you, in all your "narrowness," may not register in the visual cortex of even the most alert drivers.

That's why an oncoming car driver might turn left in front of you at an intersection.



That's also why a driver in the next lane, even if they turn and look in your direction before changing lanes, might veer into your lane.



Sadly, drivers might behave this way even when they're not distracted by their cell phone, GPS, satellite radio, or other form of in-car infotainment. So how do you compensate for being "invisible" to drivers?

Be as conspicuous as possible. Wear bright clothing and a light-colored helmet. Always have your headlight on, and use your high beam or an aftermarket headlight modulator during the day (where allowed).

Take an approved rider training course. Learn how to maneuver your motorcycle in normal and emergency situations, and practice braking and swerving maneuvers often. Also understand that safe riding depends as much on the mental skills of awareness and judgment as it does on the physical skill of maneuvering the machine; respond early to possible hazards instead of having to react instantly to an emergency.

Pretend you're invisible. If you assume others on the road can't see you, and any car that can hit you will hit you, you will tend to ride in a hyper-aware mindset and learn to notice every detail in your surroundings. In other words, you will take extra responsibility for your safety and ride defensively. You will vary your speed and lane position to place yourself in the best spot on the road to avoid collisions, plan escape paths in case a driver violates your right-of-way, cover your brake controls to quicken your reactions, use your horn to alert a driver who doesn't notice you, and always ride within your limits.

**CAR DRIVERS ONLY SEE WHAT THEY EXPECT TO SEE, AND MOST DON'T EXPECT YOU TO BE PART OF THE TRAFFIC MIX. RIDE WITH THE RIGHT SKILLS, STRATEGIES, AND ATTITUDE. BE SEEN - BE SAFE.**

# It's Swap Meet Time!



ABATE OF GEORGIA

## SWAP MEET & RALLY

April 1-2, 2017

**ATLANTA MOTOR SPEEDWAY** 1500 Tara Pl., Hampton, GA 30228

Gates open at 9 am to 10 pm daily  
Daily Admission - \$10

**Camping**  
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Once the love for a motorcycle is discovered,  
there is no putting out the fire.

Your world can fall down around you,  
but as long as you're in the wind it won't make  
any difference.

Riding motorcycles is like taking drugs...  
bikes should come with a warning label that reads...

**WARNING:**

"Riding a Motorcycle Is Addictive"  
"It Will Change Your Life Forever!"



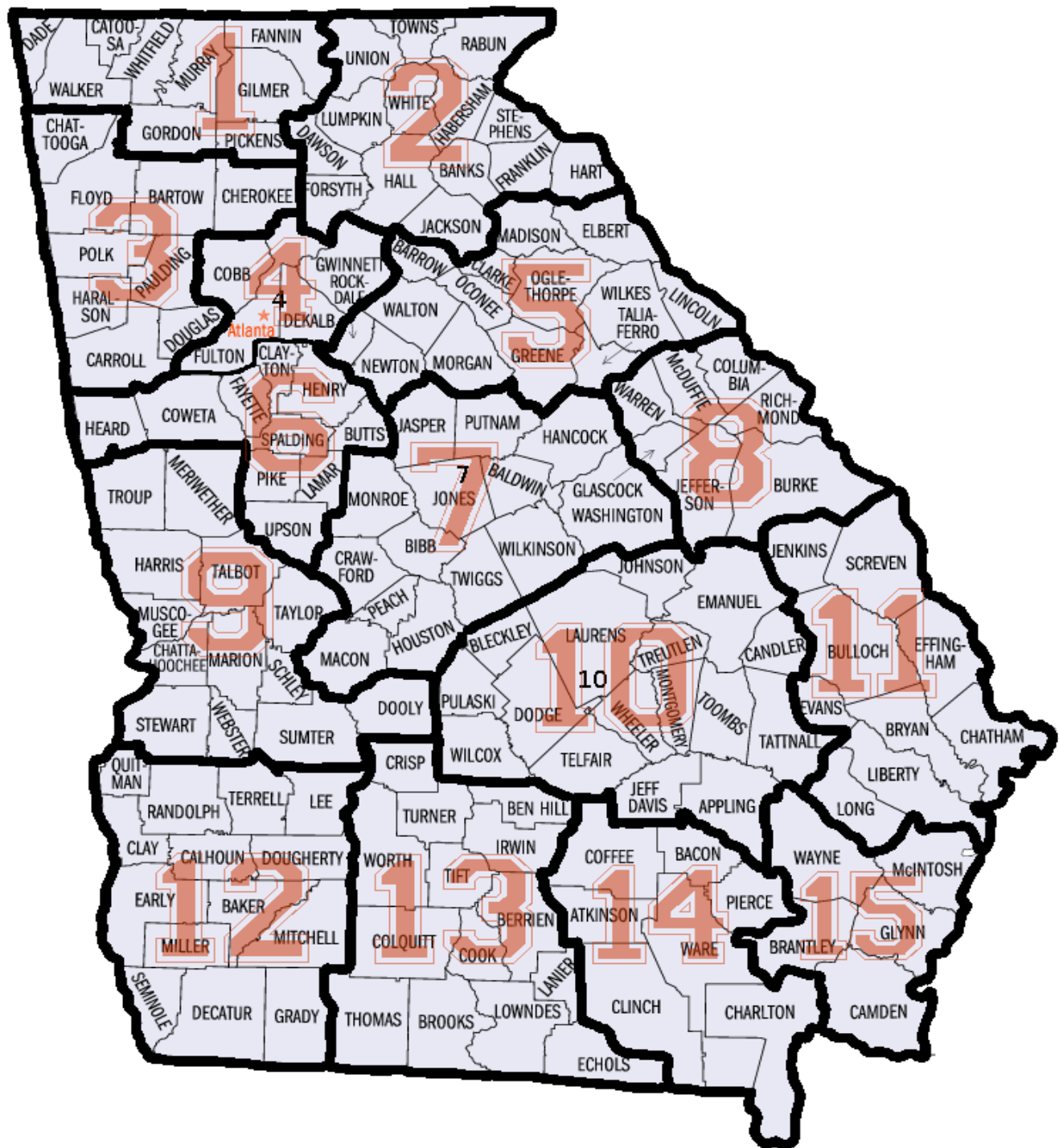
# When Do We Meet?

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| D1   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7:30p<br>Logan Roadhouse, Dalton           |
| D1W  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday, 6:30p<br>Dari Dip, Lafayette                |
| D2   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, 2p<br>J.W. Reed's, Cleveland                |
| D3   | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday, 2p<br>Location varies, see web or FB        |
| D4E  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 7p<br>Confetti's, Norcross               |
| D4W  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 7:30p<br>Mazzy's, Marietta                |
| D5   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 3p<br>Location varies, see web or FB        |
| D5N  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7p<br>Cycle World, Athens                  |
| D6   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7p<br>The Grove, Locust Grove              |
| D6-2 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday, 7p<br>Twilight Bar and Grill, Newnan      |
| D7   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, 2p<br>AP's Hideaway, Macon                  |
| D9   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7p<br>Buffalo Wild Wings, Columbus         |
| D11  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 3p<br>Twilight Bar and Grille, Bloomingdale |
| D13  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, 2p<br>Crime and Punishment Museum, Ashburn  |
| D15  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday, 7p<br>Location varies, see web or FB      |





# What District Am I In?



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# Support and Partners

ABATE OF GEORGIA IS A MEMBER OF NATIONAL COALITION OF MOTORCYCLIST

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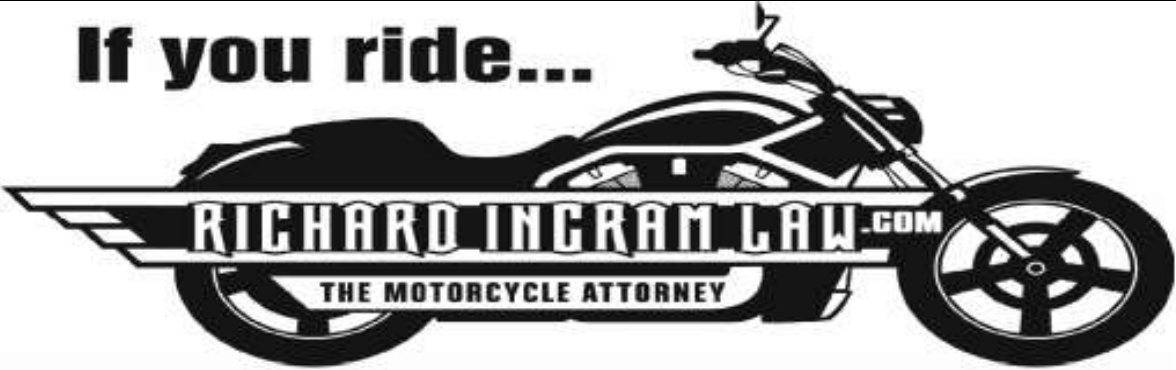
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AIM 3260

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# Support and Partners



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## Business Support Member Program

Any business that wishes to offer a discount on goods or services to members may have a listing in the monthly newsletter in the Supporter section. This listing will show business name, address, phone number, web site, district number and discount amount offered. No Logos or other info. The cost to be listed is \$25.00 per year. The Business Support member will receive an ABATE membership Easel and 2 Decals showing they offer a discount along with one full year of being listed. Any Business that is owned by an ABATE of Georgia member will receive this for \$15.00

## Business Sponsor Member Program

Any business that wishes to be a Sponsor and offer a discount on goods or services to members may have a listing in the monthly newsletter in the Sponsor Section. This listing will show the business name, address, phone number, web site, district number and discount amount offered in large bold type. No Logos etc. The cost for this is \$100.00 per year. The Sponsor will receive an ABATE membership easel, 2 decals showing membership, a discount of 5% on any additional advertising in the newsletter. Any business owned by an ABATE of Georgia member will receive this for \$75.00. An individual or Business that provides more than \$100.00 in goods or services to ABATE of Georgia will be listed in an Honor Roll section.



# Advertising

<b>Publication</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Length</b>
Website	\$115	1 Month
Newsletter		
Business Card	\$ 40	1 Month
	\$ 110	3 Months
	\$ 200	6 Months
1/4 Page	\$ 70	1 Month
	\$ 200	3 Months
	\$ 360	6 Months
	\$ 660	12 Months
1/4 Page Member Memorial	\$ 1	1 Month
1/2 Page	\$ 125	1 Month
	\$ 360	3 Months
	\$ 660	6 Months
	\$ 1,200	12 Months
1/2 Page Member Memorial	\$ 2	1 Month
Full Page	\$ 225	1 Month
	\$ 660	3 Months
	\$ 1,200	6 Months
	\$ 2,200	12 Months
Full Page Member Memorial	\$ 3	1 Month

Ads must be received in digital format or ready to scan by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, accompanied by full payment, to be printed in the next issue. Credit card payments are welcome. Ads must be paid in advance to receive a multiple ad discount rate. If you wish, we can lay out your ad for you for an additional \$25 charge plus any reasonable costs. Additional charges and services offered at the discretion of the editor. Please allow additional lead time for all ads that we must lay out. Payment must be received in advance for ad renewals. If not, you will lose the discounted multiple ad rate and the account will revert back to monthly prices. Make your check or money order payable to A.B.A.T.E. of Georgia, Inc. Send to: A.B.A.T.E. OF GEORGIA, INC. P.O. BOX 116 Austell, GA 30168

ABATE OF GEORGIA



# SWAP MEET & RALLY

**April 1-2, 2017**



**ATLANTA**  
MOTOR SPEEDWAY

1500 Tara Pl,  
Hampton, GA 30228

Gates open at 9 am to 10 pm daily

**Daily Admission - \$10**

## Camping

\$15 per spot for up to 2 people  
\$5 each additional person

Roadhouse Atlanta concert  
Saturday 6:00pm

Events  
Bike Show

Raffle Prizes  
Vendors

**Ride around the track** TBD

Sponsored By:



**ALL BIKERS WELCOME**

for more info Call  
David Neal 678-770-9188  
or email [activities.director@abatega.org](mailto:activities.director@abatega.org)



## STOP IMPAIRED RIDING

- In 2014, motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes had higher percentages of alcohol impairment than any other type of driver.
- The highest percentage of fatally injured, alcohol-impaired riders was between the ages of 35 to 39.
- Most alcohol related accidents occur between midnight and 3 am.



### What can YOU do?

- Always wear a DOT-approved helmet and protective clothing. Never ride while distracted. Be properly licensed. Don't speed. Ride SOBER.
- Designate a sober rider/driver *before* you have any alcohol.

[www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov)